

Army Chief of Staff Visits Picatinny

Army Chief of Staff General Ray Odierno visited Picatinny on 30 May, touring several research facilities and learning about the numerous products and technologies developed and managed at the Arsenal. Odierno assumed duty as the 38th chief of staff of the U.S. Army in September 2011. Previously, he served as the commander of U.S. Forces-Iraq.

“It's always great to come back home, especially here to Picatinny Arsenal,” Odierno said. A native of Rockaway, NJ, the general has long ties to the area and described his first real connection to the Army as being through childhood visits to the Arsenal with his parents. “When I was a little boy, my mom and dad used to bring me up here for holidays, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, other events, and that was my first real exposure to the Army,” he explained. Odierno graduated from Morris Hills High School in 1972 prior to attending the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

During the visit, Odierno toured the Davidson Advanced Warhead Development Facility and the Navy Packaging, Handling, Storage and Transportation Facility. Various PM CCS products and capabilities were on display and Colonel Steven Cummings, PM CCS, briefed Odierno on how the organization is actively supporting our Soldiers. “Nearly every mission our Soldiers face, either domestic or international, involves an item managed by PM CCS,” said Cummings.

Cummings and Odierno discussed several counter explosive hazard capabilities, such as the Self-Protection Adaptive Roller Kit (SPARK) and numerous products that employ state-of-the art Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR), including the Husky Mounted Detection System (HMDS), Minehound, and AN/PSS-14.

Other PM CCS products on hand were the XM7 Spider Networked Munition and M18A1 Claymore, two area denial products that block enemy access to key terrain and restrict the enemy's ability to maneuver freely, and various shoulder-launched munitions, including the AT4-CS, bunker defeat munition, and light anti-armor weapon or LAW.

In addition, Cummings highlighted the PM CCS-developed Confidence Clip, which is currently being incorporated into the Army's existing inventory of hand grenades and newly produced grenades to mitigate the unsafe, wasteful practice of taping.

Among the group of visitors with Odierno were U.S. Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen and Dale Ormond, director of the Research, Development and Engineering Command (RDECOM), which is the parent command of Picatinny's Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center (ARDEC).