

Under Secretary of the Army visits Picatinny

The Honorable Dr. Joseph Westphal, Under Secretary of the Army and the Army's first Chief Management Officer, recently visited Picatinny Arsenal and was briefed on a range of Project Manager Close Combat Systems (PM CCS) products.

Dr. Westphal was joined by Brig. Gen. Larry Wyche, Commanding General, Joint Munitions and Lethality Life Cycle Management Command (JM&L LCMC), James Shields, Deputy Program Executive Officer for Ammunition and Dr. Joseph Lannon, Director of Armament Research & Development & Engineering Center (ARDEC) .

LTC Karl Borjes, Product Manager for Improvised Explosive Device Defeat/Protect Force briefed the Under Secretary, citing the diversity of lethal and non-lethal CCS products, many that are actively supporting Soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. The CCS display included Scorpion, a system of munitions, sensors, and communication devices that can precisely attack targets ranging from light-wheeled to heavy-tracked vehicles. The Self-Protection Adaptive Roller Kit (SPARK), upgraded based on Soldier feedback from Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), was also displayed. The improved SPARK features a third front roller for maximum coverage against improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and improved control and braking for the severe terrain of Afghanistan. A Rhino Passive Infrared Defeat System, which helps defeat a subset of IEDs, was mounted to the SPARK and a spent Rhino, which had sustained an IED hit, was also on display. Other IED defeat products included the hand-held Schonstedt Magnetic Locator, capable of detecting munitions, caches, and other metal objects in theater and Sherlock, a mobile explosive trace detector that detects both explosives and narcotics.

The PM CCS display also included the Networked Munitions' Spider and two shoulder-launched munitions: the M136E1 AT4 Confined Space (AT4-CS) and the M141 Bunker Defeat Munition (BDM). Non-lethal, protect force products included the Taser, an electro-muscular incapacitation device and the Acoustic Hailing Device (AHD), a long-range hailing and warning device. The AHD allows users to project warning tones and intelligible voice commands beyond small arms engagement range. This capability helps Soldiers more effectively determine the intent of a person, crowd, vessel, or vehicle at a safe distance. PM CCS provided several AHDs to U.S. Army soldiers and watercraft that deployed as part of Operation Unified Response, the U.S. military's relief mission to Haiti.