



### U.S. Army ARDEC Overview & Special Weapon Observation Reconnaissance Direct-Action System (SWORDS)

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### **ARDEC** Mission



**Providing over 90% of the Army's Lethality** 



### **ARDEC** at a Glance



- Established "Center of Mass" for Armament Systems and Munitions for Joint Services
- ARDEC Personnel = 2679; <u>590 new hires</u> since FY99
- \$100M invested in modern experimental R&D facilities since mid-90's
- Proven track-record supporting transition of technologies to the field; since Nov 03.....
  - 9 Type Classifications
  - 16 Material Releases (MR)
  - 10 Urgent MR (17 since early FY03)
- Strong partnerships with Industry, Academia, and other Government agencies.
- In-house rapid prototyping initiatives overcoming production problems or providing new desired capabilities to field in near term
- >\$125M Tech Base portfolio addressing Joint needs

#### 2004 Army Large R&D Lab of the Year







### World Class Facilities Most Recent in Operation





**Precision Armaments Laboratory** 

**Armament Software Engineering Center** 

### World Class Facilities Breaking "old" grounds









Actual Building Concept Available May 05

#### High Energy Propellant Formulation Facility

- MCA Funded \$17.7M
- Planned Completion FY07
- 45,000 ft<sup>2</sup> -
  - Propellant Pilot Plant /
  - Characterization Laboratories /
  - Magazine Storage / Offices

#### Pyrotechnic Research & Technology Complex

- MCA Funded \$9.9M
- Planned Completion FY07
- 33,000 ft<sup>2</sup>
  - Engineering Offices & Laboratories
  - Pilot manufacturing facility
  - Energetic stowage

#### Explosives R&D Loading Facility

- MCA Funded \$8.0M
- Groundbreaking Dec 05; Completion FY07
- 28,<mark>000</mark> ft<sup>2</sup>
  - Melt Pour Operations & Engineering
  - Climate Controlling Machining
  - Explosive Pressing, Cast Cure, & X-Ray



### Type Classification & Material Releases Some Examples - FY04 to Present



<ul> <li>Type Classification Items</li> <li>M85 Remote Activation Munitions System Trainer</li> <li>M111 Improved Position, Azimuth Determining System</li> <li>M192 Lightweight Ground Mount</li> <li>M240H- 7.62mm Aviation Machine Gun (Aviation Version)</li> <li>M255A1 Flechette Warhead, 2.75 Inch Rocket</li> <li>MK281 Cartridge, 40mm TP-T</li> <li>M393A3/M467A1 Cartridges, Tank 105mm</li> <li>HE441D RS 84mm Munition</li> <li>HEAT551C RS 84mm Munition</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Materiel Release (MR) Items</li> <li>XM101 Common remotely Operated Weapon Stations (CROWS)</li> <li>M930E1 120mm Illuminating Mortar Cartridge</li> <li>M19/M20 Modernized Demolition Initiator</li> <li>CHARGE, PROPELLING, 155MM: M232 (MACS)</li> <li>Cartridge, 60mm: Smoke, WP, M722A1 w/ Fuze PD/DLY M783</li> <li>M769, 60mm, Full Range Practice Cartridge (FRPC)</li> <li>M829A3, Cartridge, 120mm, Armor Piercing, Fin Stabilized, Discarding Sabot with Tracer (APFSDS-T)</li> <li>M879, 81mm, Full Range Practice Cartridge (FRPC)</li> <li>M1155 Portable Inductive Artillery Fuze Setter (PIAFS)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Urgent MR Items</li> <li>XM32 Lightweight Handheld Mortar Ballistic Computer</li> <li>M107 Cal .50 Long Range Sniper Rifle (LRSR)</li> <li>M211 and M212 Flare: Countermeasure</li> <li>Non-Lethal Capabilities Sets</li> <li>AT4 Confined Space High Performance Weapon</li> <li>MP5-A5 9mm Submachinegun</li> <li>Lightweight Shotgun System</li> <li>M203 Grenade Launcher (GL) Day/Night Sight (DNS)</li> <li>Vehicle Lightweight Arresting Device (VLAD)</li> </ul>
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**Supporting Transition of Technologies to Production/Field During War Time** 



### Urgent Fieldings Some examples



#### AT-4 Comfined Space (CS)





- Enables safe firing in MOUT environments
- Same performance as AT-4
- ~800 systems to Army and SOCOM FY03/04

#### Gunfire Detection System (GDS)



Acoustically locate small arm fire origins

- Provides azimuth, elevation & range
- 360 degree coverage

 >100 systems fielded to Army and SOCOM since Aug 03

#### M26/X26E TASER



M26 Advanced Taser

X26E Taser/ M4 Adaptor



- M26 is modified COTS
- X26E provides readily available non-lethal capability to XM-4 carbine
- 42 M26 & 350 X26E Tasers fielded since Jun 03

#### M211/212 Countermeasure Flares



Broadens countermeasure signature to defeat all fielded Surface-to-Air Missile (SAM) Threats
> 65,000 Flares fielded to Army & Air Force since Jan 03



### **Rapid Prototyping Initiatives**

**Examples Supporting Production Requirements** 



#### Stryker Ballistic Shield



- Lightweight (145lb) Cupola mounted ballistic titanium protection w/armor windows
- Leverages ARDEC success from Titanium Welding Manufacturing Technology Program
- Ensures weapons maneuverability
- Production/fielding of 136 kits for Army's Stryker Brigade underway; 70 kits produced and shipped



- Problem: M54A1 production problems impacted fielding of M110A2 to USMC
- ARDEC developed new melt pour & controlled cooling process
- 7000 Burster Tubes loaded/delivered by ARDEC to Pine Bluff by May 05
- ARDEC executing new requirement for additional 7000 burster tubes
- Technology transfer of ARDEC process to industry underway



### **Rapid Prototyping Initiatives**

**Examples of "Tech Push" for Early User Demo's** 



#### Remote Weapon Counter Sniper System



Acoustic Sensor Array x 4

- Joint ARDEC, AMC-FAST, PM-Soldier Weapons (PM-SW), & Industry Program
- Integrates 360° acoustic detection & location with remote weapon station
- Automatic or manual weapon position
- On-the-move weapon position updates
- USARPAC evaluation in CONUS and Limited Safety Release May/Jun 05
- ARDEC & PM working path ahead for evaluations in Iraq

#### Picatinny Lightweight Remote Weapon Station (PLRWS)





- Joint ARDEC, PM-SW, and REF Program
- Provide lightweight remote mount for M249, M240, & ACSW applications
- Target Wt: <150lbs with weapon/ammo
- Compliments CROWS-type system
- Elevation Range: +45° to -15°
- 2-Axis Stab; 360° continuous rotation
- Live- Fire testing underway
- ARDEC & PM working path ahead for evaluations in Iraq



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### Special Weapon Observation Reconnaissance Direct-Action System (SWORDS)



### SWORDS

#### **Program Description**



- Objective: Demonstrate integration of available firepower options on small, low-cost, remotely operated weapon system at extended ranges
- Warfighter Payoffs:
  - Remotely Operated Recon & Security Asset
  - Remote sniper capability
  - Increased weapons accuracy/control
- Design Approach:
  - Maximize use of proven components
  - Enable easy integration of existing fielded small arms
  - Early User feedback on design
  - Early Safety Confirmation testing
- Joint ARDEC/OSD funding (~\$2M)
- Transitions to Joint Project Office for Robotic Systems





Helps keeps soldiers out of harms way

## Background



- Project initiated from a deployed EOD Unit's desire to clear cave entrances of potential threats (i.e. IEDs, enemy combatants)
- Two (2) concept demonstrators completed in ~1 month+
  - ARDEC EOD NCO "boot strap project"
  - Capitalized on existing EOD TALON Robot
    - Reinforced EOD robotic arm
  - Maximized use of existing armaments and/or ammo





### Live Fire - Early Concepts 40mm Grenade Launcher



### Mobile 40mm Grenade Launcher Prototype Tests





sponsored by TACOM Range supported by ARDEC - Picatinny testing perfromed by Foster-Miller



### Live Fire - Early Concepts M202 66mm Rocket Launcher









### **Early User Demonstrations**



- Army's Stryker Brigade
  - FY03 at Ft. Lewis; Proof of Concept
  - FY04 in Kuwait; User evaluation
  - Yielded evolution of SWORDS configuration integrating small arms
- SOCOM in FY03/04
- VERY POSITIVE feedback on utility of concept



**Early User Feedback Key to Validate Design Principles** 



### System Description Latest Configuration



- Integrates TRAP Mount on TALON
  - Accurate weapon pointing independent of chassis
  - <u>+</u> 35° Az and <u>+</u> 22.5° El
  - Integrates M249, M240B, M16, & 0.50 Cal Sniper Rifle w/o
    weapon modifications
- Unmanned RF control to 1KM (line-of-sight) via Operators Control
  Unit (OCU) for:
  - Mobility
  - Camera display options (view up to four images)
  - Weapon arm/safe/firing
- Five cameras/sights
  - Day/ Night drive cameras
  - Pan & tilt camera (situational awareness)
  - M145 w/Unitary Night Sight (Gen 3) for targeting
- Combat weight 180-190 lbs (w/o OCU)
- 3-6hr Lithium Ion Battery Life





# Live Fire & Mobility Demo (segment from History Channel's "Mail Call")





### **Safety Confirmation Test Program**



- Initiated early in development to support Urgent Material Release and flush out any anomalies
  - Two test iterations: Jun 04 & Jan 05
  - Included 100hrs reliability testing
- Testing currently halted; Program addressing test findings
- What's been demonstrated:
  - Stable firing platform for accurate single shot & burst performance
  - Better line-of-sight range command control performance than expected
  - Excellent video performance from cameras/sight upwards to 1km
- Remaining areas to be validated:
  - Weapon safety during communications loss/interruption & operator notification
  - Fire on the move disable feature
  - Lithium battery performance parameter refinement (controls) for safe operation, charging, and discharging
  - Sunlight readable LEDs on OCU

#### Design modifications required for operation in theater of war



### Path Ahead



- Return to Safety Confirmation Testing (~Jun 05)
- Continue demonstration of capabilities to Users
- Continue preparation activities for Urgent Material Release
- Plan and seek resources for follow-on spiral improvements

### In Summary....ARDEC/Picatinny...



- Established "Center of Mass" for Armament Systems and Munitions for Joint Services
- Proven track record of rapid transition of technology to the field
- Modernizing R&D facilities maintaining world-class capabilities
- Developing new concepts/technologies to enhance warfighter capabilities
- Demonstrating future warfighting capabilities today!

ARDEC/Picatinny.....

**Products, people, and processes enabling** our ultimate customer, the soldier, to "take care of business" throughout the spectrum of conflict!