



Picatinny Arsenal

The Joint Center of Excellence for Guns and Ammunition

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Army leaders discuss an increased role for Picatinny Arsenal

Arsenal would expand support to Army and other government agencies in a variety of scenarios ranging from natural disasters to homeland defense

PICATINNY ARSENAL, N.J. – During a meeting of Army technology leaders at Picatinny Arsenal, an expanded role for Picatinny was discussed that would position it as a regional support hub to the Army and nation, expanding support of homeland defense and local first responders.

Picatinny Arsenal is the largest Army installation in the New York Metropolitan Area with homegrown expertise in a range of technological fields.

The arsenal is home to the U.S. Army Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center, or ARDEC, which is widely recognized for its technological prowess in a variety of areas that includes armament development, statistical and predictive modeling, threat detection and developing countermeasures.

ARDEC is a subordinate organization to the U. S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, or RDECOM, at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland.

Maj. Gen. John Wharton, Commanding General of RDECOM, recently hosted a Board of Directors meeting at which command senior leaders held discussions that shape investments and materiel strategies for the future of the Army in support of providing decisive overmatch to the Soldier.

Attendees at the meeting included technical directors for the Army Research Laboratory, and Research Development and Engineering Centers for Soldier Research, Aviation and Missiles, Chemical and Biological, Tank Automotive, Communications Electronics and Armaments.

Strategic areas discussed at the board meeting were the importance of collaboration with academia, industry and international partners, as well as how ARDEC at Picatinny Arsenal is forging critical relationships with the Fire Department of New York (FDNY) and local emergency preparedness organizations in support of developing strategies for protecting large metropolitan areas (megacities) and transportation systems.

(MORE)

About Us: Picatinny Arsenal is the Joint Center of Excellence for Guns and Ammunition, providing products and services to all branches of the U.S. military. Nestled in the northern New Jersey skylands, the team of 5,000-strong specializes in the research, development, acquisition and life cycle management of advanced conventional weapon systems and leap-ahead ammunition. Learn more at www.pica.army.mil

“Picatinny already provides support to local law enforcement agencies including training and technical support, such as active shooter training. With our expertise, we can also assist with technologies for mission planning and security involving large crowds,” said John F. Hedderich, director of the research center at Picatinny.

“So it’s only natural that we set the groundwork to become a regional hub that can offer a wide range of technical support to our military services and local officials,” Hedderich added.

Maj. Gen. Wharton noted that the nation faces a number of security challenges in the future and thus must have the foresight and preparation to prevail over adversaries. The U.S. Army current operating concept is “Win in a Complex World,” which emphasizes ready land forces’ importance for protecting our nation and securing our vital interests against determined, elusive, and increasingly capable enemies.

“The engineering command (RDECOM) has a very experienced and skilled workforce that is innovative and capable of developing solutions to meet existing challenges and those that evolve other time,” the commanding general added.

“Designated by the State as New Jersey’s Center of Excellence for Homeland Security Technologies and Security Readiness in 2003, Picatinny Arsenal is uniquely prepared to do even more to protect northern New Jersey, the New York City metropolitan area and the region beyond,” said U.S. Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen. “Its location, highly skilled workforce and its reach across the Department of Defense all combine to provide irreplaceable capabilities to law enforcement, first responders and federal and state agencies of all kinds.”

Brig. Gen. Patrick W. Burden, Senior Commander at Picatinny Arsenal, said that due to its expertise, the arsenal works with local leaders in support of homeland defense and emergency management. “This support is accomplished through our partnerships with local, state, and other federal agencies though the use of mutual aid and memorandums of agreements, which allow the arsenal to lend assistance across jurisdictional boundaries,” Burden added.

Picatinny’s key contribution to national defense arises from its distinct role: It develops 90 percent of the Army’s armaments, including warheads, ammunition, explosives, all sizes of firearms, battlefield sensors, and advanced weaponry based on high-power microwaves, high-energy lasers and nanotechnology. Picatinny engineers are also at work in developing anti-drone technology to counter potential threats to U.S. troops and domestic targets.

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Many of the Army’s greatest inventions were developed by engineering teams at Picatinny Arsenal. Picatinny products have won 34 percent of the Army’s Greatest Inventions. Picatinny was also awarded 52 patents in fiscal year 2014 and has received 25 percent of all Army patents since 2010.

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