

## From the Army Acquisition Executive Joint Munitions & Lethality LCMC Provides Critical Resources to Our Warfighters



Our constant first priority within the acquisition, logistics and technology (AL&T) community is providing world-class weapon systems and equipment to the warfighter, and I am proud of my entire organization's success in fulfilling this important duty. Still, while at war, we must continue to work hard and work together to get even better capability to warfighters — especially those in the warfight right now — much faster. One way we are doing this is by bringing both the acquisition and logistics communities together. That was our aim when the Life Cycle Management Command (LCMC) concept was formalized in August 2004 with the goal to provide products to the Soldier faster, make good products even better, minimize life-cycle costs, and enhance synergy and effectiveness by enabling a closer relationship between the U.S. Army Materiel Command's major subordinate commands and the program executive offices (PEOs).

In the last few years, we have established four LCMCs in the areas of weapons, electronics, combat vehicles, aviation and ammunition. Our LCMCs provide critical resources to our warfighters at the right time, right place and right price. As I have stated before in this very publication, our LCMC effort to streamline multiple Army acquisition and logistics programs and organizations into leaner, more organized commands has been successful. In this edition, we highlight our newest LCMC — the Joint Munitions and Lethality (JM&L) LCMC, Picatinny Arsenal, NJ.

During my visits to the JM&L LCMC headquarters and other commands and organizations within its umbrella, I've seen firsthand how military personnel, civilians and contractors take great pride in their jobs because they know the importance of providing ammunition to our warfighters. Munitions are critically important. In fact, it is often said that ammunition is the lifeblood of the military. Enhanced lethality is also critically important to our men and women, especially those on the front lines prosecuting the global war on terrorism. When we stood up the JM&L LCMC in November 2006, we expected great things from the organization's men and women, and they are surpassing our expectations.

The JM&L LCMC's responsibilities to warfighters begin with making sure the partnership with its component organizations is focused on providing superior products, support and services. The alliance is comprised of three major organizations: PEO Ammunition (Ammo) and the U.S. Army Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center (ARDEC), both at Picatinny Arsenal; and the Joint Munitions Command (JMC), Rock Island, IL. Let me briefly describe the individual responsibilities.

- JM&L LCMC leads the Army's full ammunition development, procurement and technology capabilities while providing input to senior Army and DOD leaders on current and future requirements of all ammunition life cycle aspects.

• PEO Ammo develops and procures conventional and "leap-ahead" munitions to increase combat power to warfighters. In doing so, the PEO also establishes defined and prioritized areas for science and technology investment using an applied structure analysis and determining a commonality of technical solutions among its assigned program managers.

- ARDEC develops and maintains a world-class workforce to execute and manage integrated life-cycle engineering processes required for the research, development, production, field support and demilitarization of munitions (small, medium and large caliber; propellants; explosives; logistics; packaging); weapons, including non-line-of-sight fire, nonlethal and autonomous; fire control (battlefield digitization, embedded weapon systems software, aero ballistics and telemetry); and associated items.
- JMC is responsible for manufacturing, procuring, storing, issuing and demilitarizing conventional ammunition for U.S. military services, federal agencies and allied nations as directed by the U.S. Department of State. JMC also serves as the DOD operating agency for the Single Manager for Conventional Ammunition (SMCA) mission, in which JM&L LCMC Commanding General BG William N. Phillips is the SMCA. Through this mission, all U.S. Armed Services branches communicate their ammunition needs on the same page.

These organizations are on the cutting edge in identifying the latest technologies, developing them into viable, quality munitions, mass producing them and getting them to our warfighters in a timely and cost-effective manner. From creating Product Manager Improvised Explosive Device/Defeat, to modernizing our ammunition plants, to urgently fielding the award-winning Excalibur artillery projectile, this alliance is helping our warfighters accomplish their missions quickly and decisively while simultaneously streamlining the ammunition acquisition process.

The benefits to the Army and our sister services — and certainly to our warfighters — are enormous, both in terms of getting better weapon systems and equipment to the warfighter much faster as well as sustaining those items once they get where they need to be. And, for the Army and America's taxpayers, we're getting these things done more cheaply than ever before. HOOAH!

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