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Greatest Army inventions for 2003 announced

By Larry .D. McCaskill

U.S. Army Research Development Engineering Command

Fort Belvoir, Va. - "Great discoveries and improvements invariably involve the cooperation of many minds. I may be given credit for having blazed the trail but when I look at the subsequent developments I feel the credit is due to others rather than to myself." - Alexander Graham Bell

This year's recipients of the U.S. Army Greatest Inventions of the Year can bear witness to Bell's thoughts, as the inventions are the brainchild of various groups of talented individuals.

The Army-wide awards program to recognize the best technology solutions for the soldier.

"Nominations for the program were submitted from across the Army laboratory community," said Gen. Paul J. Kern, commander, U.S. Army Material Command. "Soldier teams from the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command and Active U.S. Army Divisions evaluated the nominations."

The final selection authority was Lt. Gen. Richard A. Cody, Deputy Chief of Staff Army G-3.

"The inventions submitted demonstrate the vast experience within the Army laboratory community as a sincere commitment of these laboratories to improving the readiness of our Army," according to Cody.

Like last year, there are no differentiating categories so that a variety of inventions could be recognized.

Evaluators judged the nominations based on their impact on Army capabilities (breadth of use and magnitude of improvement over existing systems); their potential benefit outside the Army; and, their inventiveness.

Each of the 10 selected teams will receive an award; the other nominated team members will receive certificates of participation.

The U.S. Army Greatest Inventions Program Award Winners are:
BA-8180/U Zinc-Air Battery - Communications-Electronics Research,
Development and Engineering Center; Integrated Battle Command Directorate
(IBCD) Ft. Monmouth, N.J.;

VIRGIL™ Chest Trauma Training System - Telemedicine and Advanced
Technology Research Center (TATRC), Fort Detrick, Md.;

Squad Automatic Weapon (SAW) Pintle Mount Assembly for HMMWV - Tank
Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center, National
Automotive Center, Warren, Mi.;

Anti-Tank for Confined Space (AT4 CS) - Armaments Engineering and
Technology Center (AETC) Picatinny Arsenal, N.J.;

Battlefield Medical Information System - Tactical (BMIS-T) - Telemedicine and
Advanced Technology Research Center, Fort Detrick, Md.;

Portable Omni-Directional (360°) Well Camera System –Communications-
Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center Night Vision and
Electronic Sensors Directorate (NVESD), Fort Belvoir, Va.;

Agentase Nerve Agent Sensor –U.S. Army Research Laboratory, U.S. Army
Research Office
Durham, N.C.

Anti-Personnel Obstacle Breaching System (APOBS) - Armaments
Engineering & Technology Center (AETC), Picatinny Arsenal, N.J.;

Ctg 120mm, XM1028 Canister U.S. Army's First Antipersonnel Round for the
Abrams Tank - Armaments Engineering & Technology Center (AETC), Picatinny
Arsenal, N.J.;

The Golden Hour Container - Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, Silver
Spring, Md.

(Editor's note: Information provided by Larry McCaskill of the U.S. Army Research, Development
and Engineering Command and summarized by ARNEWS correspondent Karla Gonzalez.)

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