

Military, Defense Contractors Meet to Protect Warfighters

Leaders from the U.S. Army Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TACOM) recently met with colleagues across the defense industry to strengthen connections and lay the groundwork for new collaboration.

The groups met at the fifth Annual Ground Vehicle Systems Engineering and Technology Symposium (GVSETS) and the TACOM Life Cycle Management Command (LCMC) Plans and Priorities Symposium in Troy Aug. 20-22.

Government and industry stakeholders met to drive strategies for the development and support of cutting-edge, breakthrough technologies and plan the pathway forward in today's fiscal environment.

The main topic was how decreasing budgets are pressing government agencies and defense contractors to rely more on partnerships and to find innovative ways to deliver cost-effective technological improvements for the military.

"It's more important than ever that we're transparent with what we know and what we think we know," said Kevin Fahey, program executive officer for Combat Support and Combat Service Support.

"This event allows us to ask important questions such as: 'what capabilities do we have today?' 'what technology do we need to go forward?' and 'what are our resources?'"

The eight main topics presented at GVSETS, the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA) Michigan chapter symposium, included: Operating in the New Defense Environment; Technology Transition; Technology Applications/Opportunities for Ground Vehicles; Impacts of the Current Defense Environment on Original Equipment Manufacturers; Systems Engineering Education and Collaboration; Impact of Sequestration and Continuing Resolution; Integrated Logistics Support/Sustainment; Long-Range Ground Vehicle Science, and Technology Strategy.

U.S. Army Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC) Director Dr. Paul Rogers unveiled the organization's long-range strate-

gy during a panel discussion with TARDEC Executive Directors Magid Athnasios, Systems Inte-

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— Sgt. Maj. Eric Volk, 7th Infantry Division

gration and Engineering, and Jennifer Hitchcock, Research and Technology Integration, and Chief Scientist Dr. David Gorsich.

"TARDEC invites the collaboration that makes our forces so dominant, the adversary knows the battle is lost before it starts," said Rogers.

The first day's main session culminated with the Warfighter Panel, with active duty service members recently deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. Five soldiers and one marine shared firsthand experiences and ideas

on how to improve ground vehicle systems and what innovative technologies would enhance our competitive edge in the future.

"Soldiers have to trust your equipment to use it," explained Sgt. Maj. Eric Volk, 7th Infantry Division. "Without trust, equipment will sit in the corner and it won't get used."

A new addition to GVSETS was the TACOM LCMC Plans & Priorities Mini-Symposium, in which ground system leaders laid out road maps for industry opportunities, technology development and modernization. This addition to the symposium provided a great opportunity for information sharing to help the Program Executive Offices, TARDEC, industry and academic partners align future technology investments.

With more than 700 people in attendance, GVSETS continues to help cultivate and preserve the kind of collaboration among stakeholders that make ground vehicle developments successful.

The more than 700 GVSETS participants left the conference with a clear picture of how to col-

Honeywell CEO to Speak at DEC

David Cote, chairman and CEO of Honeywell, will speak to the Detroit Economic Club on Monday, Sept. 23, in Cobo Center.

His speech, which begins at 12:30 p.m., is about the need for Americans to pull together toward common national objectives – with debt reduction as a

top priority – to continue America's legacy of world leadership.

Cote is a member of the steering committee of the Campaign to Fix Debt, a bipartisan effort to build support for a comprehensive U.S. debt reduction plan. To learn more about the event, visit www.econclub.org.

Silverado Aims for Toughness, Strength

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tional underbody flange sealing that help keep the joints of the truck dry, discouraging deterioration that might occur from moisture;

- All-new body structures designed to minimize the potential for corrosion;
- Extensive and improved chassis corrosion protection that enhances the truck's appearance and lengthens the life of underbody components;
- Anti-chip protection on the lower body side for extra protec-

tion from stones or gravel.

The effectiveness of these changes was borne out during extensive proving ground testing at exposure levels higher than most drivers ever experience, Yergin said. The months of accelerated testing these trucks undergo is equivalent to more than 10 years on the road, he added.

Post-test evaluations of the trucks, including the search for and elimination of corrosion even on areas of parts customers never see, helps ensure the overall vehicle performance, Yergin said.

Special Olympics Soccer Looking For Volunteers

The 2013 Special Olympics Michigan Soccer Finals are coming to Halmich Park in Warren on Oct. 18 and 19, and Club GM is looking for volunteers to donate their time to help run the event.

Joe Wrobel, Club GM's contact for the Special Olympics, said they are looking for positions such as field manager, a person who works with the officials for each game and to bring the scores from the officials back to the information tent.

The club is also looking for scorekeepers, ball retrievers, dishwashers to help assist with cleanup in the dining area, food servers, and people to help with the cleanup after the event is completed.

The state soccer finals is one of nearly a dozen state-level competitions held by Special Olympics Michigan (SOMI) for its athletes. The tournament will include 11-a-side, seven-a-side, and five-a-side soccer games.

In addition to soccer, a fun fitness program will be held in which Special Olympians may participate. The program was developed by the American Physical Therapy Association. Trained professionals will be on hand.

The tournament is being sponsored by such groups as Johnstone & Johnstone, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Spartan Stores.

To sign up as a volunteer, go to www.somi.org and follow the link to "state soccer finals volunteers."

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