



# The Defender



Vol. 1, Issue. 3

The quarterly civilian newsletter for the 20th CBRNE Command

September 2022

## 20th CBRNE Command holds change of command ceremony



*Brig. Gen. Daryl O. Hood receives the colors from Lt. Gen. Paul Calvert, the deputy commanding general of U.S. Army Forces Command, during the 20th CBRNE Command change of command ceremony, Sept. 9. U.S. Army photo by Marshall R. Mason.*

**ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. –** The 20th CBRNE Command conducted a change of command ceremony, Sept. 7.

Brig. Gen. Daryl O. Hood assumed command from Maj. Gen. Antonio V. Munera during the ceremony.

Lt. Gen. Paul T. Calvert, the deputy commanding general and chief of staff of U.S. Army Forces Command, served as the reviewing officer at the time-honored military ceremony.

Calvert praised Munera for his accomplishments during his time in command and welcomed Hood to the one-of-a-kin command.

"He has taken this unit to new and exciting heights as evident through many successful mission exploits under his stewardship," said Calvert. "He has built a cohesive team of more than 3,800 trained and ready

Soldiers and Army civilians capable of deploying from 19 bases in 16 states to serve outside the wire and inside the cordon around the world."

During Munera's tenure, three Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal battalions and more than 50 EOD companies deployed to the Central Command area of operations.

Calvert said he witnessed firsthand the high caliber of Soldiers from the 20th CBRNE Command when he served as the commander of Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq.

Four CBRN companies conducted rotational deployments to South Korea during the same timeframe.

Munera said the deployable and multifunctional command protects the nation and its warfighters from the world's most dangerous hazards.

Munera also thanked his Soldiers and Army civilians for their service during his time at the helm.

"Your dedication to enabling lethality and safeguarding the force is essential to ensuring the nation is ready to prevent and respond to adversaries who seek to develop, proliferate, acquire or use Weapons of Mass Destruction and that the nation is always able to respond and mitigate the most complex of explosive threats," said Munera, who will assume command of the U.S. Army Cadet Command and Fort Knox, Kentucky.

Hood comes to the command after serving as the deputy director of operations for Team Four at the National Joint Operations Intelligence Center in the Pentagon. Originally from Athens and Gainesville, Georgia, Hood previously served as the 31st chief of Chemical and commandant of the U.S. Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear School on Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

A graduate of the University of Georgia and U.S. Army Chemical Corp officer, Hood has served in a wide variety of command and staff tours in the United States, Europe, South Korea, Middle East and Central Asia. Hood commanded the 3rd Chemical Brigade; 110th Chemical Battalion; and 87th Chemical Company, 4th Squadron (Aviation), 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment.

Hood said he would focus on people, readiness and modernization to keep his command ready to confront and defeat all hazards and to fight and win against all enemies. Hood said he was grateful for the opportunity to lead the one-of-a-kind command.

"It is a privilege to command and lead at any level but especially this first-class organization," said Hood.

[Read full story](#)

# From the Chief of Staff

Teammates,

It has often been said that the only constant is change and our command has expertly navigated many changes recently.

On Sept. 7, we conducted a change of command ceremony where we said farewell Maj. Gen. Munera and welcomed Brig. Gen. Hood as our new commanding general.



We also recently said farewell to Dr. Mark Fishback, our former deputy to the commanding general and senior Army civilian, and we will soon be welcoming Mr. Charles Hughes as our next senior civilian in the command.

One thing that hasn't changed is our tough, talented, and smart team of Army civilians and the dedication and continuity they provide to our one-of-a-kind command. The expertise and synergy within our HQ absolutely resides with our civilian workforce.

From logisticians like Adam Ochylski, legal professionals like Amy Snyder and Ana Harrah, program managers like Bruce Griffin, to Army civilians all across this formation, we have an incredible team that takes on the world's most dangerous hazards in support of joint, interagency, and allied operations around the world.

I'm proud to serve as your chief of staff and to count myself among the esteemed ranks of Extraordinary Professionals!



Winning Matters! Freedom's Guardian!  
Liberty We Defend!

Col. John P. Kunstbeck  
Chief of Staff

# Chaplain's Corner

Greetings to all,

The Chaplain Corps is the only branch that kept the branch insignia when the Army changed our uniforms to the ACU from the BDU and DCU around 2010. I still wear a cross above my right name tag. The cross is a symbol that reminds me daily of what my duty is. Duty is fulfilling your obligations, which we are familiar with from the seven Army Values. In my Christian faith tradition, we also believe that we have a duty as Christians.

First, we have a duty to serve each other. 1 Peter 4:10 says, "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms."

Second, we have a duty to encourage one another. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 says, "Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up."

Third, we have a duty to help carry burdens for others. Galatians 6:2 says, "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ."

We don't want anyone to go through it alone in the valley of the shadow of death. Whether we are religious people or not, we have a duty towards each other. We take care of each other. What is your duty as a CBRNE Soldier or a civilian? How about your duty as a father, mother, child or whatever role that you identify as your duty? All of us should have more than one duty.

Are you fulfilling your duty faithfully and diligently? As your 20<sup>th</sup> CBRNE Chaplain, I am here to serve you, encourage you and carry your burdens with you. May the Lord give us strength today to do so and give us hope for tomorrow.

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Daniel D. Kang  
20th CBRNE Command Chaplain  
6573 Havre de Grace Street, Bldg. 5046  
Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21005

Com: 410-306-3098  
Gov Cell: 443-910-5845  
Per Cell: 704-572-9740

# The Defender

**Commanding General**  
Brig. Gen. Daryl O. Hood

**Command Sergeant Major**  
Command Sgt. Maj. Jorge Arzabala

**Deputy to the Commanding General**  
Pending

**Public Affairs Officer**  
Maj. Steven M. Modugno

**Editor in Chief**  
Walter T. Ham IV

**Public Affairs Staff**  
Marshall Mason  
Angel Martinez-Navedo  
Andrew Monath

**Editorial Board**  
Lt. Col. Daniel Kang  
Lt. Col. Valerie Knight  
Maj. Charles Foster  
Amy Snyder  
Kent Ward  
Chuck Grady  
Shila Smith

The Defender is an authorized publication for members of the command. Contents of The Defender are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, U.S. Army Forces Command or 20<sup>th</sup> CBRNE Command. The newsletter is distributed quarterly by the 20<sup>th</sup> CBRNE Command Public Affairs. Send articles and photos to 20<sup>th</sup> CBRNE Command Public Affairs at [cbnepao@gmail.com](mailto:cbnepao@gmail.com) or through the 20th CBRNE Command [portal link](#). The deadline for submissions is the last day of the month prior to the publication month.

# Senior U.S. Army civilian retires from 20th CBRNE Command



*Dr. Mark W. Fishback retired as 43 years of active duty U.S. Marine Corps and Department of Defense and Department of the Army civilian service. U.S. Army photo by Marshall R. Mason.*

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. – ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. – The senior Army civilian at the Department of Defense's premier multifunctional all hazards command completed more than 43 years of uniformed and civilian service, Aug. 18.

Dr. Mark W. Fishback retired from the 20th Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosives (CBRNE) Command during a widely attended ceremony on Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland.

A retired U.S. Marine Corps chief warrant officer 4, Fishback served as the deputy to the commanding general of the U.S. Army's 20th CBRNE Command and the senior Army civilian at the one-of-a-kind command.

A native of North Salem, Indiana, Fishback joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 1979, one month after the Iranian hostage crisis began. He served in infantry and amphibious assault units before becoming a Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Defense Specialist and officer.

Fishback was deployed for more than half of his Marine Corps career and served on numerous peacekeeping, contingency and combat operations.

He is a veteran of Operation Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. He was wounded twice and recognized for valor five times.

Fishback was instrumental in the establishment of the U.S. Marine Corps' Chemical Biological Incident Response Force (CBIRF) and he influenced the development of the National Guard's Civil Support Teams.

Maj. Gen. Antonio V. Munera, the commanding general of the 20th CBRNE Command, said Fishback's work on the U.S. Marine Corps CBIRF and the Marine Corps Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Defense warrant officer program had served as a model for the U.S. Army.

"You have left a profound legacy," said Munera, a career U.S. Army Chemical Corps officer from Fairfax, Virginia, who served together with Fishback in Iraq. "You have made a lasting impact on our (Chemical Corps) warrant officer program."

George E. Lawson, the director of Integration at Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defense, said he had been trained and mentored by Fishback throughout his career.

"One of the things he taught me was you've got to be smart, you've got to make it better and always better yourself," said Lawson, who has known Fishback for 37 years. "You can't be fearful of anything if you are physically, mentally and morally strong."

Shortly after retirement, Fishback became an Army civilian and combatting WMD planner.

In 2010, he was promoted to GS-15 and he served as the chief of Plans and Operations for the U.S. Army Nuclear and Countering WMD Agency. In 2018, Fishback became the 20th CBRNE Command deputy to the commanding general and served as the senior civilian for more than 240 U.S. Army civilians at the command. He provided oversight for the CBRNE Analytical and Remediation Activity, chemical surety and homeland defense missions.

Fishback earned a bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of North Carolina as well as graduate degrees in management and public administration from the University of Phoenix and a Doctor of Philosophy in Management from the University of Maryland.

According to Fishback, the highlight of serving as the deputy to the commanding general of the 20th CBRNE Command was representing and working with the military and civilian workforce at the multifunctional command.

"It has been the honor of a lifetime to be among you," said Fishback. "Of all my experiences, other than my family, I am most proud of once having served in the United States military. The values forged early in my military career such as honor, courage, and commitment – I will carry with me throughout the rest of my life, and I have seen those same traits in each of you."

Following his retirement ceremony, Fishback will move to Alabama to spend more time with his family. He is married to the former Cheryl L. Blood of Hayward, California, and they have two daughters, Brandi L. Parrish and Brooke L. Davis, and four grandchildren: Clayton Wayne, Isla Kelly, Dawson Sheppard and Hudson Alan.

"I am honored to end my service where it all began nearly four and a half decades ago – surrounded by men and women, military and civilian alike, who have dedicated their lives to the preservation of our nation and our way of life," said Fishback.

[Read full story](#)



# Army civilian completes 43-year career of combined service

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. – A U.S. Army civilian program manager at the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosives (CBRNE) Analytical and Remediation Activity (CARA) recently retired following more than four decades of uniformed and civil service.

Bruce K. Griffin, the supervisory program manager for CARA-Remediation Response East, was recognized for his 43 years of service during his retirement ceremony.

CARA is an all-Army civilian organization that conducts recovered chemical material remediation projects, technical escort missions, emergency response missions, contingency operations and special projects.

CARA is part of the 20th CBRNE Command. Headquartered on Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, the 20th CBRNE Command is the U.S. Department of Defense's premier multifunctional and deployable all hazards formation.

From 19 bases in 16 states, Soldiers and Army civilians from 20th CBRNE Command tackle the world's most dangerous hazards in support of joint, interagency and allied operations.

Originally from Brooklyn, New York, Griffin was influenced to join the Army by his uncle Robert who served in the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

Griffin joined the Army in July 1979 and served as a field artillery cannon crewman. He later became a Nuclear, Biological and Chemical specialist and eventually retired as the chemical sergeant major for the 101st Airborne Division on Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

After retiring from the Army, Griffin joined the U.S. Army Technical Escort Unit as an Army civilian Toxic Material Control Operator supervisor.

When CARA was established in 2008, Griffin was selected as the CARA Remediation Response-East chief.

During his time at CARA, his U.S. Army civilians deployed to Afghani-



*Maj. Gen. Antonio V. Munera (left), the former commanding general of the 20th CBRNE Command, presents Bruce Griffin with the Army Superior Civilian Service Medal at his retirement ceremony on Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. U.S. Army photo by Andrew D. Monath.*

stan, Australia, Iraq, Japan, Panama, Philippines and South Korea.

Griffin said he was guided by his former first sergeant who instilled leadership principles that have carried him through his uniformed and civilian career.

Among them were to always tell your superiors, subordinates and peers what they need to hear, not what they want to hear; to do the right thing when no one is around; to take care of your troops; to make sure that you are loyal to the organization, not to the individual; and to always lead by example.

Griffin said he was proud of his accomplishments as a program manager at the one-of-a-kind Army civilian organization.

Griffin thanked his team for what they accomplished over the years.

"During my 14-year tenure as the PM chief at CARA, we never failed a mission," said Griffin. "It takes a highly trained and well-disciplined workforce to successfully complete the mission."

Maj. Gen. Antonio V. Munera, the former commanding general of

20th CBRNE Command, said Griffin played a critical role in providing the expertise necessary to stand up the 20th CBRNE Command.

"Thank you for all that you have done for this unit and helping to stand up this unit and for taking care of CARA and for taking care of our Soldiers," said Munera.

The commanding general said that Army civilians at CARA provide the continuity and expertise to tackle CBRNE threats around the world.

"The expertise to deal with something that is found, whether it is here in the states or overseas, resides within the civilian workforce in CARA and with folks like Bruce," said Munera.

Dr. Mark W. Fishback, the 20th CBRNE Command deputy to the commanding general and senior Army civilian in the command, thanked Griffin for his service on behalf of all Army civilians at the command.

"I know that as you leave this building today you will remain as you always have – strong in faith, family and service," said Fishback..

[Read full story](#)

# Mobile lab earns international accreditation for air monitoring

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. — A U.S. Army civilian mobile expeditionary laboratory has earned International Standards Organization 17025 accreditation for air monitoring.

The Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosives (CBRNE) Analytical and Remediation Activity (CARA) Mobile Expeditionary Laboratory (CMEL) achieved the accreditation for maintaining internationally recognized quality assurance and quality control processes.

CMEL has joined other internationally recognized laboratories from U.S. government agencies that follow the same standards, including the FBI, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command's Chemical Biological Center.

Keith P. Brozean, the CMEL chemist quality manager, said the lab has been working toward accreditation for the last five years. The Army mobile laboratory passed the accreditation audit with only minimal and minor deficiencies that were quickly corrected.

"The highlight for me was during the out brief of our external audit we were told that most labs have five to six times as many deficiencies during their initial accreditation and the ones that we received were very minor," said Brozean, an Athens, New York, native who has served at CARA for five years. "It was not only affirmation that our hard work was worthwhile but additionally rewarding to see we were already exceeding expectations."

Brozean said the key to earning the accreditation was having "supportive management and a great hard-working team that wants to succeed and improve."

Made up of highly specialized U.S. Army civilians, CARA is a part of the 20th CBRNE Command, the U.S. military's premier all hazards command.

An all-Army civilian activity, CARA conducts emergency response missions for Recovered Chemical Warfare Material, technical escort of surety and non-surety chemical material and mobile laboratory operations.

Franz J. Amann, the director of CARA, said the CMEL maintained its quality assurance and quality control program under the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command's Chemical Biological Center's Chemical Agent Standard Analytical Reference Material program.

"This program started while CARA was under the Tech Escort Unit and 22nd Chemical Battalion (Technical Escort Unit) while supporting the destruction of the Chemical Stockpile located on Edgewood," said Amann. "It is not easy to attain ISO accreditation."

"CMEL underwent their initial audit in May receiving only four observations, which is far lower than the average of 20 observations for an organization to receive their initial ISO 17025 accreditation," said Amann, a retired Army Chemical Corps officer who is from Spartanburg, South Carolina. "CMEL corrected the observations within 30 days to get their accreditation."

Air monitoring accreditation is the first ISO 17025 accreditation in a

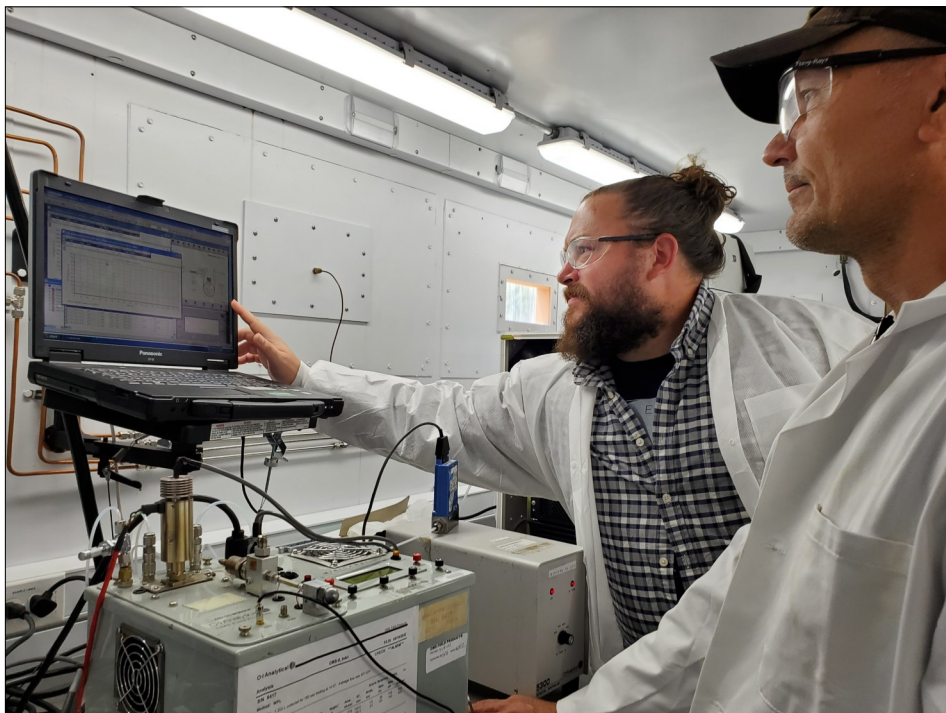
three-part series that CMEL is working to achieve in the next two years.

"CMEL is attaining ISO 17025 accreditation for three separate mission requirements – Air Monitoring, Chemical and Biological. This accreditation accounts for the Air Monitoring mission only. CMEL is targeting additional accreditation completion by end of 2023," said Amann.

To maintain certification, the lab will undergo annual audits after initial certification. The first year is a review to ensure the organization is sustaining the ISO program while the second year is used for re-certification.

"As part of CMEL's mission to provide theater validation laboratory support, maintaining ISO 17025 provides credibility to the lab's processes and results," said Amann. "This credibility will be critical during any contingency operations where combatant commanders must make operational and strategic decisions based on possible chemical and biological events or when low level air monitoring is required."

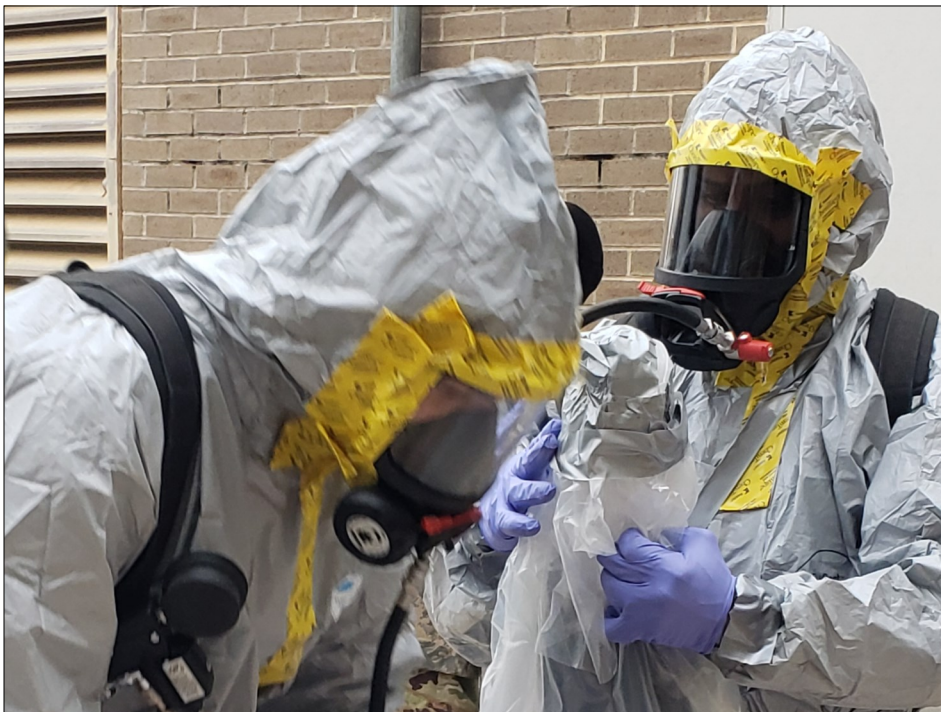
[Read full story](#)



Keith P. Brozean (left), a U.S. Army civilian quality manager, and Brian D. Wladkowski (right), a U.S. Army civilian chemist, look at chromatogram results. The CARA Mobile Expeditionary Laboratory earned International Standards Organization 17025 accreditation for air monitoring. U.S. Army photo by Tracey I. Corbett.



# Army civilian ordnance disposal experts safeguard nation



*Army civilian Explosive Safety Specialists (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) from CARA deploy across the nation and around the world. From Panama and Hawaii to New Jersey and California, Army civilian UXO technicians locate, conduct non-intrusive analysis and properly safeguard chemical and explosive UXO munitions. Courtesy photo.*

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. – U.S. Army civilian ordnance disposal experts take on Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) in support of military operations and civil authorities.

UXO can be as lethal as when it was first produced – but it is no match for the U.S. Army civilians from the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosives (CBRNE) Analytical and Remediation Activity.

Army civilian Explosive Safety Specialists (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) from CARA deploy around the world and across the nation.

From Panama and Hawaii to New Jersey and California, Army civilian UXO technicians locate, conduct non-intrusive analysis and properly safeguard chemical and explosive UXO munitions.

Kerry M. Jones, a U.S. Army civilian program manager for CARA Remediation and Response-East and an ordnance removal manager at the CARA Headquarters on Aberdeen Proving Ground's Edgewood Area, said Army ESS (EOD) technicians support many different kinds of UXO missions, in-

cluding research and development of CBRNE technologies.

"ESS (EOD) personnel are engaged in various operations ranging from supporting installation infrastructure projects, emergency responses to suspected chemical munitions, non-intrusive assessment of munitions and remediation of chemical sites," said Jones, a retired U.S. Army Ordnance Corps and EOD senior enlisted Soldier from Chicago.

"Their day-to-day activities are not standardized but are fluid to respond to what is happening that particular day," said Jones. "Their jobs are critical to keeping the environment and general population safe from chemical and explosive hazards."

Jones said that all CARA's ESS (EOD) personnel are former U.S. military EOD technicians.

According to Jones, who served in the U.S. Army's Technical Escort Unit, ESS (EOD) personnel leverage their experience to safely conduct reconnaissance of UXOs to ensure the correct identification, classification and handling of UXOs.

"I have responded to basically all types of munitions, including bombs, rockets and hand grenades, in my career," said Jones. "In terms of my most rewarding UXO response, they have all been rewarding because with each response you learn something new and always get the satisfaction of removing a hazard from the environment."

An all-Army civilian organization, CARA is part of the 20th CBRNE Command, the U.S. Department of Defense's premier all hazards formation. CARA also conducts mobile laboratory operations, emergency response missions for Recovered Chemical Warfare Material and technical escort of surety and non-surety chemical material.

Franz J. Amann, the director of CARA, said Army civilian ESS (EOD) play a crucial role in remediating formerly used defense sites and training ranges of explosive hazards so that the facilities can be reused. The CARA director added that ESS (EOD) civilians support CARA's remediation activities around the nation and deploy for overseas military operations.

"Our Army civilian ESS (EOD) bring a wealth of experience to the many important missions that CARA accomplishes every day," said Amann, a retired U.S. Army Chemical Corps officer from Spartanburg, South Carolina. "Their day-to-day remediation operations in working in a hazardous and potentially chemical environment ensures the Army maintains highly trained and experienced civilian teams that are prepared to deploy to similar environments for contingency operations. In addition, the important work they do every day helps to keep our service members and the American public safe."

CARA routinely has open job announcements for ESS (EOD) technicians.

The announcements can be found on USAJobs.gov by searching APG. Grades can vary between GS-11 to GS-13 depending on the individual's experience and level of training.

[Read full story](#)

# Army civilian logistician helps to keep command ready

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. – An Army civilian staff logistician at the U.S. military's premier all hazards command helps to ensure that Soldiers and Army civilians are equipped and ready for mission around the world.

Adam M. Ochylski from the 20th CBRNE Command's logistics section was selected as the Civilian of the Quarter for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.

Ochylski was recognized for the integration and management of supply, transportation, equipment, maintenance, contract surveillance and other functions.

The command logistics section provides global logistics, supply and service operations in support of Soldiers and Army civilians from the 20<sup>th</sup> CBRNE Command. "In the G4, I help to ensure we have the right equipment with the right unit at the right time," said Ochylski. "I work internally with units and externally with FORSCOM and other enterprise partners as a materiel manager."

Born in Canton, Michigan, and raised in Greenville, South Carolina, Ochylski joined the Army after graduating from Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina, and served as a logistics officer for seven years.

Lt. Col. Drewry L. Brown, the command senior logistics officer, said Ochylski had contributed to the readiness of the one-of-a-kind command.



Brig. Gen. Daryl O. Hood, the commanding general of 20th CBRNE Command, and Command Sgt. Maj. Jorge Arzabala, the senior enlisted leader, present the Civilian of the Quarter to Adam M. Ochylski, a staff logistician at 20th CBRNE Command. U.S. Army photo by Angel D. Martinez.-Navedo.

"Mr. Ochylski is a true SME who always seeks solutions for complex logistics challenges, whether current or future," said Brown, who is from Greenville, South Carolina, and has deployed to Iraq twice and Haiti once. "Mr. Ochylski's ability to teach, coach and mentor both peers and leaders within the command, while exhibiting the highest level of professionalism is worthy of all Soldiers, civilians and peers to emulate."

[Read full story](#)

## Retirements/Moves/Promotions/Awards

### Retirements

Command Group	Dr. Mark Fishback	27-Sep-22
CARA	Samuel Wright	30-Sep-22
CARA	Bruce Griffin	30-Jun-22

### 4th Quarter Gains

CARA	Elena Prezioso	5-Jul-22
G3	Christopher Skowron	18-Jul-22
CARA	Sam Pannoni	18-Jul-22
G3	Shirley Goodman	1-Aug-22
CARA	Susan Persing	15-Aug-22
CARA	Pamela Moore	29-Aug-22
G8	Jiang Xiaoyan	11-Sep-22
CARA	Mark Brock	11-Sep-22

### 4th Quarter Losses

G2	Scott Hebert	2-Jul-22
CE	William Ondo	2-Jul-22
RMT	Rosetta Hubbard	5-Jul-22
CARA	Lukasz Gauza	16-Jul-22
HHC	Dimitri Cromwell	30-Jul-22
G6	John Spillman	13-Aug-22
CARA	LaTonya Hooks	13-Aug-22
CARA	Cyle Carroll	27-Aug-22

### 4th Quarter Promotions

CARA	Michelle LaFrance	GS-13
CARA	Wayne Purdue	GS-08
CARA	Howard Robinette III	GS-12
48th	Marlena Semezier	GS-11
CARA	Jarrold Williams	GS-08

### Honorary Awards

Franz Amann	Meritorious Civilian Service Award
Jaime Benitez-Vazquez	Certificate of Achievement
Dimitri Cromwell	Civilian Service Achievement Medal
Tonia Edwards	Civilian Service Achievement Medal
Dr. Mark Fishback	Distinguished Civilian Service Medal
Dr. Mark Fishback	Meritorious Civilian Service Medal
Gretchen Gildner	Civilian Service Achievement Award
Sharon Harris	Civilian Service Commendation Medal
Scott Hebert	Civilian Service Commendation Medal
Adam Ochylski	Civilian Service Achievement Medal
Pamela Silcox	Meritorious Civilian Service Medal
Janita Sims	Civilian Service Achievement Medal
John Spillman	Civilian Service Commendation Medal
Wende Thornton	Civilian Service Commendation Medal
Anthony Whetstone	Certificate of Achievement
Samuel Wright	Meritorious Civilian Service Medal

## Birthdays

### July

Mary Brumley  
Karen Diep-Arwood  
Kenneth Green  
Gerald Iler  
Kimberly King  
Brent Mathison  
Michael Murkens II  
Taylor T. Phillips  
Belinda Rodriguez  
Steven Sieranski  
Joel States  
Steven Wade  
Bradley Weber  
Lionel Wienmann

Bruce Peter  
Wayne Purdue  
Robert Reynolds  
Demond Robinson  
Gregory Sanders  
Marlena Semezier  
Delton Smith  
Emily Urquidez

### September

William Ball  
Patrick Edwards  
Shirley Goodman  
Charles Grady  
Wyatt Guffey  
Angela Howze  
Donald Jennings  
Pedro Johnson  
Matthew Kalfoglou  
Courtney Murray  
Cornelia Murry  
Franklin Shinn  
Dalys Talley  
Tamyia Thompson  
Bao Tran

### August

Thomas M. Eiler  
Dr. Mark Fishback  
Vivian Harrison Jr.  
Althea James  
Peter Leon-Guerrero  
Pamela Moore  
Gary Overman

## Awards

### Civilian of the Quarter

Adam Ochylski

### Public Service Awards

Cheryl Fishback      Public Service Commendation Medal  
Tacy Munera      Meritorious Public Service Award

### Length of Service Awards

5 Years	Demond Robinson	18-Sep-22
10 Years	Timothy Crews	1-Aug-22
15 Years	Brenda Parks	8-Jul-22
15 Years	Eric Dietz	27-Sep-22
20 Years	Sharon Harris	19-Aug-22
25 Years	Timothy Cook	2-Jul-22
25 Years	Joseph Fierro	7-Aug-22
25 Years	Ruth Garcia	28-Sep-22
30 Years	Michael Emelio	28-Jul-22
35 Years	Ryan O'Connell	12-Sep-22
40 Years	Thomas Eiler	16-Aug-22
40 Years	Samuel Wright	2-Sep-22

## Civilians offered opportunities for professional development

### By Shila D. Smith

Professional development is improving yourself through learning and training to advance your career.

Organizations may offer training sessions to further teach their employees, but an employee typically works on their own professional development independently.

There are many ways that an employee can work on their professional development, such as taking classes, going to workshops or teaching themselves new skills. Professional development can also refer to staying up to date on new trends within your field and applying new practices to your current methods.

### Why is professional development important?

Professional development is important because it can make you a better employee. This could help you receive more opportunities for career advancement, such as promotions or lateral transfers. Professional development can make you a more desirable candidate because of your knowledge and level of expertise in your field. Professional development improves your skill set and knowledge.

### Improves confidence

Professional development can increase your confidence as an employee. Learning new skills and abilities may make you more confident and could help you feel more comfortable in your position as your knowledge expands. Confidence is a desirable trait for an employee because they're more likely to accept new opportunities, make informed decisions and display characteristics of leadership.

### Develops skills

Through professional development, you may increase both hard and soft skills within the workplace. Hard skills refer to job-specific knowledge you receive through training or education, while soft skills are personal habits that define how you work, such as communication. Developing your skills can help you become an expert in your field, share your knowledge with new employees or discover opportunities for career advancement.

### Increases job opportunities

Professional development can increase job opportunities, such as receiving raises or promotions, within your current career field.

If your supervisor sees that you're putting in the effort to improve your skill sets, they may be more likely to consider you for career advancement opportunities.

If more information on U.S. Army civilian professional development programs [click here](#) and then click on the "Civilian HR Professional Development" link.