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CHART#1

Good Morning! It is a pleasure to be here today at the 29th Department of Defense Explosives Safety Seminar in the beautiful city of New Orleans! I have not attended all 29 Seminars – I believe only Jim Drake can say that -- but, I have attended most of the seminars since 1976 and it is always great to come back and see so many friends. Over the years I have seen a change in both the seminar themes and panel topics. This is good, because as our National Security requirements and our corresponding Military Strategy have changed, so have our explosives safety issues and the challenges in addressing those issues. In the last four years, since moving into my present position with the Army, I have seen significant change. Not many years ago you did not often in the same sentence hear the association of explosives safety and the environment. Not anymore! Safety, environment, AND health are almost inseparable in our daily activities. It is fasten your seat belt time!

The changes are exciting and sometimes create challenges that seem almost insurmountable but I believe that our safety community -- the Department of Defense, industry, and our foreign counterparts worldwide -- is capable of meeting these challenges. So, in the first year of a new century, as we gather here in New Orleans for this 29th Seminar -- I want to challenge you to consider all aspects of explosives safety and also consider your role in this process as I talk about the direction the Army is taking to adjust to this changing world.

This is a great forum to gain an understanding of the complex issues we face within the Department of Defense. In ensuring the safety and the readiness of our Armed Forces, we also provide protection of public health and maintain good stewardship of the land entrusted to us.

CHART #2

America's Military is adapting to an evolving new strategic environment. American interests are to enhance our security, to develop stability and to advance Democracy around the world. On any given day the U.S. Army may have as many as 120,000 soldiers

stationed or deployed in over 80 countries around the world. In the past 10 years, the Army has seen a 300% increase in major Army operations and we are providing over 60% of committed forces. Our soldiers are on the front lines of diplomacy and security worldwide.

As one considers this change in requirements, we in the explosives safety community have also had to consider the vital role that we play in support of the mission. In years past we were addressing the “Call Forward” of large quantities of supplies and munitions to Europe. Many in this community were concerned with the upload of artillery ammunition in Korea and the significant exposures to both our 2nd Infantry Division Soldiers and the Republic of Korea population.

Today with Army deployments like Task Force Falcon and Task Force Eagle in the Balkans we are projecting a much smaller logistical footprint in a high operational tempo. It is creating significant challenges in managing safety as we contribute to the overall effectiveness and readiness of the Force. Earlier this year Colonel J. C. King with the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, and the Army Board Member to the DDESB, led a Department of Army Team

to review Explosives Safety in the Balkans. His Team commended the overall professionalism of the Units and found for the most part an effective and efficient ammunition management program. There are many aspects of such deployments and smaller peace time contingency actions that must be and are being addressed and incorporated into our overall explosives safety, environment and health management policies. It is the responsibility in carrying out these policies at the unit, installation, and Major Command levels that makes your job so important. The application of technologies that many of you will present this week is key to our success. The Army's readiness and ability to equip, train, rapidly deploy and project power in support of our National interests in this complicated and ever changing strategic environment is dependent upon your innovative ideas.

CHART #3

The broad vision and spectrum of military operations is what we must prepare for in order to accomplish our 21st Century mission. The Army is moving forward to shape, train, and equip a force prepared to meet these significant challenges. The necessity is to be more

strategically responsive and dominant at every point on the spectrum.

The changing world demands that America's Army change with it. We must be persuasive in peace and invincible in war. Again the importance of combining and meeting the challenges of addressing explosives safety, environment and health to accomplish this Spectrum of Military Operations can not be understated. The explosives safety and ammunition technologies associated with your work and presentations this week will no doubt play an important part in meeting the significant challenges within this vision.

CHART#4

In October of last year, the Chief of Staff of the Army announced plans to "transform" the Army by 2010 into an objective force that combines the lethality and protection of today's heavy units with the deployability of its light formations. As an interim step, he laid out plans to establish several medium-weight brigades outfitted with off-the-self equipment over the next few years. This transformation will require the safety, environment and health communities to understand and be

intimately engaged in the total life cycle of the systems, their weapons and the muntions involved in this transformation. It includes considering everything from acquisition and production, to stockpile management, to use, to demilitarization, and disposal.

As the Army transforms to this objective force, being ready to support the National Military Strategy is the top priority and we must maintain the non-negotiable contract “to fight and win the Nation’s wars”. Tough, realistic, battle-focused training is essential to maintaining this ready deployable force. Such training raises complex challenges for all our communities, and again, with many directly related to explosives safety. Since the Revolutionary War, every soldier at some point in his or her career touches a bullet of some kind – from basic training to peace keeping operations to combat. Training with live ammunition is critical to our principle of “train as we fight, fight as we train”.

CHART #5

This brings me to a monumental challenge to address as we move forward in this process. When one considers that the Army has been training, operating and fighting for over 225 years, one can imagine the magnitude of the unexploded ordnance, or UXO challenge before us. We can all remember when the issue of UXO was one primarily of safety – fire the round downrange, if it functions as intended – good. If it didn't function as intended, the only concern was safety – don't touch it, don't pick it up, call EOD, and let them handle it. It is no longer that simple. The challenge now is to not only handle safety concerns, but also health, environment, clearance and disposal in a manner that enhances our training and readiness. This of course is not unique to the Army and involves all of DOD. At present there is increased public and regulatory concern over UXO and its constituents. This is due in a large part to the base realignment and closure activities and formerly used defense sites, the Munitions Rule, the Range Rule, public health issues over constituents, and, of ever increasing importance, the resources necessary to deal with the situation.

The Military is required to respond to a variety of new requirements applicable to how we manage munitions and UXO. All are huge challenges, and directly impact the Army transformation and our future readiness through training. Historically, and understandably, the primary focus on developing a weapons system is to fulfill the need to gain a military advantage over a foe – to put metal on target. In comparison, limited attention has been given to other possible outcomes, namely that the item might never be used, ultimately become obsolete, and need to be demilitarized. Or, that it might be used in live fire training; fail to function as designed, and ultimately need to be addressed as part of the ongoing management of an active range – or during response actions when a range is permanently taken out of service.

Recently contributing to this challenge is the fact we have detected through sampling that RDX and HMX contamination does exist in the soil and ground water under several of our range impact areas, some Formally Used Defense Sites and other active locations. Artillery firing at Massachusetts Military Reservation, or MMR, had been stopped by

the Environmental Protection Agency due to the potential of RDX contamination in the ground water. A sampling program there related to the impact area has now detected RDX. MMR sits on a sole source aquifer. This is not unique to MMR in that some 20 other Army Installations do as well. Two of which are major training sites. Due to the extensive use of RDX and HMX in our explosives, this has the potential of being a huge problem and requires evaluation from a training and readiness standpoint. To help prevent UXO problems in the future, we must look at the total life cycle of our munitions – from acquisition and production, to stockpile management, to use of the munitions, to demilitarization, and range management. The UXO issue is a munitions issue – a life cycle management issue. AND, we are developing a strategy and taking initiatives to do just that!

The bottom line is we must recognize that our ranges are a finite resource, one that must be managed appropriately not only to ensure protection of our soldier's safety and health, but also to ensure protection of the public and the environment. We must recognize that

our readiness and ability to fight and win is directly tied to safety, health, and environmental protection considerations.

CHART #6

In the few minutes I have I want to describe to you an important direction we have taken in addressing these many significant challenges. That is the establishment of the DOD Operational and Environmental Executive Steering Committee (OEESCM). You will hear the acronym pronounced “O-E-SCUM”. This is not just an Army action but involves organizations across the DOD. This chart shows that membership. The OEESCM is chartered and has resulted in several successes. I understand there will be a detailed panel presentation by Ms. Connie Van Brocklin, Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installations Management, at this Seminar on the OEESCM. (Connie has been doing an excellent job handling the OEESCM Executive Secretary responsibilities. I hope I don’t steal all of Connie’s thunder but I would like to briefly touch on the OEESCM activities and organization.)

The OEESCM has the mission of developing overarching DOD policies, positions, strategies and action plans related to the lifecycle management of munitions to support readiness by balancing operational needs, explosives safety and environmental stewardship throughout the acquisition, management, use and disposal of munitions.

CHART#7

The OEESCM is challenged with addressing everything you see listed on this chart. All have significant implications to readiness and training and the lifecycle management of munitions with full consideration of this Seminar's main interest – “explosives safety”. Like our National Military Strategy, our Munitions Strategy must promote national stability and protect the public and our national interest.

CHART #8

The OEESCM is a decision-making body established as a committee of the Defense Environmental Security Council. We have Co-chairs and I currently serve as the permanent co-chair. The other co-

chair is rotated among the Services being filled by an operations General Officer. The Marine Corps has served and currently the Air Force, BG Bishop is in place. The Army acts as the Executive Secretary. There are currently 5 subcommittees as shown on this chart, Acquisition, Stockpile Management and Demilitarization, Range and Munitions Use, Range Response, and Stakeholder Involvement, with an Integration Council to tie it all together.

One of the more significant developments under the OEESCM was the establishment of the permanent Stakeholder Involvement Subcommittee. It is charged with developing and implementing stakeholder involvement activities directly related to the entire lifecycle of munitions. The Munitions Action Plan (MAP) which is being developed by the OEESCM at the direction of the Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology, incorporates this stakeholder involvement. This subcommittee will continue to examine options in soliciting stakeholder input into the various OEESCM initiatives.

This brings me to another related activity. Last week the National Policy Dialogue on Military Munitions held a plenary session and is

nearly complete in its activities. It has been a process of discussions over the last three years on interests and concerns with the life-cycle of military munitions and installations, and their impacts on communities. It represented diverse perspectives from the DOD, regulating agencies at the federal, state, and tribal level, environmental groups, and communities around our installations affected by munitions. A report on the Dialogue is being finalized and I expect it to be complete before the end of the year.

We plan to build on this successful experience and establish a National Level Dialogue. The OEESCM Stakeholder Involvement Subcommittee will be examining the current DOD policies regarding compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), to help determine if current policies regarding stakeholder involvement are consistent with both FACA and the increasing concern for public involvement, especially under environmental laws.

Another significant accomplishment of the OEESCM is the development of new policies regarding explosives safety and environmental management on active and inactive ranges both within

the United States and overseas. These policies are provided in DOD Directives 4715.11 (for ranges in the U.S.) and 4715.12 (for overseas). They provide for a comprehensive range inventory; development of technology for sustainable range management; studying the environmental fate and transport of munitions constituents; restrictions on the use of submunitions and munitions containing depleted uranium; and require involvement with stakeholders at the local, regional, and national levels. The Army is currently staffing the implementing document for both Directives.

CHART #9

This chart provides some of the current efforts being worked by the OEESCM. A special working group has been assigned the task of developing DOD policy for the management and disposition of range and munitions residue. This draft policy relates to safe and compliant methods of recycling metal scrap and other residues from ranges, which is a significant issue in the area of sustainable range management. The OEESCM is a very focused DOD effort to address some very diverse,

complex issues that cross functional boundaries. It's purpose is to assure communication and coordination in addressing the entire life cycle by bringing the Operators, Environmental, Safety and Health, Logisticians and R&D representatives together in making targeted improvements in the lifecycle management of munitions and ranges.

We believe we now have the organization, a plan, and people in place and are making significant progress. Many of you are directly involved in this effort. The challenge for each of us, as we relate to our individual and organizational responsibilities, is to contemplate and identify our individual roles in achieving solutions.

CHART#10

The significance of this Seminar is that it will allow us to share and communicate ideas that will help do just that – achieve solutions. I am confident that the DOD will continue to be successful in ensuring protection of public health and safety and in being good stewards of the land entrusted to us. All this while assuring the readiness of our great Armed Forces. Make no mistake we have a monumental challenge! I

have confidence we will meet the challenge and achieve successful solutions. I look to all of you to help develop the solutions we require by relating the many technologies with which you are involved, and which you will be presenting and discussing in detail this week in the technical panels.

Thank you and have a very successful Seminar.