



US ARMY NATICK SOLDIER RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT & ENGINEERING CENTER | NSRDEC Overview

INTRODUCTION:

Since 1954, the Natick Soldier RD&E Center (NSRDEC), also known as the Natick Labs, has followed a simple mandate: to ensure that American Soldiers are the best fed, the best protected, and the most highly mobile military in the world.

WORLD CLASS ORGANIZATION:

NSRDEC's world-class scientists, engineers, and equipment designers provide American forces with a wide range of field feeding and life support systems, clothing, precision airdrop systems, and ballistic, chemical, and laser protection systems.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT & ENGINEERING (RD&E):

- NSRDEC's technical and scientific expertise, combined with its close relationship to Soldiers in the field, has led to the creation of new fabrics that are lighter weight, more durable, and more threat resistant than anything Soldiers have ever worn.
- Food research has led to a new understanding of how to maximize a Soldier's performance by developing rations that contain just the right mix of nutrients, are easy to prepare in remote locations, and, most importantly, taste good.
- State-of-the-art shelters that enhance the Soldiers protection and their quality of life, have replaced the flimsy tents of yesteryear.
- Research into airdrop and other airdrop technologies has matured to ensure that personnel and equipment reach their destination in the fastest, precise, yet safest, way possible.

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER:

Throughout the years, NSRDEC has reached out to a broader community through technology transfer and cooperative agreements with private industry and other government agencies. Through such efforts, NSRDEC developed much of the food eaten by astronauts aboard the space shuttles, outfitted police forces with special ballistic protection, and developed shelf-stable sandwich foods that promise to combine convenience and nutrition for a consumer market.

FIRST RESPONDERS:

In addition to supporting the Soldier in field, NSRDEC's mission has grown to encompass Homeland Defense in the Global War on Terrorism, disaster response, humanitarian aid, peacekeeping efforts, and low intensity conflicts. NSRDEC's multitalented, highly educated, and experienced workforce stands poised to continue to meet these challenges and any that the future may bring.

ORGANIZATIONAL SNAPSHOT:

The NSRDEC ensures that the U.S. Warfighters are the best equipped, best clothed, best fed, and best protected in the world through science and technology in the areas of airdrop, combat feeding, individual clothing and equipment, shelters, and Soldier system integration. NSRDEC is tied into America's Homeland Defense efforts through its National Protection Center. The NSRDEC has received the Department of the Army's Research & Development Lab of the Year Award for five out of the last six years.

- **Warfighter Protection:** Provides engineering and technical support to the Product/Project Managers across the Services in the areas of protective clothing and individual Warfighter equipment and systems. Plans and executes analyses and programs, and rapidly transitions

**THE SCIENCE
BEHIND THE SOLDIER FOR
OVER 50 YEARS**



products in partnership with Army, Marine Corps and SOCOM PMs. Provides technical expertise in critical Warfighter protection areas including ballistic, chemical biological and environmental protection; multi-functional textiles and flame resistant materials; individual combat equipment; and human systems integration.

- **Aerial Delivery Equipment Systems:** Conducts research and engineering in military parachuting and airdrop systems to: increase conducts research and engineering on military personnel parachuting and cargo airdrop systems. Through the efforts to develop, produce and maintain these complex systems, the airdrop program increases aircraft and airborne force survivability; improves airdrop accuracy and functional reliability; reduces personnel injuries and casualties; and greatly decreases system life cycle costs.
- **DoD Combat Feeding:** Executes the unique combat feeding requirements for each military service. This includes research, development, integration, evaluation and engineering for combat rations, field food service equipment and combat feeding systems. This Joint Service Program includes a partnership with Product Manager Force Sustainment Systems (PM FSS) for Army managed field food service equipment and systems.
- **Shelters Technology & Program Integration:** Provides shelter systems for Soldiers in all types of environments. Provides unique shelter systems that will satisfy an abundance of purposes. This program develops concepts and technologies through technical management and engineering support for the Army and the Department of Defense (DoD), as well as industry, academia and foreign governments.
- **Warfighter Science, Technology & Applied Research:** Conducts basic and applied research in the anthropological, behavioral, biological, environmental, operations research, mathematical and physical sciences. The program identifies opportunities supporting all command products and systems dedicated to improving the survivability, sustainability, mobility, and support of Warfighters on the battlefield.
- **Technology, Systems and Program Integration:** Serves as the primary NSRDEC technology integrator and assessor to advance and transition modular and reconfigurable Soldier systems and technologies that will benefit and serve the next generation Warfighter's operational capabilities. The program ensures that the NSRDEC Science & Technology Program addresses the Soldiers' needs, and supports the Army's S&T vision, strategy, and Transformation Objectives. We also manage the technology development, integration and experimentation of the USSOCOM Small Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (SUAV) ACTD; and we serve as a focal point for information exchange regarding protective clothing and individual equipment materials, systems and testing among homeland security emergency response professionals, military personnel and civilians in high-risk occupations.

POINT OF CONTACT:

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THE SCIENCE BEHIND THE SOLDIER: **YESTERDAY,
TODAY AND TOMORROW**

TECHNOLOGY DRIVEN. WARFIGHTER FOCUSED.