

PRESS RELEASE

RUBB SUPPLIES BUILDINGS TO U.S. ARMY DESERT TEST CENTER

In 2004 Rubb supplied two custom structures to the U.S. Army's West Desert Test Center at Dugway Proving Grounds, 80 miles from Salt Lake City, Utah. The structures will be used for the development and testing of chemical and biological (CB) detectors. Identifying and tracking airborne releases of highly lethal CB agents from a safe distance is an important capability for both military personnel and homeland security authorities. Agent recognition is performed by lasers utilizing Light Detection And Ranging Technologies (LIDAR). Since variable weather conditions can significantly affect agent dispersal patterns, open-air procedures for the actual agents are neither safe nor consistently effective. These structures will provide a controlled environment for the generation of simulant CB threat clouds to challenge detectors.

Rubb solved this problem by working closely with the Army's design contractor, Battelle, to develop two unique buildings that allow the testing to be performed in a controlled indoor environment. The buildings feature Tedlar® coated fabric for resistance to acidic chemicals used during testing. The profile of each building has been customized for specific scenarios. The first building is called the Active Standoff Chamber (ASC) and is 60' (18m) wide by 383' (117m) long with special rounded ends. It is used to test stationary clouds comprised of simulants of potential agents inside a sealed structure.



The second facility is the Joint Ambient Breeze Tunnel (JABT), which is 46' (14m) wide by 550' (168m) long with 49' (15m) high sidewalls. It is used to test detectors on substances that simulate toxic clouds on a much larger scale. Importantly, the JABT can move target clouds up to 6 meters (20') per second to assess the LIDAR's ability to track them, and determine their concentration profiles, while operating at a one to five kilometer (0.6 to 3 mile) distance. Together, the ASC and JABT fill a significant gap in testing capability for standoff detectors.