



U.S. ARMY
RDECOM

U.S. Army Research, Development
and Engineering Command
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U.S. ARMY RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND ENGINEERING COMMAND

Fact Sheet: RDECOM History

- In 2002, Gen. Paul J. Kern, commanding general of Army Materiel Command, saw the need to streamline how the Army developed technology for its Soldiers.
- Kern: “Right now, it is the impression of everyone out there that the laboratories take too long, they do science for science’s sake, engineering for engineering’s sake. We’ve got to figure out how to get technology in the hands of Warfighters quicker.”
- Kern’s solution was to unite all of AMC’s laboratories and the research, development and engineering centers under one command. The purpose of the new command was to ensure that the research, development and engineering components integrate their efforts to develop collaborative solutions for Army programs and science and technology efforts to support a full-spectrum force.
- Kern named Maj. Gen. John Doesburg, commanding general of the Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command, as the transition director for the proposed command in August 2002. The new RDECOM headquarters was created at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, from the headquarters elements of SBCCOM, which was in the process of standing down
- RDECOM was officially established as a major subordinate command March 1, 2004. RDECOM’s official mission statement was “to field technologies that sustain America’s Army as the premier land force in the world.”
- A major change occurred in 2012 when Dale Ormond, a civilian Senior Executive Service member, replaced Maj. Gen. Nick Justice, RDECOM commanding general. At the same time, the senior mission commander role for APG passed from RDECOM to the Army Communications-Electronics Command. Maj. Gen. John F. Wharton is the current RDECOM commanding general.
- Former RDECOM leaders (in order): Maj. Gen. John Doesburg, Maj. Gen. Roger Nadeau, Maj. Gen. Fred Robinson, Maj. Gen. Paul Izzo, Maj. Gen. Nick Justice, Dale Ormond.