Program Executive Officer for Ground Combat Systems (GCS)

Who We Are

We serve as the "System of Systems Integrator" of the Ground Combat Systems for the armed forces and lead the Army Transformation toward future systems as we evolve to the Objective Force while maintaining a current combat ready force. Our Abrams tanks, Bradley Fighting Vehicles and Paladins provide battlefield superiority in Iraq. The Future Combat Systems, the Stryker family, the Joint Lightweight 155mm Howitzer and Unmanned Ground Vehicles are evolving toward the Stryker and Objective Forces. We maintain an armed forces perspective in managing the development, acquisition, testing, systems integration, product improvement and fielding required to ensure programs meet cost, schedule and performance goals.

What We Do

- Provide resources (time, personnel, budget authority, space and information products) for subordinate PM program efforts.
- Implement DoD policies for acquisition reform and streamlining.
- Optimize development, acquisition and logistics business processes.
- Understand and anticipate user needs and translate those needs into effective project offices fully capable to provide acquisition direction and execution.
- Minimize time required to translate operational requirements into validated and verified operational capabilities.
- Foster the infrastructure necessary to provide ready, responsive, reliable and cost effective support to meet higher command and supported user community needs and exceed their expectations.
- Recruit, develop, train and retain a world class workforce that is fully competent, resourceful, diverse, values based, empowered and intolerant of discrimination.
- Have fun in what we do and pride in the services we provide.

Contact Info

(586) 574-5684
www.peogcs.army.mil

(August 2003)
Program Executive Officer for Combat Support and Combat Service Support (CS & CSS)

Who We Are

We develop, acquire, field and sustain safe, reliable, effective and supportable systems that provide combat support and combat service support for a full spectrum force. The PEO's vision is to be a catalyst for change in the Army Transformation process and throughout the Department of Defense within our product lines; and create a work environment where people are bound only by their imagination and creativity, where every idea is worth exploring to the fullest.

What We Do

- Assure integration and interoperability between Army programs using a "Family of Systems" concept.
- Ensure total ownership cost reductions during the development, acquisition, testing, product improvement and fielding of our systems.
- Balance cost, schedule, performance and supportability while capitalizing on reform initiatives and optimizing our logistics and acquisition business processes.
- Provide world-class quality of life for the soldier.
- Develop innovative partnering arrangements with industry, academia and other government organizations.
- Become a catalyst for acquisition reform and streamlining of the procurement process.
- Provide ready, responsive, reliable and cost effective support for fielded equipment.
- Understand and anticipate our customer's needs and exceed their expectations.
- Recruit, develop, and retain a well-trained, competent, diverse, values-based workforce in an inclusive environment that fosters innovation and is intolerant of discrimination.

Contact Info

(586) 574-5105
http://peocss.tacom.army.mil

Systems Integrator for the Armed Forces of Today and Tomorrow
Tank Automotive Research, Development & Engineering Center (TARDEC)

Who We Are

Headquartered in the heart of the automotive industry at the Detroit Arsenal in Warren, Michigan, the Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC) is the nation’s laboratory for advanced military automotive technology. TARDEC’s mission is to research, develop, engineer, leverage and provide advanced systems integration of technology into both ground systems and their support equipment throughout the life cycle.

What We Do

- Using state-of-the-art technology including one of the Department of Defense’s (DoD) largest high performance computing centers, virtual battlefield simulators, customer driven virtual prototyping and motion based simulators, TARDEC is at the forefront of the Army’s transformation creating solutions to challenges in water purification, alternative fuel technology, hybrid power systems, mobility engineering and logistical science while working with industry to engineer the Army’s future combat vehicles.
- While TARDEC is committed to sustaining the Legacy and Interim Forces, we are spearheading Future Combat System vehicle development. Using technology such as advanced collaborative environments and computer based modeling and simulation tools TARDEC researchers are designing the Army’s next generation of tactical trucks, reducing vehicle crew size, integrating unmanned ground vehicles into combat systems and enhancing vehicle survivability features.
- TARDEC has a strong relationship with the private sector, especially the automobile industry. To act as a conduit between the Army, industry, academia and other federal agencies, in 1992 DOD founded TARDEC’s National Automotive Center (NAC). Currently, the NAC collaborates to develop technologies that are beneficial to all parties—ensuring that soldiers quickly receive the best possible equipment.
- TARDEC puts the best equipment in our warfighters’ hands, while leading the Army’s transformation goal for a lighter, more lethal and more survivable force. As the Army prepares to confront the future, TARDEC will be there—developing, upgrading and maintaining war material—just as it has for more than half a century.

Contact Info

(586) 574-7660
www.tacom.army.mil/tardec

Everyday, everywhere, TACOM touches every soldier

U.S. Army Tank-automotive & Armaments Command (TACOM)
United States Army Garrison-Selfridge

Who We Are

We provide base support, housing, morale, welfare, recreation, and education to a joint military community residing on Selfridge Air National Guard Base and in the surrounding communities. The Garrison promotes readiness, health, and retention through quality of life programs.

What We Do

- Provide world class and quality residential housing to the military community.
- Provide facility engineering, property/construction management and design.
- Prepare and implement master plan.
- Provide quality food, beverage and entertainment establishments and restaurant services in a relaxed and congenial atmosphere.
- Provide quality and reasonably priced lodging to guests visiting or traveling on orders.
- Provide recreational and leisure time pursuits in the areas of golfing, bowling, boating, autocraft, photocraft, multicraft, outdoor recreation, adult sports, fitness, aquatics and library services.
- Provide Army operated and regulated child development center, family child care, school age services, youth services and community liaison and education outreach services.
- Provide financial readiness, relocation readiness, mobilization/deployment readiness, family readiness; also provide assistance with alcohol/substance/gambling problems, employment and emergency financial assistance.
- Provide educational needs to include college programs, counseling, testing, tutoring and partnerships with local community educational services.
- Provide a myriad of comprehensive religious services.

Contact Info

(586) 307-4600
www.selfridge.army.mil

(August 2003)
WHO WE ARE

The TACOM LCMC unites all of the organizations that focus on soldier and ground systems throughout the entire life cycle. The TACOM LCMC consists of the U.S. Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command, Program Executive Office Combat Support & Combat Service Support, Program Executive Office Ground Combat Systems, and Program Executive Office Soldier.

The TACOM LCMC also has three enterprise partners, the U.S. Army Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center, U.S. Army Armaments Research, Development & Engineering Center, and the Natick Soldier Center.

WHAT WE DO

- Integrate Army Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology (ALT) responsibilities, authorities, and processes to enable a closer relationship among all the partner organizations that develop, acquire, and sustain the capabilities provided by ground and soldier systems.
- Get products to the Soldier faster, make good products even better, minimize life cycle cost, and enhance the synergy and effectiveness of the ALT communities.
- Refocus all of our efforts on managing systems through their life cycle in order to deliver warfighting capabilities (quality, reliability, and performance) and improve readiness.
- Base our future direction on process identification, process ownership, greater effectiveness and efficiency that will benefit the entire TACOM LCMC community, but more importantly, that will benefit the warfighter.

TACOM LCMC QUICK FACTS (as of 31 MAR 05)

On-Board Strength:
- Military 234
- Civilians 17,139
- Contractors 3,352
- Total 20,725

Projected FY04 Budget: $28.9 Billion

Items Managed: 33,194

Annual Requisitions: 738,316

Primary Geographic Locations: Warren, MI; Rock Island, IL; Picatinny, NJ; Natick, MA; Anniston, AL; Huntsville, AL; Lima, OH; Texarkana, TX; Herlong, CA; Watervliet, NY; Philadelphia, PA; Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD; Ft. Belvoir, VA

Total Acreage: 72,913 acres

Our Bottom Line:

We touch every service, every day – TACOM LCMC
United States Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM)

Who We Are

TACOM, the U.S. Army's Tank-automotive and Armaments Command, is headquartered in Warren, Michigan and its mission is to support and sustain mobility, lethality, and survivability for warfighters, joint commanders, allies, and other customers. By partnering with Program Executive Offices and multiple research, development, and engineering centers, TACOM is able to support a diverse set of product lines throughout their life cycles. In all, TACOM supports over 3,500 fielded systems and over 29,000 components that make those systems work. TACOM and its partner PEOs and RDECs constitute the Soldier and Ground Systems Enterprise for the U.S. military.

TACOM is supported by personnel located throughout the globe working for its Acquisition Center, Integrated Logistics Support Center, Ground Systems Industrial Enterprise, and its active partnerships with the Research, Development and Engineering Command and five different Program Executive Offices.

What We Do

- TACOM continues to institutionalize a culture of innovation and continuous improvement throughout their command. It's recently developed Enterprise Excellence Federation is one example of this.
- TACOM uses programs such as Quality Management System, Voice of the Customer, Lean/Six Sigma and other Enterprise Excellence Federation tools to help provide the best possible support to the joint warfighter.
- With other ongoing programs like the Leadership Competencies for the Future training program, TACOM is devoted to changing its culture and institutionalizing its ability to easily deal with change.
- Together, we are now leading the way in land warfare and soldier technologies and helping to ensure America's military remains relevant and ready in the 21st century.

Contact Info

(586) 574-8820
www.tacom.army.mil

We touch every service, every day - TACOM

U.S. Army Tank-automotive & Armaments Command (TACOM)
The Acquisition Center

Who We Are

Located at seven geographic sites, we are the U.S. Army's Tank-automotive and Armaments Command's contracting activity. We are an award winning, customer focused organization with goals related to customer satisfaction, contracting excellence, workforce revitalization and development, improving our working environment, implementing improved business processes, and the institutionalization of leadership competencies. We insure warfighting readiness for the soldier by purchasing ground combat, tactical vehicles, supporting services and component parts, small arms, armaments, marine systems, munitions and the Future Combat System. We are responsible for acquisition support and contracting for 70% of the Army's major systems, and for systems and equipment supporting other services, and foreign military sales customers.

What We Do

- We provide comprehensive acquisition, contracting, business advisory, industrial preparedness, industrial base, and depot-level maintenance services in acquiring, fielding, and sustaining TACOM and Program Executive Office systems and supporting requirements. We also provide service as the command's competition advocate and the command's ombudsperson. We ensure that the best products and services reach our soldiers when they need it, while ensuring fair opportunity for industry, and obtaining the best value for our Army.
- We procure research and development, systems, repair parts and services for:
  - Combat vehicles
  - Tactical vehicles and bridges
  - Construction and other support equipment
  - Watercraft
  - Railcars
  - Concept and research and development efforts
  - Fuel and water distribution systems
  - Small arms
  - Armaments
  - Munitions
  - Artillery
  - Warhead technology
  - Fire control systems
  - Chemical defense equipment
  - Logistics and general support
  - Base operation support
  - Depot maintenance

Contact Info

(586) 574-7027
http://contracting.tacom.army.mil

Everyday, everywhere, TACOM touches every soldier

U.S. Army Tank-automotive & Armaments Command (TACOM)
Integrated Logistics Support Center (ILSC)

Who We Are

The Integrated Logistics Support Center (ILSC) is responsible for sustaining warfighting readiness and managing a large part of the Army’s investment in warfighting capacity as integrators of nearly 3,000 weapon systems that form the core of the Army’s warfighting capability.

What We Do

- Responsible for the entire life cycle support of aircraft armament, small arms, artillery, tools and training systems, tactical vehicles, light and heavy combat vehicles, watercraft, soldier/biological/chemical systems and deployment/support equipment
- Army Materiel Command (AMC) project manager for sets, kits and outfits
- Service Control Point for petroleum products, quality assurance, and petroleum facilities technical support Army-wide
- AMC executive agent for loans, supply discrepancy reports, stock positioning, small arms logistics and demilitarizations
- World Wide Web logistics mission (Army Electronic Product Support)
- World wide assistance to the field in readiness and maintenance

Contact Info

(586) 574-6090
tri.army.mil

(November 2003)
Ground Systems Industrial Enterprise (GSIE)

Who We Are

The U.S. Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM) Ground Systems Industrial Enterprise (GSIE) will lead the transformation of the Army's industrial base and will allow the Army to leverage the full capabilities and capacity offered by its six installations. These facilities include Anniston Army Depot, Red River Army Depot, Sierra Army Depot, Lima Army Tank Plant, Rock Island Arsenal and Watervliet Arsenal. The GSIE's combined capabilities include manufacturing, plant engineering services, field support, manufacturing support services, and repair and overhaul.

What We Do

Central to the Ground Systems Industrial Enterprise are the goals of operating like a business to the maximum extent possible, forging government and industry partnerships, and adopting best business practices by:

- Streamlining current legislation and regulations governing outside sales and Department of Defense financial management
- Managing depot/arsenal capability and critical processes from an integrated, flexible, bottom-line perspective
- Increasing efficiency, reducing costs of operation, and institutionalizing customer focus
- Implementing LEAN principles to increase productivity gains and decrease rates

GSIE
- 32 million square feet of manufacturing and repair space
- 4,379 pieces of industrial plant equipment
- 481 of the latest computer numerically controlled machine tools
- 36,000 acres of high desert storage
- 329 engineers
- 345 welders
- 537 machinists

Contact Info

(309) 782-5838
www.gsie.army.mil

(October 2003)

Everyday, everywhere, TACOM touches every soldier

U.S. Army Tank-automotive & Armaments Command (TACOM)
ENOUGH and ON TIME

The Story of the Detroit Arsenal

During World War II the Detroit Arsenal lived up to its motto "Enough and On Time" by delivering more than 22,234 tanks, such as the Sherman shown here.
Today, the M1A2 Abrams is the U.S. Army’s main battle tank. These tanks were photographed at the Detroit Arsenal in Warren, Michigan. Photo: Tom Sherry.
The weather was pleasant on April 24, 1941, at the Detroit Arsenal in Warren Township. Radio broadcast the speeches of such dignitaries as the governor of Michigan and the chief of U.S. Army Ordnance across the country. But the star of the day's festivities was a 30-ton, steel monster—the first tank delivered from the nation's newest and largest defense plant. The M3 (later nicknamed the General Lee) performed dramatically, firing its guns, smashing through telephone poles and easily turning a specially built house into matchwood. Suddenly, a second M3 emerged from the factory, much to the delight of the two thousand spectators. Later, children and industrialists climbed all over the tanks and posed for pictures. It was a great beginning to a story of how government and business united in a joint cause to modernize the U.S. Army.
As war engulfed the world in the early 1940s, the U.S. Army turned to Detroit—first to build tanks and then as the home to coordinate the production of its ground vehicles. Today, tanks are no longer built in Detroit. But over sixty years after the auto industry helped the Army manufacture its first tank, the Tank-automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM) is still located in suburban Detroit and remains responsible for keeping the Army prepared to fight a war. Or as TACOM’s Commander, Major General John S. Caldwell Jr., more succinctly declared, “As TACOM goes, so goes the readiness of the Army.”

by ANN M. BOS AND RANDY R. TALBOT
From the Pacific in 1944, PFC Frank Upton of the U.S. Marine Corps sent this message to his old sergeant, William Hendricks, then on recruiting duty in Detroit:

"If you should go to the Chrysler tank arsenal, I want you to find the head man and kiss him on the forehead for me. I love tanks and everybody connected with them. When I was hit on Tinian we were on patrol and the Nips had pinned us down in a field of sugar cane. They were in caves in the cliffs and while we could see exactly nothing of them, they were really giving us the business. A machine gun slug went through my hip early and I had visions of being in the field until dark, when one of those Chrysler jobs rolled up. The driver told me what he was going to do and after I had crawled out on harder ground, he drove the tank over me and pulled me through the escape hatch in the belly of the tank. Those treads looked plenty big as they straddled me, but we drove back to the lines slick as a whistle.

Tanks are mighty fine things—mighty fine!"
A TANK PLANT IS BORN

The U.S. Army built about one thousand tanks during World War I, but none of them saw action in Europe. After the war, American tank development was haphazard. When bright young officers who recognized the tank’s potential suggested changes, they were reprimanded. In 1920 Captain Dwight D. Eisenhower was told by superiors that the ideas he and fellow officer George S. Patton had about tanks “were not only wrong but dangerous.” During the 1930s when the Army became interested in tanks, it ran into funding problems and only a few new tanks were ordered.

As American policymakers watched German armor race across Europe they realized the importance of mechanized warfare. By the end of July 1940 the Army created a separate armored force, but it only existed on paper. Making it a reality required mass production, and that initiative came from William Knudsen, the industrial production specialist of the National Defense Advisory Commission. On leave from his responsibilities as president of the General Motors Corporation, Knudsen was on the job less than a week when he called K. T. Keller, president of the Chrysler Corporation. According to legend, Knudsen asked Keller if Chrysler could make tanks. Keller responded, “Yes,” then asked, “Where can I see one?”

Despite Keller’s enthusiasm, the automotive industry could neither be converted to tank production overnight, nor could tanks be built in a few odd corners of existing plants. Since Knudsen believed mass-producing tanks could be facilitated under one roof, he proposed that the Army build what Keller called a “self-contained, permanent tank arsenal.” Detroit was the obvious place for such a facility. A separate plant also served Chrysler’s interests. Despite having idle manufacturing capacity in its plants, the automaker preferred to save space to make cars in the future, not fill uncertain government contracts. A government-owned tank plant also protected Chrysler from being stuck with a white elephant after a war.

As negotiations continued, Chrysler engineers traveled to the U.S. arsenal at Rock Island, Illinois, to see—for the first time—a tank. They gathered up all the blueprints of the Army’s newest tank, the M2A1, and headed back to Detroit. Working on the eighth floor of the Dodge building on Conant Avenue, the team completed a full-size wooden model of the M2A1 in four and one-half weeks. On August 15, 1940, the Army and Chrysler signed a contract. The government agreed to build and tool a tank plant for $21 million; Chrysler agreed to operate it, setting the price for each tank at $33,500. The Detroit Arsenal became the nation’s first government-owned, contractor-operated facility.

To design the tank plant, Chrysler hired Albert Kahn, the renowned industrial architect who had worked extensively with the auto industry for several decades. The plant site was one hundred acres of cheap farmland in Warren Township, north of Detroit. At the time the area was so rural that one worker remembered that during plant construction “occasionally we would hear pellets hit our windows, as [hunters] took aim at quail.”

Ground preparation began on September 11. Two months later, steel framing began. As winter approached, construction conditions worsened. In early December the firm farmland became “a marshy morass.” Kahn remembered, “Steel workers slopped around in boots—many times up to their knees in mud. Then snow came, followed
world,” measured five city blocks deep and two blocks wide, and contained more than 1.1 million square feet. The building had bold glass curtain walls that “provided a crystal palace design.”

As the plant took shape, the pilot M3 went from blueprints to production. Keller pressed for a date when the tank would be completed. He was told Easter Sunday. On Good Friday, April 11, 1941, the pilot tank was driven a short distance in the shop. The next day, it was taken outside where Keller got a ride. After the Chrysler president had left the plant, the workers took the M3 out for another spin. Either unprepared for the machine’s power or misjudging the distance, the driver brushed a watchman’s box, knocking it over—with the sentry in it! Two weeks later, Chrysler introduced its first tanks to the world.

For several weeks in early 1941, this steam locomotive heated the Detroit Arsenal until the factory’s power plant was completed.

by icy rains and a sweeping wind.” As construction continued, engineers worked on the layout of the new plant, which required over 1,000 machine tools and 8,500 specialized jigs and fixtures.

Simultaneously, a team from the Ordnance Department and Chrysler developed a pilot tank. Because the M2A1 was deemed obsolete even before production began, engineers turned to a larger tank—the M3. As one Army ordnance officer later noted, “Only a man who has taken part in the design, tooling and production of the new model of automobile or other complicated piece of machinery can adequately understand the unforeseen and unforeseeable difficulties of such a task. . . . And this new product was not just a new automobile adapted from last year’s model; it was a tank, which was an entirely new and strange product for private industry, and even for the Ordnance Department itself.”

In late January 1941, before the plant’s final wall was added, workers began moving in heavy machinery. Kahn’s mammoth structure, hailed as “the largest of its type in the

Tanks quickly rolled off the assembly line. By early December 1941 the arsenal shipped its five hundredth tank. After the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, the monthly quotas rose. Soon there was talk of producing one thousand tanks a month.

In March 1942 construction began on a second assembly bay (by war’s end there were five assembly lines). One year after the M3 had been introduced, the arsenal delivered its two thousandth tank.

In July 1942 the M4 (Sherman) tank replaced the seriously flawed M3. Remarkably, retooling was accomplished without interrupting production. War Production Board head Donald Nelson called the changeover “the most amazing production job” he had ever seen. The ultimate accolade came on August 10 when the Detroit Arsenal became the first defense plant awarded an armed forces “E” flag for excellence in production. Lieutenant General Levin H. Campbell, the U.S. Army’s head of Ordnance, told arsenal workers, “We have upped the ante on you time and again and you have met every demand.”
As production increased, the Detroit Arsenal became a focal point for prominent visitors from around the world. Generals, politicians, diplomats and ordnance officials came to see what *The Detroit News* hailed as "one of the most remarkable achievements" of the automobile industry. On September 18, 1942, President and First Lady Roosevelt made the arsenal their first stop on a tour of the nation’s war-production facilities.

All morning rumors buzzed throughout the plant as hundreds of soldiers lined the approaching railroad tracks. More soldiers were seen on the plant roof and plainclothes security men milled around the factory entrances. At 1:30 P.M. a private train pulled inside the arsenal. As the president emerged, hundreds of workers crowded around, cheering the chief executive.

Roosevelt's entourage included Michigan governor Murray Van Waggoner and Chrysler president K. T. Keller. The president's twelve-car motorcade of dignitaries and secret service agents snaked through the plant at two miles per hour. The cars stopped repeatedly along the assembly lines, where "Keller's hands were in motion as he pointed out this and that phase of manufacture." President Roosevelt was particularly interested in how the eight-ton transmissions were added by overhead crane, and how the turret, 75-mm gun and caterpillar tracks were placed on the tank. Workers strained to catch a glimpse of the president, who was waving and smiling throughout his tour. According to one observer, "It took 20 minutes for the president to ride the length of the plant and those were moments of thunderous cheers and applause [as] the workers stood in long-packed lines, surprised, animated, but orderly."

The president's entourage then went outside where tanks were being put through a series of routine tests on a figure-eight concrete track. Roosevelt watched fifty tanks "making a terrific din and throwing up a whirlwind of mud and dust." *The Detroit News* later reported that as the president watched, Joe Menock, Chrysler's chief tank driving inspector, stopped one tank and gave its driver special orders. An M4 "rambled through a giant testing hole of mud and water, circled, returned back through the hole and churned up through the mud and concrete blocks—straight at Mr. Roosevelt’s car." It came to a halt "not many feet" from the president's car. A
The first tank mass-produced at the Detroit Arsenal was the M3 (also called the General Lee). To coordinate the Army’s many vehicle needs, the Tank-Automotive Center was created in late 1942. Brigadier General Alfred Glancy (above right), a former vice president at General Motors, served as the Center’s first commander.

smiling Roosevelt waved to the tank driver, who open the hatch and waved back. One group of observers who weren’t smiling were the president’s secret service men, who boarded the tank and questioned the driver. As one witness observed, they “did not take kindly to this incident.”

After returning to Washington, the president called the Detroit Arsenal “an amazing demonstration of what can be done by the right organization, spirit and planning.” He was right. The arsenal was running at peak production, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. There were 230 hourly workers at the plant on the day the first tank was finished in April 1941. By late 1942 the arsenal employed almost 5,400 workers. In December 1942 the plant set an all-time monthly production record by delivering 907 Shermans.

**THE TANK-AUTOMOTIVE CENTER IS CREATED**

As the American economy converted to war production, the Detroit Arsenal became a final assembly plant as parts from more than seven hundred suppliers arrived in Warren. Managing this flow of parts while maintaining the ever-increasing production schedule was complicated by the Army’s fluctuating demands. Sudden design changes could stall production flows. “We never once had all of the machine tools and equipment that our schedules called for,” Chrysler president Keller recalled after the war. To bring order to the chaos, the Army created the Tank-Automotive Center. Its mission was to determine how many wheeled and tracked vehicles—and spare parts—the Army needed, and then procure them as quickly and cheaply as possible.

The Tank-Automotive Center got its start in August 1942 when General Campbell traveled to Detroit and met with the newly organized Automotive Council for War Production. There, plans were laid out to establish an institution that would work closely with automakers to maximize vehicle production. Campbell believed the agency should be located near the production facility, so the Tank-Automotive Center was housed in the Union-Guardian Building in downtown Detroit.

Appointed to command the Center was Alfred R. Glancy, a former vice president of General Motors. Glancy was commissioned a brigadier general, but it was his automobile manufacturing skills, especially his success as head of GM’s Pontiac Motor Division in the late 1920s, that explains his appointment. In recent years, Glancy had
The great mobility of the fleet-footed Sherman usually enables it to evade the slow and unwieldy [German] Tiger.

—General George S. Patton Jr.
Commander of the Third Army, World War II

The most versatile of all tanks built for World War II, the M4 Sherman constituted sixty-five percent of tank production during the war years. Manufactured by Chrysler at the Detroit Arsenal, each Sherman cost the government $33,500. Many armor commanders considered the M4 the tank that won the war. As a stop-gap measure at the beginning of the Korean War, the Sherman was refitted with a larger turret and quickly shipped to Korea.

World War II Vehicles
Managed by the Detroit Arsenal

During the breakout from the Normandy beachhead between August 20 and September 5, 1944, the "Red Ball Express" was born. Using primarily the two-ton truck, known as the "Deuce," the Express rushed vital supplies to the front enabling the Army to quickly press into France.

General Motors truck division produced the amphibious DUKW, more commonly known as the "duck." This vehicle was used to transport troops and supplies from landing ships to shore.

Michigan's American Bantam Car Corporation and Willys-Overland helped develop and manufacture the Army's one-quarter-ton truck, better known as the "jeep." This versatile vehicle's roles included command post, scout car, ambulance and mount for machine guns. It continued to serve into the 1980s.
worked in the Office of Production Management where he
surveyed how the British built tanks. He personified the
mixture of automotive know-how and government experi-
ence that General Campbell envisioned as necessary to
manage the Center. Glancy’s subordinates, however, were
Ordnance men. His chief deputy was Brigadier General
Donald Armstrong, who headed the Chicago Ordnance
District, while the center’s chief engineer was Brigadier
General John K. Christmas, one of the army’s premier tank
designers before the war. Shortly after the Tank-Automotive
Center opened General Glancy declared, “In the Army, as
in business, the most important person is the customer.”

When first formed, the Tank-Automotive Center had a complement of forty
officers and about six hundred civilians. By war’s end, the Center, renamed the
Office, Chief of Ordnance-Detroit (OCO-D),
employed five hundred officers and over
four thousand civilians. The Center also
suffered growing pains. Communication
problems existed between General Glancy
and his immediate subordinates. There were charges of
inefficiency, as well as reorganizations and realignments
that one historian termed “bewildering, but necessary.”
Besides accusations of waste, some questioned the rela-
tionships that had developed between industry and the
military. There was also a debate about the quality of
American tanks. The M3 was inefficient, the Sherman was
no match for German armor and the Army’s heavy tank, the
M26 (Pershing), took too long to develop and saw little
action in the war.

Through all this tanks continued to be built. In 1943 the
Detroit Arsenal delivered a record 6,612 tanks. But OCO-D
coordinated more than the building of
tanks. By the spring of 1945 there was
roughly one motor vehicle for every four
American soldiers. Those vehicles required
hundreds of thousands of parts and
OCO-D provided them. During the war,
OCO-D operated a warehouse system
with 52 million square feet. It also ran one
of the biggest publishing operations, pro-
ducing more than 2 billion pages
of manuals in the last year of the
war alone. In 1943 Russian leader
Joseph Stalin declared, “the most
important things in this war are
machines.” As one historian coun-
tered, “then the most important
place in the war may have been
the Union-Guardian building.”

As the war entered 1945, plans
called for the Detroit Arsenal to
manufacture over 8,800 tanks,
many of them the 45-ton Pershing. On the fourth birthday of the
delivery of the first M3, General
Campbell told Detroit workers,
“The assembly lines of Chrysler
have been basically instrumental
in breaking the battle lines of the
Axis.” With the Germans losing
the war, the Detroit Arsenal quit
making Shermans in May 1945.
When the Japanese surrendered
in mid-August, the Army terminat-
ed its contract with Chrysler. The
plant, which built 22,234 tanks,
enough to equip more than one hundred divisions, was turned back to the Army’s Office of Ordnance on October 29, 1945.

Besides building as many tanks as all German manufacturers did during World War II, the Detroit Arsenal—through the efforts of OCO-D—helped change the U.S. Army. By the end of the war, the Army better appreciated the overwhelming importance of industry. The key to victory, according to General Campbell, was “applying this industrial might to battle.”

**POSTWAR TO COLD WAR**

During the postwar demobilization, the Army dismantled OCO-D and transferred its personnel and functions to Warren. The government also suspended tank production at the Detroit Arsenal following the delivery of 882 Pershings. The plant became a government-owned and-operated facility, and its main mission shifted to modifying World War II tanks. A few developmental special-purpose systems were constructed in Warren, but these saw limited production.

The outbreak of the Korean War in 1950 caught the U.S. off guard. World War II vehicles were rushed overseas as American industry mobilized for war production. At the start of the war, the Detroit Arsenal fitted Sherman tanks with new turrets and sent them to Korea as a stopgap measure while a new main battle tank was developed.

Applying lessons learned during World War II, the Army created the Ordnance Tank-Automotive Center (OTAC), which had responsibility for the nationwide procurement of all vehicles. Since the Detroit Arsenal did not have enough administrative office space to handle the additional staff members, OTAC moved to the vacant Detrola Building complex on Beard Street in southwest Detroit.

The Chrysler Corporation was reinstated as the operating contractor at the Detroit Arsenal and went right to

Located in Warren and designed by architect Albert Kahn, the Detroit Arsenal tank plant was completed in 1941. Between 1941 and 1997, workers at the massive 1.1 million-square-foot building manufactured or upgraded over sixty thousand tanks. Shortly after the last tank rolled off the plant's assembly line, the building's ownership was transferred to the city of Warren.
work producing the M47, the country’s new main battle tank. Within two years, the plant produced 3,443 tanks, as well as components to support other tank programs. In 1955 the government again suspended new tank production at the plant, but Chrysler continued to use the Detroit Arsenal to machine component parts for tanks being manufactured elsewhere.

Unlike in 1945-46, the Army and industry did not sever ties after the Korean War ended. As Cold War concerns grew, so did the Detroit Arsenal’s size and capabilities. The arsenal expanded to 340 acres, stretching a full mile wide from Van Dyke Avenue to Mound Road. At the same time, most of the arsenal’s main engineering, research and test laboratories were completed.

**TACOM IS BORN**

As the Cold War heated up—with North Atlantic Treaty Organization and Warsaw Pact forces planning for a massive armored war on the plains of Europe—OTAC went through several changes in both name and responsibilities. In 1967 OTAC became the Tank Automotive Command (TACOM). By that time, OTAC employees had left the Detrola Building and moved into a new two-story administrative headquarters located at the Detroit Arsenal in Warren.

Along with the name change came added responsibility for the newly created TACOM. Until 1960 many defense organizations handled government contracts for Army vehicles and equipment. Now all contract work would be managed out of Detroit Arsenal. Additionally, although Army arsenals still were largely responsible for the research and development of weapon systems and vehicles, civilian contractors would produce them. This resulted in a closer relationship between the Army and its contractors. It also meant that many government-owned arsenals were closed. By 1960, only four plants, including the Detroit Arsenal, were building tanks. This realignment allowed the armed forces to save money on defense spending and allowed Army engineers to focus more energy on planning future systems.

With the escalation of hostilities in Vietnam, the Detroit Arsenal found itself back on a war footing. Although Vietnam was considered an infantry and airmobile war, armored vehicles played an important role. The war’s most versatile armored vehicle was the M113 armored personnel carrier (APC). Over 18,000 Army APCs were managed by TACOM. Originally deployed as an infantry troop transport, the APC had its armor and weapons systems upgraded, allowing it to be used in both defensive and assault roles.

Throughout the Vietnam War, the Detroit Arsenal continued to build tanks. Chrysler resumed full tank production when it delivered the first Detroit-built M60 (Patton)
Too heavy for use in Vietnam's wet terrain and criticized for its high profile and limited cross-country mobility, the M60 Patton tank proved reliable during Operation Desert Storm where the First Marine Expeditionary Force fielded 210 M60s to support efforts to take Kuwait City. Carrying a 105mm cannon, the Patton was not only used against Iraqi armor, but also was fitted with mine clearing plows and bulldozer blades to help clear obstacles in the desert.

"A hell of a good medium tank."
—General Norman Schwarzkopf
Commander of allied forces, Operation Desert Storm

Korea/Vietnam
VEHICLES
MANAGED BY THE DETROIT ARSENAL

One variation of the M37 three-quarter-ton truck is the M43 ambulance. The body is made with aluminum instead of steel and has an interior controlled spotlight mounted on the cab. The rear compartment is heated and also has a surgical light for patient treatment on the road.

Used successfully in Vietnam, the airmobile M551 Sheridan light tank provided heavy fire for infantry operations. Light enough to operate in Vietnam's swampy regions, the tank won praise from the foot soldiers as a dependable vehicle. The M551 was also used during Operation Just Cause (Panama) and Operation Desert Storm where it provided support to initial ground troops arriving in the area.

Serving from Vietnam to the present day, the M113 armored personnel carrier (APC) can carry up to ten soldiers. The M113 has also been used as a flame thrower, mortar launcher and an anti-tank missile launcher.
Building A TANK

THE U.S. ARMY'S ABRAMS TANK, weighing 69.54 tons and carrying a massive 120mm smooth bore cannon, is currently the military's main battle tank. Today, the Army does not manufacture new tanks; instead, it refurbishes old tanks at its Lima, Ohio, tank plant. At Lima, M1A1 Abrams tanks are disassembled and state of the art electronics are added while the tank's main components are being upgraded. The tank is then reassembled after the turret and hull come off separate assembly lines. The newly refurbished tank, now termed a M1A2, is repainted, tested and shipped to its awaiting unit.

1. Thick steel plate armor is welded together forming the tank's hull. The race ring, a device that fits the turret to the hull allowing it to turn, is then placed on the hull.

2. Fuel cells and the top deck are added to the hull. The hull portion is now ready for final assembly.

3. While the hull is being constructed, work on the turret begins on an adjoining assembly line. First the turret armor is welded and then the ammunition storage bays, located at the rear of the turret, are reinforced to protect the crew from explosion if the tank takes a battle hit.
The turret platform where the crew will sit is added to the bottom of the turret. Then the assembled cannon and its fire control computers are added and the ammunition racks are placed into their bays. Last, hatches, machine-gun mounts and the global positioning system are put in place on the top of the turret.

Next, a 1,500 horsepower turbine engine is installed in the back of the hull, the driver's station is completed and the driver's hatch door added. The hull is now ready for tracks and its turret.

The tank is completed when the turret and hull are joined together. The tank is then repainted and tested for durability. During testing the vehicle is run up to its maximum speed of forty-two miles per hour and tested for durability on 10 percent and 60 percent slope angles.
in November 1960. Over the next twenty-five years, Detroit produced over 14,400 Pattons. The M60 was superior to Soviet armor, but the 1967 Yom Kippur War—where the Israelis used American tanks and the Arabs used Soviet tanks—emphasized the need for fast, highly mobile, combined armed forces. First, the United States and the Federal Republic of Germany explored a joint program to build a new main battle tank. These efforts failed, but in 1976 Chrysler received a contract to build what became the world’s best main battle tank.

GULF WAR AND REALIGNMENT

Nicknamed “Whispering Death” for its stealth and speed (up to forty-two miles per hour), the M1 Abrams system has been described as TACOM’s “crown jewel.” Technologically superior to any tank in the world, the 70-ton Abrams, named after General Creighton Abrams, quickly overpowered the Soviet tanks that the Iraqis fielded in the 100-hour ground war in the Gulf. The Abrams was almost invulnerable to enemy fire, and not one tank was destroyed by direct enemy fire. The Abrams also killed more enemy tanks than any other allied weapons system. As one Iraqi tank battalion commander related after the war, “When I went into Kuwait I had thirty-nine tanks. After six weeks of bombardment, I had thirty-two left. After twenty minutes in action against the M1s, I had none.” As allied commander General Norman Schwarzkopf noted, the Abrams performed “beyond our wildest expectations.”

Although the Abrams was a critical element to victory in the Gulf War, TACOM also managed all U.S. vehicles. TACOM’s trucks provided vital supply support—everything from water to spare parts. Without the command’s around-the-clock efforts, vehicles, tires, repair parts and technical experts would not have been available to the men and women fighting the war. Needed items were ordered and shipped to the Gulf, often within one day of the request.

The Detroit Arsenal began manufacturing M1s in 1982. The arsenal also produced M60s until 1986. Three years earlier, Chrysler sold its defense division to General Dynamics, ending Chrysler’s
more than forty-year association with building tanks. Abrams continued to be manufactured at Detroit until August 1991. For the next six years M1s were retrofitted at the Warren plant. Then tank production ended. In 2000, as the Army was downsizing and restructuring, the plant where over sixty thousand tanks had been manufactured or upgraded was transferred to the city of Warren.

Tanks were no longer being built at the Detroit Arsenal, but there was no slowdown in TACOM’s operations. After the Gulf War, peacemaking, humanitarian missions and disaster relief were added to the Army’s responsibilities. In 1992 Hurricane Andrew slammed into the Florida coast causing extensive damage. Elements of the Army were deployed in a disaster relief effort with its vast logistics system managed by TACOM. Brigadier General James W. Monroe, TACOM’s Deputy Commander, led the Logistics Support Group. TACOM, in addition to supporting the Army’s fleet of trucks and trailers, sent 6,000-pound forklifts to the Florida National Guard and provided water trailers and hurricane damage repair kits for the relief effort. During the mid-1990s TACOM’s mission was further expanded to include all the Army’s small arms, boats, railcars, armaments, water purification, bridging, supply, fuels and lubricants.

Through all this change, TACOM’s primary responsibility remains keeping the Army ready to fight a war anywhere in the world. During the mid-1990s, TACOM became the Tank-automotive and Armaments Command, when it took over operations at arsenals in Rock Island, Illinois, and Picatinny, New Jersey, and maintenance depots in Anniston, Alabama, and Texarkana, Texas. From 1995 through the present, TACOM, through its Logistics Area Representatives (LAR), manages the vehicles and logistic support for U.S. forces throughout the world. The LARs serve as TACOM’s “eyes and ears” in the field, assisting soldiers in the maintenance and repair of their equipment.

**THE FUTURE COMBAT SYSTEM**

Today, the Army faces a new type of war; one where it will need to get quickly to the fight anywhere in the world. The current force, while the most formidable in the world, is too heavy. As a result, the Army is transforming itself. The transformation plan calls for three categories of forces—Legacy, Interim and Objective. TACOM will support all three.

Legacy forces contain the Army’s current vehicles, which must be maintained and modernized since the Army may be asked to protect the nation’s interests. The Interim force is designed to meet the Army’s objective of deploying a specially trained, ready-to-fight medium brigade anywhere in the world in ninety-six hours. To do its job, this brigade needs lightweight, heavily armored, air transportable vehicles. These vehicles are being placed on contract and production will begin soon. The Objective force is the Army’s future. The Tank Automotive Research Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC), a TACOM subordinate activity, along with its partners in industry, academia and government, is determining what equipment the Army will need to win future wars. For the
Objective force, TARDEC engineers are creating vehicle concepts with characteristics and features designed to meet known and potential future threats. This next generation of vehicles, called the Future Combat System, is scheduled to be deployed in 2010.

Spread over five states and eighty-one countries, TACOM facilities include 1.2 million square feet of laboratories and research and development centers and 3.8 million square feet of production facilities. Within this vast square footage is a work force of over eleven thousand civilians and soldiers, twenty-five percent of whom are located in Michigan. The TACOM family manages and supports over 3,000 systems and 281,000 vehicles all over the world. How important is the work of TACOM? According to best-selling military author Tom Clancy, the Army’s ground vehicles “are today the most capable, mobile, reliable, and robust in the history of motorized war.” In his 1994 *Armored Cav: A Guided Tour of an Armored Cavalry Regiment*, Clancy attributed this achievement to the “concerted, long-term efforts” of TACOM, which is “the heart of the Army’s efforts to modernize its ground vehicles.”

With more than fifty years of experience to draw upon, TACOM is well equipped to help the Army achieve its goal for lighter, more lethal and more survivable vehicles, while at the same time maintaining the current fleet. Achieving these present responsibilities and future goals continues to require a strong working relationship with the private sector, especially the American automobile industry. The National Automotive Center (NAC), founded by the Department of Defense in 1992, serves as a conduit between the Army, industry, academia and federal agencies to share and develop technologies that have both commercial and military applications. Headquartered at TACOM, in Warren, the NAC resides at the center of a concentrated source of automotive intellectual property unmatched anywhere in the country.

During the dark days of early 1942 a few Americans remained confident of eventual success against the Germans and Japanese. One of those was Lt. General Brekon B. Somervell, head of the Army’s Services of Supply. Responsible for making sure the Army had the necessary equipment to fight a war, Somervell reminded Americans that when Hitler “hitched his chariot to an internal combustion engine, he opened up a new battle front—a front that we know well. It’s called Detroit.” As the Army prepares to confront the future, TACOM will be there, working with the automobile industry—developing, purchasing, fielding and sustaining the materiel—just as its predecessor did over a half century ago.

**ANN M. BOS** is the Command Historian for TACOM. RANDY R. TALBOT, a fifteen-year Army veteran, is currently a historian for TACOM.

To learn more about tanks visit us at: [www.sos.state.mi.us/history/mag](http://www.sos.state.mi.us/history/mag)
"Our M1s were the most awesome machines in the Arabian desert and the embodiment of the spirit of TACOM."

—Colonel Donald Schenk, Executive Officer
Second Brigade, First Infantry Division, Operation Desert Storm

Nicknamed "Whispering Death" because of its stealth and speed, the M1 Abrams battle tank was an ever-present threat to the Soviet bloc during the Cold War and proved itself as a highly mobile, lethal war machine during Desert Storm. The M1 was conceptualized during an early 1970s joint engineering effort between the U.S. Army and Germany. After the venture failed, Army engineers at the Detroit Arsenal developed the current tank. Chrysler first produced the Abrams in 1980. Nearly ten thousand Abrams have been manufactured.

Present Day VEHICLES
MANAGED BY THE DETROIT ARSENAL

The Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck (HEMTT) is made by Oshkosh Truck in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Diesel-powered HEMTs transported fuel, ammunition and other supplies across the Iraqi desert during Operation Desert Storm. Amazingly, this 67.5-ton truck was able to travel through the deep sand without mishap.

The M2 Bradley Fighting Vehicle is a full-tracked, lightly armored, 30-ton fighting vehicle operated by a crew of three. The Bradley served in Desert Storm to protect mounted infantry and cavalry combat operations from artillery and small arms fire.

In 1984 the military began buying High Mobility Multi-purpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWV) from AM General. This four-wheel-drive vehicle, more commonly known as the "Humvee," proved itself as a fast transport vehicle and command post during Operation Desert Storm. Today, U.S. forces use more than 123,000 HMMWVs in a variety of military police and scout vehicle missions.
Hundreds of thousands of tunes have been written, published or recorded in this country. Most are long forgotten, but a few songs are so well known they encompass all generations, are still in vogue decades after their debut and can be considered among the best of America’s treasured musical heritage. Regardless of when they were created, these classics are still sung around campfires, at parties and at social gatherings by people of all ages.

Not surprisingly, most of this nation’s big-time songwriters and their cherished melodies came from New York. What is perhaps astounding is that—according to the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP)—the second most prolific state in this “all-time favorite songs” category is Michigan.

**Michigan’s Unsung Musical Heroes**

by LEROY BARNETT