

## Maryland Legislative Change to Support the Combat Capabilities Development Command's Chemical Biological Center (DEVCOM CBC) Mission.

**BACKGROUND:** About 30 years ago, Maryland enacted statutes to protect the environment during the destruction of large quantities of chemical agents stored at Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG). The U.S. has since destroyed its large chemical agent stockpile; however, **the threat of chemical and biological weapons remains and based on recent events, become more likely.** The Maryland law enacted in the early 1990s, was widely supported and was effective at that time. Today however, circumstances and the global threat have drastically changed. Maryland must continue its commitment to environmental protection while recognizing that APG faces ever-evolving threats. These threats must be addressed to safeguard our armed forces, first responders, and the nation.

APG's mission has evolved to tackle these new threats, focusing on studying and implementing technologies to mitigate them. **Their objective is clear: protect our troops and ensure national defense.** As chemical and biological weapons continually evolve, APG's critical services must be performed without delay. **Our warfighters, first responders, and armed forces require that this work be completed swiftly.** To achieve this, the MDRC proposes updating the current legislative language, to be introduced on January 29, 2025, as Senate Bill 253/House Bill 62.

**THE GOAL:** DEVCOM CBC is the nation's premier provider of innovative chemical and biological defense solutions. **Its unparalleled role in technology development cannot be replicated elsewhere in the U.S.** CBC fosters research, development, testing, and **the application of technologies to protect warfighters, first responders, and the nation from chemical and biological threats.** Additionally, CBC's unique engineering expertise accelerates the design, prototyping, and fielding of protective equipment. It maintains robust capabilities to identify, remove, and destroy recovered chemical and biological materials.

Employing Army military personnel, civilians, and contractors, CBC possesses the scientific, engineering, and operational skills needed for mission success. The proposed legislation calls for a modest change in Maryland law to allow the development and demonstration of new thermal treatment technologies. This change will

enhance our nation's ability to protect our warfighters, allies, and the homeland from chemical weapons **while also ensuring protective measures and safeguarding human health and the environment in Maryland.**

CBC is the Department of Defense's designated organization for the research, development, and demonstration of technologies to destroy chemical and biological warfare materials including new and novel thermal treatment technologies. The 1993 Maryland statute did not anticipate rapid changes in material development and the emerging and ever evolving threat. Current Maryland law must be updated to allow the research, development, and demonstration of new technologies using small quantities of chemical agents to counter these emerging threats.

***We urge you to show your support for all U.S. warfighters, in fields of conflict around the world, by enacting Senate Bill 253/House Bill 62***



### THE MARYLAND DEFENSE RESEARCH COALITION (MDRC)

#### SUPPORTING DEVCOM CBC

The MDRC is an organization established to update current Maryland State statutory language to allow DEVCOM CBC, the nation's provider of innovative chemical and biological defense solutions, to conduct much needed and critical research, development and demonstration activities that they are equipped to safely execute.