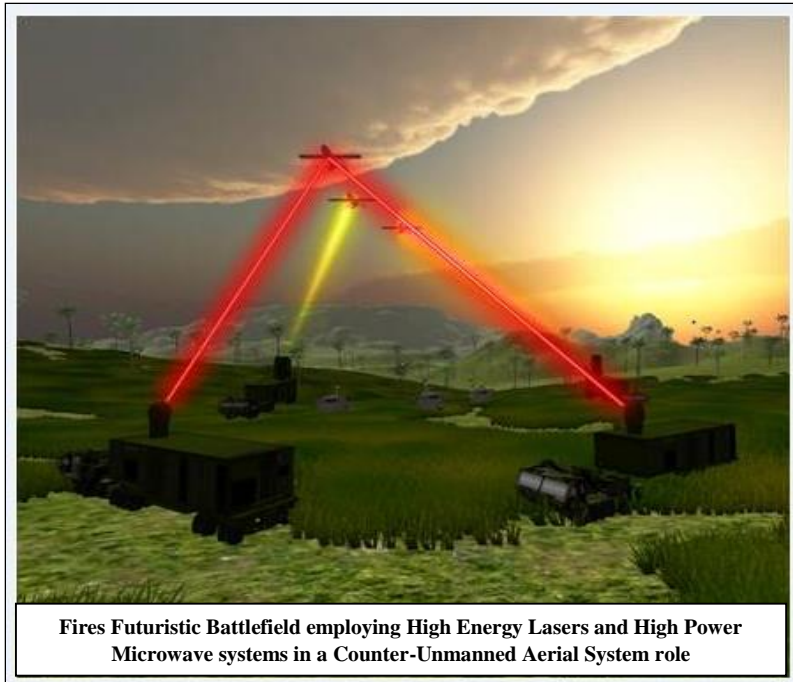


Electric Fires Range Approved for Use at Fort Sill

FORT SILL, 17 June 2015 – The Army’s Fires Center of Excellence and Fort Sill satisfied a monumental milestone by approving the Electric Fires Range Environmental Assessment. The environmental assessment concluded with a “Finding of No Significant Impact” when conducting demonstrations of Electric Fires systems (e.g. laser, microwave, and railguns technologies), meaning there will be no significant impact to the environment on Fort Sill or the surrounding areas. This will pave the way for future demonstrations of these technologies to be held on Fort Sill.



The Fires Center of Excellence has been identified as the proponent for Electric Fires, which is vitally responsible for the developing doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leadership and education, personnel, facilities, and policy (DOTMLPF-P) strategies for Fires and its Soldiers. These revolutionary systems have been labelled as “potential game changers” for the modern and future battlefield. This realization has been discussed throughout the Army and the rest of the Department of Defense

posing questions and directing the utilization of emerging technologies and identifying possible capability gaps these systems may mitigate on the battlefield.

To solidify the Army’s interest regarding these technologies, during a recent visit, Under Secretary of the Army Honorable Brad Carson said the Fires Center of Excellence is the perfect place for the Army to find more effective ways to fight the enemy. *“I definitely see it as a mission for Fort Sill,”* he said. *“The problem with air and missile defense today, is each missile is millions of dollars, if not multi- millions of dollars trying to take down targets that are just a few hundreds of dollars, or a few thousands of dollars. And so, we have to change that imbalance in cost. Directed energy weapons, electric weapons, and Electric Fires is a way to address that question. It’s reusable, inexpensive and can put the balance of cost back in the Army.”*

The Electric Fires Range on Fort Sill will allow DOTMLPF-P developers an opportunity to observe and examine these potential game changing technologies in a live-fire event besides just evaluating the technologies through modeling and simulation. The benefit of demonstrating these systems to capability developers is to showcase their tailorable and scalable effects, increased

speed of engagement (i.e. speed of light), greater magazine depth, and reducing the logistical footprint while minimizing collateral damage.

The Fort Sill range will not be considered a testing facility but a site for demonstrations, one of only a handful of ranges approved across Department of Defense for use of these futuristic weapons. This range will allow for a cost effective and less restrictive schedule alternative when conducting Electric Fires demonstrations which is essential for many budget constrained research and development programs. The range will be available to the Department of Defense, industry, academia and science and technology communities. Demonstrating emerging technologies at Fort Sill will require a thorough technology review and approval process, which will be managed by the Science and Technology office in the Fires Center of Excellence, Capabilities Development and Integration Directorate.

Along with the Environmental Assessment approval at Fort Sill, the Science and Technology office has also begun the process for modernizing the firing location identified for these technology demonstrations. The proposed renovations include a command and control building, a concrete

firing pad and various other enhancements.



Space and Missile Defense Command's High Energy Laser – Mobile Demonstrator. Potential candidate for range demonstration.

The Fires Center of Excellence and Fort Sill are surging ahead regarding the integration of these revolutionary concepts that could potentially provide and maintain battlefield overmatch to the Fires Soldier. To ensure the Army maintains a ready and modern force, new capabilities such as Electric Fires are under development and involve a collaborative effort between science and technology, industry, government, intelligence, and academia communities.

One of the many benefits to investing in these emergent revolutionary technologies is to counter current threats and to also ensure our future force retains a decisive overmatch.

The Electric Fires Range will provide the opportunity to demonstrate revolutionary capabilities that could potentially become an invaluable advantage to the Army of 2025 and beyond.