

## Rothman Tours Picatinny Arsenal To See Latest Military Technology Developed In New Jersey

April 16, 2003

Rothman Tours Picatinny Arsenal To See Latest Military Technology Developed In New Jersey  
Praises Facility's Work To Protect American People,  
Vows To Secure Additional Federal Funds For More Research and Development

Rockaway, NJ -- In an effort to learn about the latest military technology programs being developed in New Jersey, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ9) and three other New Jersey Congressmen today toured Picatinny Arsenal -- the site of the U.S. Army's major weapons research and development program. Rothman also learned about homeland security technology being worked on at Picatinny Arsenal, which was recently designated by Governor James McGreevey as the future site of the New Jersey Center for Homeland Defense Technologies and Security Readiness.

"My visit to Picatinny Arsenal reinforced my understanding of our country's military superiority," said member of the House Appropriations Committee, who pledged to use that position to help secure more federal dollars for Picatinny's research and development programs. "Government's first responsibility is to protect the people that is accomplished by providing our courageous men and women of the armed forces with an enormous qualitative advantage in weapons and ammunition. The munitions developed in New Jersey at Picatinny provide all of our troops with a tremendous advantage against opposing forces, as evidenced with the war in Iraq."

During the tour with Congressmen Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ11), Mike Ferguson (R-NJ7), and Scott Garrett (R-NJ5), Rothman viewed demonstrations of the latest military technology being produced at Picatinny, including the XM307, the next generation machine gun for the Army; the TALON robot, a powerful, lightweight robot designed for missions ranging from reconnaissance to weapons delivery; and non-lethal technology, including portable vehicle arresting. Rothman also saw a video demonstration of a homeland security system in which law enforcement agencies would be able to detect potential danger using sensors set up in areas likely to be targeted by terrorists and coordinate emergency response.

"Led by brilliant scientists and engineers, Picatinny continues to be our nation's leader in producing cutting technology for our military, and now will play a critical role in supporting our law enforcement officers who are fighting terrorism at home," Rothman said. "Whether it is designing bombs that are engineered to avoid civilian targets, producing next generation armaments that protect the lives of our soldiers, or inventing new technology to fight terrorism, the world class research and development at Picatinny is saving American lives and making our nation's military second to none. It is a source of great pride to know that all this outstanding work is taking place right here in our own backyard in New Jersey. I look forward to working with my colleagues in Congress to continue to support Picatinny and provide it with the federal resources Picatinny needs to continue to play its vitally important role in America's national security."

Picatinny Arsenal, which was opened by the War Department in 1880 as the "Picatinny Powder Depot," currently employs approximately 3,000 people, including both civilians and military personnel.

###

[Go back](#)