



PHOTO: GERALD SCOTT

The children of active military service members were given free bicycles thanks to a philanthropic endeavor of military contractor BAE Systems. The event was held in the chapel at Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Harrison Twp.

BAE Systems Donates 80 Bicycles to Military Kids

by Gerald Scott
News Dept.

Thanks to a generous donation from military contractor BAE Systems, 80 families of U.S. servicemembers received free bicycles for their children. Called Operation Homefront, the event was held at Selfridge Air National Guard base's chapel recently as 80 children of base service personnel received both bicycles and safety helmets to enjoy safe biking.

"This is a great event, not only for the families of the warfighters but also for the employees - we have no problem getting the volunteers to put the bikes together," said Rick Burtnett, program manager of Bradley Directives at BAE Systems in Sterling Heights.

"They line up an assembly line, being engineers we even have quality control set up - no front tires on the back.

"We have good mechanical engineers, so the bikes are

well assembled.

"We're a defense company, our customer is defense, so we focus our charity efforts on giving back to the warfighters and their families."

Indeed, this same event was held last year at the BAE Systems office on Mound Road in Sterling Heights. This year, the supplier sought to bring the activity closer to the warfighters - make it more convenient for them - so the bike giveaway was set up on the SANG air base in Harrison Township.

BAE Systems employees selected Operation Homefront to be the company's Charity Challenge partner in the United States for 2010. Charity Challenge is BAE Systems' company-wide fund-raising and volunteering program.

It operates at more than 150 sites across Australia, the UK and the U.S. The company provides supplementary funding for all funds raised and volunteering hours worked by employees in sup-

port of partner charities.

Said Cynthia Carey, spokeswoman for BAE in Macomb County, "We had 30 volunteers on Thursday assembling the bikes, then we probably had a dozen, or a dozen-and-a-half employees come out today (at SANG base)."

Children of military families beamed as they selected the size of bike that would fit a given child's size.

"It's real easy for our employees to come out and support this - giving away bikes to kids, you can't lose on that one," Burtnett said.



PHOTO: GERALD SCOTT

Rick Burtnett, back left, a BAE Systems manager in Sterling Heights, organized a bicycle giveaway for children of active military members at Selfridge Air Base. Participating are Maurice Graves and his son, as well as bike recipient Connor Geskus, 2, and his mom, Amy.

GM R&D Exec Speaks at Army Event

by Gerald Scott
News Dept.

The Big Three in general and GM in particular, were well represented at the U.S. Army / TARDEC auto event at NextEnergy in Detroit last week.

GM's Kristin Zimmerman gave visitors a tour of the inside of a Chevrolet Volt parked outside of NextEnergy's main entrance while Dr. Alan Taub, GM Vice President of Research and Development, briefed the Army and Department of Energy audience about GM's view of the future of fuel economy and shared technologies with the military.

"I think it's important as we're looking at the energy equation, we're looking at the challenges the country is facing, to recognize this problem is actually the result of the success of the automobile industry," Taub said.

"What has happened is, more and more vehicles are being used every day. What's happening is, as an industry we've been able to make the vehicle more affordable, the price of automobiles has been rising less rapidly than per capita GDP, and a larger fraction of the world's population affords vehicles.

"What we see is everywhere in the world, when someone can afford personal mobility - defined as owning their own vehicle - they choose it."

These were the issues that attendees to the Army conference were dealing with: how to do more with less, how to reduce the Army's vehicle fuel bills but all within the context of the global growth of the automobile industry.

Reducing carbon footprints, particularly within Army vehicles and on Army bases, were also part of the overall discussion.

"The world's population is growing and their percentage of the population that owns vehicles is increasing," Taub observed.

"When we first started looking at this trend, we predicted that there would be about 1



PHOTO: GERALD SCOTT

GM's Kristin Zimmerman, center, discusses the Chevy Volt with visitor Paul Barnes at the U.S. Army/TARDEC auto event at NextEnergy in Detroit in late July.

billion vehicles in use by the end of this decade (2010), but the fact is we passed that point several years ago.

"So the question is, what is the impact of a world with 1 billion, or 1.2 billion, or 1.5 billion vehicles?"

"What we know is, today's solution for the vehicle of personal mobility, is not sustainable in its present manifestation and the number of vehicles we're putting on the road."

Taub saw a future for sharing data between GM and the military transportation team.



Dr. Alan Taub, GM Vice President of R&D

Army, DOE Form New Automotive Alliance

STORY AND PHOTOS BY GERALD SCOTT

What do you get when you mix the U.S. Army with the Department of Energy?

Besides daily joint maintenance of America's nuclear weapons (true, Energy helps store and secure the nukes while the Army otherwise protects and deploys them) - you get a large, well-attended auto show designed to kickstart fuel efficiency, hybrids and other buzz words to help the Army's vehicle fleet become more viable and efficient.

Formally called the Advanced Vehicle / Power Technology Workshop, the two-day gathering at Detroit's NextEnergy campus brought together the Army / TARDEC engineering lab from Warren together with DOE officials from Washington, D.C. These main players were, in turn, supported by speakers and displays provided by GM, Ford and Chrysler.

The event is the first step in what participants say will be a long-term partnership between DOE and the Army and focusing specifically on ground vehicles.

The goals for the July 18-19 workshop were to identify commercial and military requirements, identify near- and long-term developments in technology, prioritize challenges and gaps based on technical metrics, and identify high priority areas for collaboration.

"This workshop really wouldn't have been possible if it weren't for the leadership within the Department of Energy and the Department of the Army," said Dr. Grace Bohenek, Director, TARDEC engineering lab in Warren.

"They are personally committed to solving the nation's energy challenges and today represents that commitment. And, I think more importantly, it represents that commitment together."

Dr. Steven Chu represented the Department of Energy while Joseph Westphal, Under Secretary of the Army, represented the military side of the equation.

Bohenek outlined the challenges faced by all parties even further.



A Chrysler PHEV Dodge Ram, foreground and a plug-in EV Ford Escape were part of the vehicle display at the U.S. Army/TARDEC auto event at NextEnergy in Detroit last week.

"Many of you know, next to water, transporting and distributing fuel on the battlefield is among the most significant logistics and cost-drivers (the Army faces in the field).

"As a result of the asymmetric threat in our current operations, there is an ever-increasing burden and demand being placed on our military vehicles.

"These are driving our need for greater energy efficiency and economy. We are looking at ways to increase our energy efficiency, flexibility and sources available to the warfighter in terms of improving traditional power generation methods like efficient combustion engines as well as . . . synthetic fuels and ultra-high energy storage and generation."

As such, the Big Three automakers also had some of their high efficiency vehicles on display at the trade show, including the Chevrolet Volt, the PHEV (plug-in hybrid) Dodge Ram



Visiting the event were Capt. Brent Odom, left, Army Research Lab, and Bruce R. Geil, Branch Chief of mobile power. Odom and Geil are stationed at the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland.

truck, and Ford had a plug-in EV Escape SUV present.

Other key topics at the gathering included Lightweight Structures and Materials, Energy

Recovery and Thermal Management, Alternative Fuels and Lubricants and Hybrid Propulsion Systems including batteries and Analytical Tools.



The first 27 Chevy Volts introduced into North Carolina will be used by electric utilities. GM is working with public utilities on growing the plug-in, electric vehicle business slowly.

GM Teams with Utilities, Supplies Them with 27 Chevrolet Volts

RALEIGH, N.C. - Customer confidence in driving the Chevrolet Volt as an everyday vehicle depends on electric utilities providing the uninterrupted power at home and work to support the vehicles.

That's why the first 27 Volts in North Carolina went to major utilities under a partnership between the Electric Power Research Institute and General Motors.

The GM/EPRI/Utility collaboration with more than 30 major utilities nationwide was announced at the Plug-In 2008

Conference.

The utility partnership is working to ensure safe and convenient vehicle charging, raise public awareness and understanding of plug-in electric vehicles, and help public policy leaders plan the transition from petroleum to electricity as a fuel source.

The program is made possible in part by a \$30.5 million grant administered by the U.S. Department of Energy's Recovery Act Transportation Electrification Initiative.

"In-home and workplace

charging experience is critical to market acceptance of electric vehicles," said Britta Gross, GM director of Global Energy Systems and Infrastructure Commercialization. "Together with EPRI and leading utility companies such as Duke Energy and Progress Energy, we will transform transportation and make electric vehicles relevant and available to the mass market."

The deliveries to utilities coincide with the opening of the Plug-In 2011 conference, which opened last week in

Raleigh. Volt deliveries to the 128 Chevrolet dealers in the Carolinas will begin in August.

"The Chevrolet Volts join our rapidly expanding fleet of plug-in electric vehicles and will provide a significant boost to our research efforts," said Bill Johnson, chairman, president and chief executive officer of Progress Energy.

"We are committed to developing the necessary infrastructure to support the widespread use of electric vehicles because we believe they will save our customers money,

reduce our nation's dependence on foreign oil and help protect the environment," said Johnson, who is also the co-chairman of the Edison Electric Institute CEO Taskforce on Electric Transportation.

Using electricity to power vehicles such as the Volt can reduce the auto industry's dependence on petroleum and help reduce vehicle greenhouse gas emissions.

In turn, experts say, consumers benefit from lower energy costs.