



# United States Army Criminal Investigation Command

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## Under The Microscope

### **Army Crime Lab Director Recognized by Secretary of the Army**

By Colby Hauser  
CID Public Affairs

**Washington, D.C.**, May 24, 2010 – During a standing room only ceremony at the Pentagon, the director of the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory (USACIL) and the Department of Defense's leading forensic scientist was recently presented the highest award that can be bestowed by the Secretary of the Army to civilian personnel.

Mr. Larry Chelko, who oversees the forensic science mission for all DoD criminal investigative agencies, was presented the Exceptional Civilian Service Award by Secretary of the Army John M. McHugh.

"I am truly humbled and honored to have received this award," Chelko said. "This is a moment that I will remember always."

He said that he hopes that people understand that his receiving this award is a direct reflection of the dedication and professionalism of the men and women of USACIL, and their contributions to the Army's law enforcement mission, both at home and deployed.

"Since the Army's inception, Civilians have played a pivotal role in the security and defense of our great nation," Secretary McHugh said. "People are our greatest resource, and our Army Civilians are critical to our ability to be the best-led, best-trained and best-equipped Army the world has ever seen."

"Larry Chelko has successfully faced the challenges of emerging technology, ongoing criminal investigations support, and forensic capabilities to support war fighting requirements," said Mr. Dan Quinn, the Chief of Staff for the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command, commonly referred to as CID.

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The Exceptional Civilian Service award is comparable to the military's Distinguished Service Medal, and is awarded for a demonstrable pattern of excellence and achievement that normally has been recognized by previous awards, up to and including the Meritorious Civilian Service Award.

A man of many hats, Chelko is tasked with a multitude of responsibilities. Along with managing USACIL, Chelko serves as the DoD's Executive Agent for the Convicted Offender DNA Index System (CODIS), the Chair of the DoD Forensic Science Committee, and represents the DoD on the President's Sub-Committee on Forensic Science (SOFS), which was formed to advise the National Science and Technology Council Committee on Science and other coordinating bodies of the Executive Office of the President on policies, procedures and plans regarding forensic science.

Chelko said however, that USACIL's current challenge is the forensic science mission in support of war fighting operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

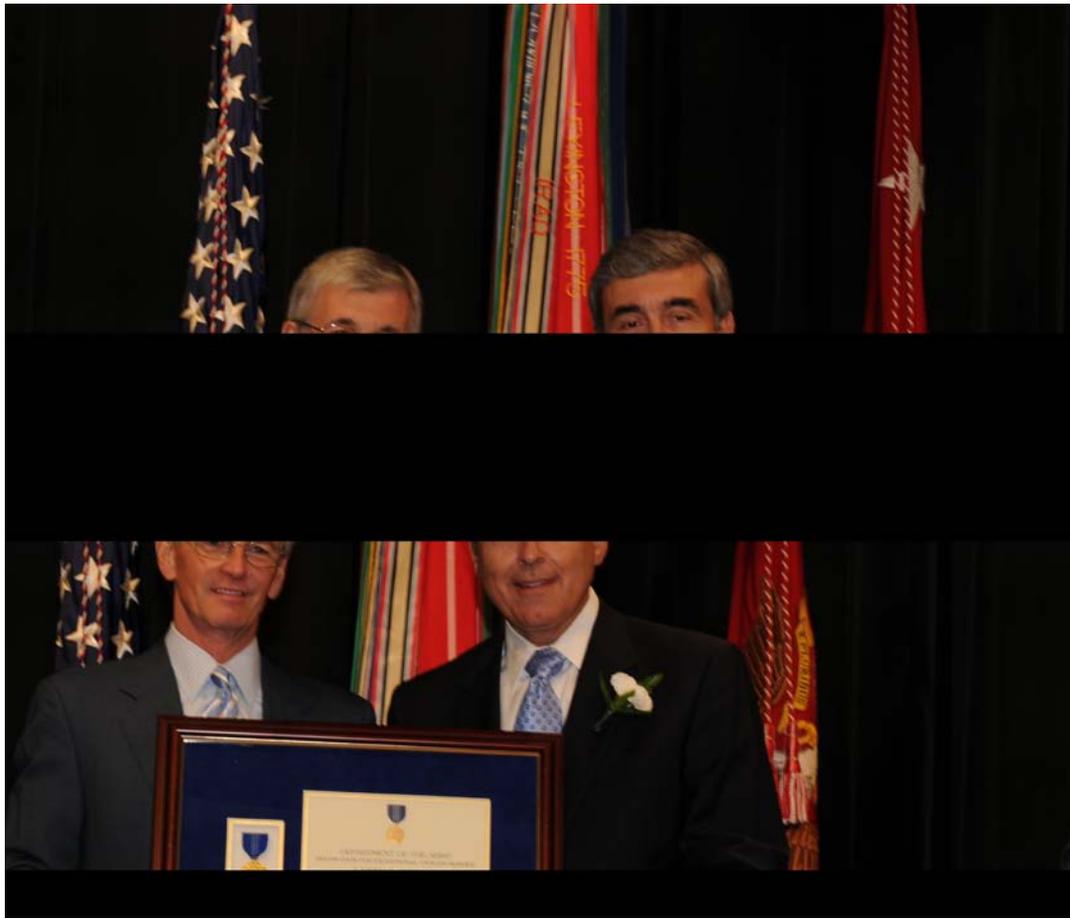
Ongoing operations in both theaters illuminate the importance of the forensic science mission on the battlefield, and how crucial it is to asymmetric warfare efforts. DoD, realizing that the majority of its forensic assets belonged to CID and USACIL, established a Forensic Executive Steering Group and appointed Chelko as its science advisor.

It was here that Chelko was instrumental in establishing an enduring DoD forensic capability to support the war effort. He directed and hosted the first of several DoD Forensic Science workshops, established the framework of the DoD forensic program, led the charge for the certification program for forensic examiners and laboratories, and initiated an expeditionary forensics concept plan leading to the creation of a standing force of examiners and fielding of the Joint Expeditionary Forensic Facilities (JEFF) — deployable laboratories for expeditionary forensic operations.

"Ours is a global mission," Chelko said. "With each day, we are presented with a new challenge and we face that challenge head on."

For more information on Army CID visit [www.cid.army.mil](http://www.cid.army.mil)

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**Washington, D.C.** – Mr. Larry Chelko, the director of the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory (USACIL) and the Department of Defense's leading forensic scientist, is presented the Exceptional Civilian Service Award by Secretary of the Army John M. McHugh, April 14, 2010, at the Pentagon Auditorium. The award is the highest award that can be bestowed by the Secretary of the Army to civilian personnel. (Photo by Colby Hauser, CID Public Affairs)