

Specific Manufacturing Capability Project presented with special thank-you note



From left, DOE-ID's Ray Furstenau, INL's Riley Chase, SMC's Joel Duling, Army's Lt. Evans and Mike Martell, and DOE-ID's Jim Malmo stand with the flag recently presented in recognition of work performed by the Specific Manufacturing Capability project.

A thank-you note in the form of a United States flag was presented by the U.S. Army to employees at the Specific Manufacturing Capability (SMC) project at Idaho National Laboratory.

The flag is one of only three that the Army had flown in Iraq in 2009 to recognize outstanding organizations that support U.S. troops in the field. SMC was privileged enough to be presented with one of these flags to thank them for the armor SMC builds for the M1A2 Abrams Main Battle Tank.

It is now on display at the top of the escalator on the third floor of the Willow Creek Building in Idaho Falls and will soon be on display at the Engineering Research Office Building.

A brass plaque below the framed flag reads: "This flag was flown over Baghdad, Iraq on 1 July 2009 and is presented to the Idaho National Laboratory in recognition of the work they do in support of the warfighter to make the Abrams Tank the most survivable Tank in the World."



The M1A2 Abrams Main Battle Tank.

"This is a very special recognition that not only represents all of the hard work and dedication each and every employee gives to the project but reminds us everyday how important our job is," said Jim Malmo, the U.S. Department of Energy's team lead for the Specific Manufacturing Capability project. "Not too many people can say 'what we make saves lives,' especially the lives of those in the military who are protecting our freedom."

The project – operated for its Army customer by Battelle Energy Alliance at Idaho National Laboratory – supports the research, development and production of armor and survivability for the U.S. Army M1A2 Abrams Tank Program.

SMC is a unique project that began with a memorandum of understanding between the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Army in February 1985. It has operated continuously in Idaho since 1986 and currently employs about 250 people who each month fabricate and assemble thousands of pounds of materials that go into the manufacturing of the tank armor.

SMC employees have logged more than 4 million hours – nine years – without a lost workday injury.