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## Discovery Channel Features History of Bullet-Resistant Cars, Protection Starts with Specialized Testing in UDRI Laboratory

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**NEWS RELEASE**

**DISCOVERY CHANNEL FEATURES HISTORY OF BULLET-RESISTANT CARS, PROTECTION STARTS WITH SPECIALIZED TESTING IN UDRI LABORATORY**

DAYTON, Ohio — The Discovery Channel this week is airing an hourlong documentary about the evolution of bullet-resistant cars, which shield dignitaries and private citizens from terrorism and crime.

The piece features the testing of materials used in armored vehicles at the University of Dayton Research Institute. It includes interviews with research engineer Ron Hoffman and technician Tom Williams in UDRI's impact physics lab. The program, "Blastproof," will air again at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 27.

Since 1978, UDRI researchers have tested armor systems for O'Gara-Hess & Eisenhardt, the world's most experienced manufacturer of armored passenger vehicles. The Cincinnati company built its reputation fitting limousines with armor for use by U.S. presidents and more than 60 heads of state, but it also designs other types of cars for executives concerned about kidnapping and other random acts of violence. In addition, it has armored U.S. Army Humvees for use in United Nations peacekeeping operations in places such as Bosnia and Kosovo.

In labs at UD's Shroyer Park Center, Hoffman and Williams evaluate potential armor materials for both ballistic and fragmentation protection.

"Our ballistics laboratory was invited to participate in the making of this documentary because of our experience in blast protection," Hoffman said. "This documentary, through its descriptive scenes of actual bomb attacks, shows the need for 'blastproof' vehicles. It's a team effort — conducted by a team that remembers lives are at stake."

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This laboratory, which UDRI believes is the premiere private facility in the country for impact testing, is also used to test the impact of birdstrikes on aircraft windshields and canopies; the effect of "space junk" on materials designed to shield satellites and, more recently, the international space station, from damage; and the integrity of flight recorders or "black boxes" in impacts designed to simulate airplane crashes.

The University of Dayton Research Institute employs approximately 350 full-time researchers, scientists and support staff, who conduct \$40 million of sponsored research annually. It is the region's leading not-for-profit research-and-development organization.

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For media interviews, contact **Ron Hoffman** at (937) 229-3861 or **Scott Vogel** at O'Gara-Hess & Eisenhardt at (513) 874-2112.