

REACH



Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, Edgewood Area, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

Citizens track progress of facility



Harford Executive Harkins visits site

Above, Harford County Executive James Harkins, left, greets Jan Van Prooyen, Bechtel Aberdeen project manager, during a recent tour and briefing. Also pictured from left are, Army Site Manager Joseph Lovrich, Douglas Richmond, of Harford County's Emergency Preparedness Division and Army Resident Engineer Robert Rizzieri.

More than 100 citizens took advantage of the Army's invitation to learn about plans to dispose of APG's mustard agent stockpile and toured the Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, or ABCDF, construction site on two Saturdays in June.

"More than 1,600 tons of liquid mustard agent eventually will be disposed of at the ABCDF, but what we want people to know now is that this facility is being built with maximum protection to the workers, the community and environment in mind," said ABCDF Site Manager Joseph Lovrich. "This is a shared project. We owe you, as citizens, opportunities to see and track our progress."

The public tours were scheduled after dozens of



Photos by Nancy Hofmann

Residents from Kent County's Heron Point community discuss the community's involvement in stockpile disposal with Joseph Lovrich, the Army's facility site manager.

individuals responded to the Army's "Making Chemical Weapons History" mailing and expressed interest in touring the ABCDF construction site. The tours provided citizens with opportunities to ask questions, get answers and see the construction progress for themselves. After signing in at the Edgewood Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office and hearing about the variety of program-related materials available, citizens met and spoke with project represen-

tatives about APG's disposal efforts.

"I thought that participating in the tours would be a great opportunity to get the facts about what's stored at Edgewood and learn about how the Army plans to get rid of it," commented Aberdeen resident Debby Amedoro. "I hope that the people who came will share what they've learned with others who may not be so familiar with the program. People are often afraid of the unknown, but

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Huber takes command of Edgewood stockpile

For more than 60 years, the Army has maintained five percent of its original chemical agent and weapons stockpile at the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground. On a daily basis, careful monitoring and surveillance continues as usual at the stockpile. But much is happening outside its perimeter. On July 18, responsibility for the storage of the stockpile changed hands, when Maj. Donna E. Rutten passed the Edgewood Chemical Activity colors to Maj. William P. Huber at the Edgewood Area Conference Center.

More changes are occurring at the stockpile's closest neighbor—Program Manager for Chemical Demilitarization's Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility—where the 30-acre project is materializing to destroy the stockpile by 2007. Until the last of the 1,817 containers is safely neutralized at the disposal facility, the activity continues its operations that keep the stockpile safe, secure and in compliance with international chemical treaties. The activity also oversees the Seneca Enclave in New York, where more than a million gallons of decontaminating agent is stored.

Col. Walter W. Polley, associate director for operations at the U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command, officiated at the morning ceremony.

"Maj. Donna Rutten is an excellent example of the kind of leadership we have today and the kind of leadership

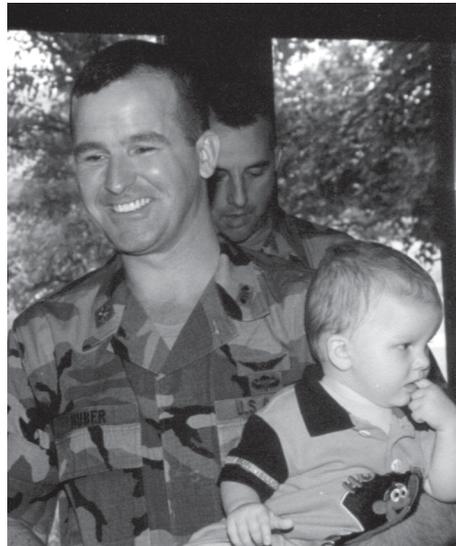


Photo by Conrad Johnson

Maj. William P. Huber, with son William, 1, accepted responsibility for the Edgewood stockpile on July 18.

we need as we enter the unpredictable years of the 21st century," Polley said.

During the ceremony, Rutten was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, which cited her "dedication, vision and team spirit" that were "key elements in establishing, maintaining and continuously improving the trust and confidence the local community had in the chemical activity."

Rutten was credited with developing and maintaining positive working relationships with the Army and the contract teams building the disposal facility for the stockpile. She also took steps to enhance the stockpile's chemical monitoring system and expand residents' understanding of emergency response measures at APG.

APG's partners in chemical emergency response from the Federal and Maryland Emergency Management Agencies were on hand to witness the ceremony.

In her remarks, Rutten thanked her superiors Maj. Gen. John C. Doesburg and Dr. John Ferriter, the Technical Escort Unit and the Aberdeen Proving Ground Garrison, citing their "tremendous support" during her command. She also expressed appreciation to her staff and the people assigned to Edgewood Chemical Biological Center and the Aberdeen

Chemical Agent Disposal Facility for their assistance.

"ECA has accomplished every mission assigned and we could not have done it without the help of all of these organizations and our surrounding communities," Rutten said.

Rutten's next assignment takes her to Newport, R.I., where she has been selected to attend the College of Naval Command and Staff.

Rutten's successor, Huber, is a Montana native who most recently served as deputy chemical officer at Combined Forces Command and United States Forces Korea, Yongsan, Korea.

"I look forward to working with all of you and building on the traditions and relationships that my predecessors have put in place," Huber said.

His wife, Tracy, and the couple's son, William, 1, watched the flag change hands. The Hubers also have a daughter, Rachel, 9.

Earlier in his career, Huber served as a battalion chemical officer and smoke platoon leader at Fort Carson, Colo. During that time, he deployed to Southwest Asia in support of Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm and Provide Comfort. His other assignments included duty as company commander, 89th Chemical Company, at Fort Bliss, Texas. He also served as an Army advisor to the Royal Saudi Land Forces Engineer Corps at King Khalid Military City, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

As a young cavalry scout in the Montana National Guard, he attended the University of Montana where he received a bachelor of science degree in political science and economics. He was discharged in the rank of sergeant and was commissioned a second lieutenant through ROTC in May 1987. In 1998, he received his master of science degree in management from Saint Mary's College in Leavenworth, Kan.

"Today is a great day to be a soldier, to be a member of the SBCCOM community and to be taking command of an organization with a distinguished, proud and honorable history," Huber said.



Citizens tour disposal facility on weekends

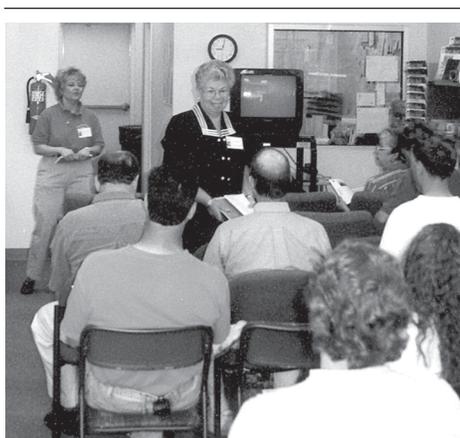
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being able to learn about and see the facility for themselves would probably put a lot of fears to rest.”

Sally Bruel, a resident of the Heron Point Retirement Community in Kent County, Md., agreed. “I received the tour invitation, but thought it would be great to set up a bus trip so other Heron Point residents wanting to know more about what’s happening at Aberdeen Proving Ground could learn, too. We couldn’t have fit one more person on our 28-passenger bus if we wanted to.”

“People who don’t look for themselves don’t understand that the public has already influenced how the Army will dispose of the mustard agent stockpile,” Bruel added. “The tours are definitely a good way to keep the community informed and involved.”

If you are interested in receiving information about ABCDF or would like to schedule a presentation or tour, please contact the Edgewood Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office at (410) 676-6800. The Army values your input and encourages your active participation in its disposal efforts at APG.



Sue Willits of Kent County Emergency Management Agency, center, speaks to community members about how surrounding counties cooperate with the Army in chemical stockpile emergency preparedness during recently held public tours.



Construction Update

A crane lowers the first neutralization reactor into the Chemical Demilitarization Building, which is where the mustard agent will be safely neutralized.

The Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility reached a major milestone on Aug. 6, when the first of six neutralization reactor vessels was set into place in the Chemical Demilitarization Building. Each of these 2,500 gallon titanium reactors is designed to neutralize the liquid mustard agent by mixing it with water at 194° F.

The Chemical Demilitarization Building is the heart of the facility and consists of three sealed neutralization chambers with two reactors in each chamber. The vertical concrete walls of each chamber are now complete and over the next few weeks, the remaining reactor vessels will be lifted into place. Once all of the major process tanks are installed, the concrete roofs will be placed over each of the chambers and a separate exterior structure will be built over them.

Construction of ABCDF has reached more than 33 percent complete and is slightly ahead of its scheduled completion date of August 2003.



Did you snooze through the local farm fair?

Nestled between the honeycombs at the Harford County Bee Keeper’s Association booth and the YMCA yodeling contest, Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility project representatives talked to more than 950 Harford County Farm Fair-goers from July 26-29 about chemical disposal at Aberdeen Proving Ground. To learn how your neighbors are working to safely dispose of the mustard agent stockpile, call the Edgewood Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office at 410-676-6800.

Photo by Neil Clemens

Photo by Dennis Story

REACH



Where can I go to learn more about the project to dispose of the chemical stockpile?

OCTOBER

Association of the U.S. Army Annual Meeting,
Washington, D.C.,
15-17 Oct 01

Environmental Forum X,
Atlanta, Ga., 15-18 Oct 01

NOVEMBER

APG Newcomers Briefing,
Aberdeen Proving Ground,
Md., 1 Nov 01



Photo by Dennis Story

Rachael Thompson, left, and Sarah Drinkard were proud to see their dads, Dave Thompson and Otis Drinkard, pictured on the disposal facility's display at Edgewood Middle School's Open House held Aug. 30. Their fathers are superintendents on the ABCDF construction site.

ABCDF Project Schedule

Contract award	1998
Environmental permits granted	1999
Final design and construction	1998-2003
Systemization	2002-2004
Pilot testing	2004-2005
Disposal operations	2005-2006
Facility closure	2006-2007

CONTACT THE ABCDF PUBLIC OUTREACH TEAM FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Army Public Outreach and Information - Kathy DeWeese at 410-436-5253; Edgewood Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office - Nancy Hofmann and Dennis Story at 410-676-6800; Bechtel Aberdeen Public Outreach - Miguel Monteverde at 410-436-9507.

Edgewood Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office
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