



CMA NEWS

December 2006

CMA PROGRESS AT A GLANCE

- Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.,** which destroyed its stockpile in 2005 and is in facility closure, has completed decontaminating and demolishing the ton container cleanout building and is near the end of decontaminating and demolishing the process neutralization building. The other buildings that are scheduled for demolition will be completed in the next few months.
- Anniston Chemical Activity, Ala.,** has destroyed more than 18,000 VX-filled M55 rockets since beginning its VX destruction campaign July 2006.
- Blue Grass Chemical Activity, Ky.** After months of hard work, the employees of the Blue Grass Chemical Activity, with assistance provided by storage experts from other CMA depots, have safely completed the replacement of some of the aging wooden pallets holding the chemical weapons stockpile.
- Deseret Chemical Depot, Utah,** recently started its mustard agent disposal operations. Workers have destroyed more than 280 mustard agent-filled ton containers since August 2006.
- Newport Chemical Depot, Ind.,** has safely eliminated more than 34 percent of its nerve agent VX stockpile since beginning disposal operations May 2005.
- Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project** accomplished another milestone in mid-November when its Rapid Response System mobile treatment system concluded its mission at Pine Bluff Arsenal, Ark.
- Pine Bluff Chemical Activity, Ark.,** has safely destroyed more than 80 percent of its sarin rocket stockpile since starting operations March 2005. The Activity recently conducted its quarterly chemical accident and incident response assistance exercise.
- Pueblo Chemical Depot, Colo.** During a recent inspection, operations workers determined four pallets had broken bandings. They were repaired at the end of November.
- Umatilla Chemical Depot, Ore.,** has safely processed more than 13 percent of its sarin projectile stockpile since starting operations September 2006.

UMATILLA MUSTARD TON CONTAINERS RELOCATED TO ENHANCE SECURITY AND STREAMLINE OPERATIONS

To consolidate chemical munitions storage and enhance security, the Umatilla Chemical Depot recently moved all stockpiled mustard agent bulk containers, or ton containers, into storage igloos that previously held sarin-filled M55 rockets. Disposal of those rockets was safely completed August 9.



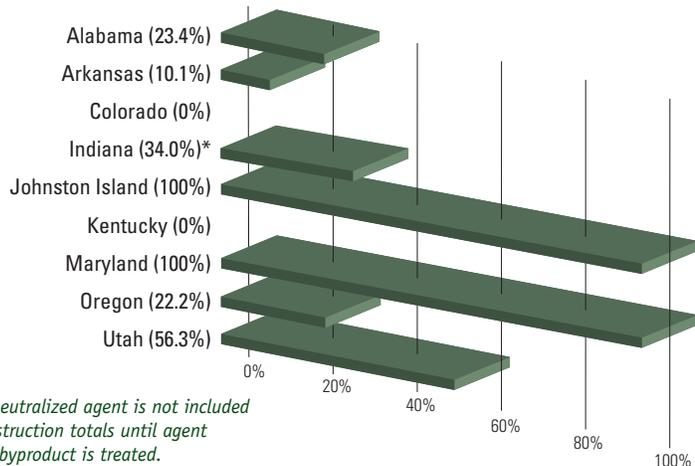
Workers move the last of the mustard ton containers into a former M-55 rocket storage igloo

As disposal campaigns reduce the Umatilla stockpile, it made sense to combine munitions storage in one area for security and safety. This also positions the munitions closer to the disposal plant, streamlining future deliveries. Delivery and disposal of mustard agent is planned to begin in 2010 or earlier, after disposal of sarin and VX nerve agent.

The depot maintained a high degree of emergency preparedness during the mustard move operation. Prior to and during the ton container movement, the depot communicated with off-post emergency operations centers in Umatilla and Morrow Counties in Oregon and Benton County in Washington, plus emergency response officials in Oregon and Washington states and at the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. When the move was completed, those same officials were notified.

CMA - CREATING A SAFER TOMORROW

41.5 PERCENT OF U.S. CHEMICAL AGENT STOCKPILE DESTROYED
(as of December 3 measured by original agent tonnage)





DESERET CHEMICAL DEPOT'S FORMER RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FACILITY TO CLOSE

U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) officials recently reviewed the revised closure schedule and planned path forward for the Deseret Chemical Depot's former research and development facility with members of the Deseret Chemical Depot work force.

The Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System was established in 1979. It began as the testing unit for individual parts and systems of chemical weapons disposal components and soon evolved into the pioneer facility for testing and evaluating disposal methods. Efforts at the Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System produced the integrated incineration facility that was piloted on Johnston Atoll as JACADS and also resulted in the development of the liquid incinerator, metal parts furnace and the deactivation furnace system. All three are elements of the baseline incineration system used today at facilities including Deseret Chemical Depot, Utah; Umatilla Chemical Depot, Ore.; Anniston Army Depot, Ala.; and Pine Bluff Arsenal, Ark.

It also served as a test bed for other technologies and processes the Army explored for the safe destruction of chemical weapons and non-stockpile chemical materiel. These included cyrofracture, robotic munitions disassembly machines, bulk drain stations and secondary waste processing. In 1994, with the creation of the Alternative Technology and Approaches Program within CMA, the Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System served as a partner in the investigation of neutralization alternatives to the incineration of bulk chemical agents stored then in Indiana and Maryland. Since 1997 and beyond, it assisted DoD's Assembled Chemical Weapons Assessment in its evaluation process of alternatives to incineration for assembled chemical weapons.

Over the course of its research and development activities, the Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System contributed to the overall chemical weapons disposal program by safely eliminating a total of 173 chemical munitions and bulk containers. "We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the workers at this facility who, over the life of its mission, have made great contributions to our nation and were instrumental in the research and development of chemical demilitarization technologies currently in use throughout the nation," said Gregory St. Pierre, acting director of operations at CMA. "Their legacy is one we can all be proud of."

Closure efforts at Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System began in June of 2006 and are expected to continue through 2008.

DISPOSAL OPERATIONS RESUME AT ANNISTON CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY

Disposal operations resumed at the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility following a maintenance outage. Workers concentrated on restoring the afterburner system of the deactivation furnace system. This system was unexpectedly damaged during reheating after being shut down for routine maintenance. An examination of the damage and a thorough analysis of the cause determined that "accumulated combustible gases" ignited and expanded through various pieces of equipment. The incident occurred at a time when munitions were not being destroyed. There was no threat to the community or to the environment. Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility furnaces and ancillary equipment require periodic inspection and maintenance to ensure all destruction operations conducted on a daily basis continue safely and within the limitations of regulatory permits.

ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM BRINGS CMA AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

In November, CMA held the Environmental Forum XIV in Dallas. The forum brought federal, state and local regulators, Chemical Demilitarization Citizens Advisory Commission members, CMA, Army and DoD leaders and site project management from around the country.

During the productive sessions, attendees discussed environmental, closure and operational issues allowing for meaningful discussions on issues surrounding the chemical demilitarization program.

Program Manager for the Elimination of Chemical Weapons Kevin Flamm welcomed participants to the forum and reflected on the maturity of the program in the safe and environmentally compliant elimination of the nation's chemical weapons. Participants expressed their appreciation to the CMA leadership for hosting the forum and called the meeting a great opportunity to receive program updates and for maintaining relationships and dialogue among the program's internal and external stakeholders.



Participants at the Environmental Forum XIV discuss the chemical demilitarization program