



### Disposal plant begins destroying VX projectiles

A new chemical weapons disposal campaign began at about 9:30 a.m., on Thursday, March 20, when Umatilla Chemical Depot (UMCD) workers began moving VX 155mm diameter VX-filled artillery projectiles to the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF).

"We're pleased to begin yet another chemical munitions disposal campaign," said Mike Strong, the Army's site project manager at Umatilla. "We remain dedicated to completing our mission of eliminating this class of munitions and the threat they pose to our neighbors."

"Our team continues to do a safe and secure job of moving munitions from storage to the disposal plant," said Lt. Col. Bob Stein, depot commander. "We continue to make the safety of the workforce, the environment, and the community our number one priority."

The disposal plant destroyed the first VX 155mm projectiles the next day, processing 48 projectiles through the Metal Parts Furnace (MPF).

"We'll start slowly and deliberately, then gradually increase our processing rate once we confirm everything is working properly," said Doug Hamrick, project general manager for Washington Defense Group of the URS Corporation EG&G Division. Washington Defense Group built and operates the disposal plant for the Army. "As always, our focus will be safety and environmental compliance at all times."

On Wednesday, the plant began processing bulk agent through one of its two Liquid Incinerators (LICs), incinerating 450 pounds of VX.

VX is a lethal nerve agent contained in various munitions in the Umatilla stockpile. This campaign is the tenth of an eventual 13 individual munitions campaigns that the U.S. Army will complete at Umatilla.

The remaining VX disposal campaigns will include destruction of two sizes of artillery projectiles — 155mm and 8-inch diameter — plus VX-filled land mines. All of the Umatilla stockpile's VX-filled rockets and aircraft-mounted spray tanks have already been destroyed, as have all GB (sarin-filled) munitions.

The VX 155mm artillery projectiles disposal campaign is expected to be safely completed by late summer of this year. Disposal of 8-inch diameter artillery projectiles will follow. After that final artillery projectiles campaign, the team will destroy VX-filled land mines.

### UMCDF Highlights

- It has been 628 days, or more than 2.7 million work hours, since a lost-time accident occurred at the UMCDF (July 7, 2006).

### Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Processing (March 20 - 26, 2008)

Total number of VX-filled 155mm projectiles destroyed this period	1,124
Total VX projectiles destroyed to date	1,124
Percentage of VX projectiles destroyed to date	3.1
Pounds of VX agent destroyed this period	741
Pounds of total VX agent destroyed to date	364,382
Total munitions destroyed to date since start of operations (Sept. 7, 2004) including non-stockpile GB and VX ton containers	171,343
Nominal tons of chemical agent destroyed to date	1,196.20
Percentage of total agent tons destroyed	32.18

### UMCD/UMCDF Milestones

- **March 21, 2008:** Destroyed first VX 155mm projectile in the Metal Parts Furnace (MPF).
- **March 20, 2008:** First VX 155mm projectiles transported from depot storage to disposal plant.
- **Jan. 23, 2008:** Completed VX rocket campaign.
- **Dec. 24, 2007:** Completed VX spray tank campaign.
- **Nov. 26, 2007:** Processed the non-stockpile VX ton container.
- **Nov. 23, 2007:** Destroyed the first VX spray tanks in the MPF.
- **Nov. 19, 2007:** First VX spray tank transported from depot storage to disposal plant.
- **Nov. 9, 2007:** First VX chemical agent destroyed in the Liquid Incinerator (LIC).
- **Oct. 29, 2007:** Processed the first VX M55 rockets in the Deactivation Furnace System (DFS).
- **Oct. 26, 2007:** First VX M55 rockets transported from depot storage to disposal plant.
- **July 8, 2007:** Completed GB munitions campaign.

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