

**CMA PROGRESS AT A GLANCE****as of May 18, 2010:**

- **Anniston Chemical Activity, Ala.:** Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ANCDF) work force has safely processed 124,348 mustard agent-filled 4.2-inch mortars. Overall, ANCDF has safely processed 356,326 gallons of chemical nerve agent and mustard agent, which is more than 70 percent of the Anniston stockpile.
- **Deseret Chemical Depot, Utah:** Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) has destroyed more than 77 percent of its mustard stockpile. The TOCDF recently completed processing more than 63,000 mustard agent-filled 4.2-inch mortars. Approximately 300 leaking and "reject" (badly deteriorated) munitions will be destroyed using an explosive detonation chamber. Meanwhile, TOCDF workers resumed processing mustard agent-filled bulk containers and began early decommissioning activities, including removing obsolete equipment. Site preparation continues for the Area Ten Liquid Incinerator, which will destroy Deseret Chemical Depot's small stockpile of GA nerve and Lewisite blister agents.
- **Newport Chemical Depot, Ind.:** Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (NECDF) systems contractor notified the government that NECDF physical closure is complete. NECDF workers continue administrative closure activities, focusing on records archiving, property disposition and contracts closeout. CMA anticipates transfer of the Newport Chemical Depot to Army Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) on July 18.
- **Pine Bluff Arsenal, Ark.:** Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (PBCDF) is continuing safe and compliant mustard disposal operations as well as preventative and corrective maintenance activities. The facility has processed more than 75 percent of the stockpile stored at Pine Bluff Arsenal. The Pine Bluff Chemical Activity has made more than 1,300 safe Enhanced Onsite Container deliveries to PBCDF.
- **Umatilla Chemical Depot, Ore.:** Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility's (UMCDF) mustard chemical agent and secondary waste trial burn began April 29 and is expected to take up to 60 days. The trial burn includes a series of test runs to demonstrate compliance with permit limits and set operating conditions. On May 17, Steve Warren began work as Project General Manager (PGM) for the facility's systems contractor. Dave Reber, acting PGM, will continue to assist UMCDF to safely and compliantly meet the treaty disposal deadline.

**Newport Holds Deactivation Ceremony**

On Thursday, June 17, the Newport Chemical Depot (NECD) in Newport, Ind., held a Deactivation Ceremony, casing its colors. The ceremony officially closed the depot, commemorated the many achievements of the Newport work force and marked the successful completion of the final Army mission at Newport.

Stockpile elimination concluded in 2008 when workers destroyed the last of 1,269 tons of VX nerve agent, bringing an end to a 39-year legacy of safe chemical agent storage. After the stockpile was destroyed at the depot's Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (NECDF), closure operations began. The facility was safely decontaminated and dismantled by December 2009.

Officials from NECD and the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) Headquarters commemorated the accomplishment with the Newport work force. Ceremony speakers included CMA Director Conrad Whyne, Newport Commander Lt. Col. William Hibner and Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Elimination of Chemical Weapons Carmen Spencer.

"This ceremony was a celebration of the hard work and dedication our Newport work force put forth throughout the entire stockpile elimination mission and beyond," said CMA Director Conrad Whyne. "The lessons learned by Newport's employees will greatly benefit our remaining sites," he added.

Also in attendance was a representative from the NECD Reuse Authority, who unveiled future plans for the depot property and members of the public, many of which were former employees wishing to say goodbye one last time.

NECD was established in 1941 as the Wabash River Ordnance Works. Multiple military defense projects occurred on the depot grounds, from the production of RDX, Heavy Water



*(from left to right) NECD Commander Lt. Col. William D. Hibner, Sergeant Major Ricardo Soto-Acevedo and CMA Director Conrad Whyne are shown casing the colors at the Newport Deactivation ceremony.*

and TNT, to VX nerve agent at the Newport former VX Production Facility and its ultimate destruction at the NECDF. The former VX Production Facility was destroyed in a two-phase process by the Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project in 2006.

NECD was placed on the BRAC list in 2005 and is being turned over to Army BRAC on July 18.

NECD and its generations of employees leave a legacy of service and sacrifice to their children, community and country. They truly have made chemical weapons history—leaving the world a safer place.

*Additional photos and videos of the ceremony can be seen at [www.cma.army.mil](http://www.cma.army.mil)*

**PBEDS Completion Ceremony Highlights Major Accomplishment**

A ceremony was held June 15 at Pine Bluff Arsenal (PBA), Ark., to celebrate the completion of the Pine Bluff Explosive Destruction System (PBEDS) mission, the largest destruction of recovered chemical warfare materiel in the nation. PBEDS consisted of three EDS units that the U.S. Army Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project (NSCMP) began operating at PBA in June 2006 to treat chemical-filled munitions.

"I am happy to celebrate this major event with all of you—you worked hard and you worked safely. Your dedication is outstanding and I thank all of you for your contributions toward this achievement," said Conrad Whyne, Director of the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency.

Operators at PBEDS destroyed more than 1,200 recovered chemical munitions, which consisted mostly of 4.2-inch mortars and German Traktor Rockets. The completion of PBEDS also marks destruction of all non-stockpile chemical materiel declared at the nation's Entry-Into-Force of the Chemical Weapons Convention in 1997.

"The Army's Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project is the Nation's best equipped organization to provide safe,

successful destruction of such a diverse inventory of recovered chemical munitions," said Carmen Spencer, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Elimination of Chemical Weapons. "This accomplishment exemplifies the excellent work we have come to expect from this dedicated group."

While the PBEDS mission is NSCMP's most recent accomplishment, other achievements include: destruction of non-stockpile's portion of miscellaneous chemical warfare materiel in March 2002; destruction of the former chemical weapons production facilities in December 2006; and destruction of all binary chemical warfare materiel in December 2007.

"These milestones are not the end of non-stockpile's mission. The team will continue to destroy recovered chemical warfare materiel around the Nation, starting with projects at Camp Sibert and Redstone Arsenal in the near future," added Laurence Gottschalk, project manager for NSCMP.



### Major General Orton—a life well lived, a country well served



Major General Robert D. Orton, an early leader in national efforts to safely demilitarize U.S. chemical munitions, passed away May 4, 2010, following a long illness.

MG Orton graduated from the University of Texas ROTC program with a bachelor's degree in chemistry in 1961, and later a master's degree in chemistry from the

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, N.Y. His Army career spanned more than three decades—and the globe—as he served across the United States and from Germany to Vietnam.

MG Orton assumed command of the U.S. Army Chemical Demilitarization and Remediation Activity (CDRA) in May 1995. CDRA became the Program Manager for Chemical Demilitarization, or PMCD, the predecessor of the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, in October of that same year. MG Orton headed PMCD through June 1997, when he retired after 36 years of service to the nation.

During his leadership at CDRA and PMCD, the Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System surpassed the one million pounds of lethal chemical agent destroyed mark and successfully completed disposal of its GB-filled M55 rockets and bombs. It was also recognized for surpassing three million man-hours worked without a lost-time incident, setting a standard for the follow-on chemical demilitarization sites.

MG Orton was in command when the Department of Defense declassified the quantities and types of material in the U.S. chemical weapons stockpile, and through the turmoil that resulted when the public realized that 30,600 tons of chemical agents were contained in more than 3.3 million munitions and storage containers in their backyards.

A little under eight months later on August 22, 1996, the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Utah started operations, initially disposing of GB-filled M55

rockets, and becoming the mainland flagship for PMCD and chemical demilitarization. He was there through the often turbulent times that preceded and followed the start of operations, meeting the public, local and state leaders and the media—supporting the site and the program.

During his tenure, a Strategic Communications Plan was developed, stressing public involvement and ongoing dialogue between the Army and the public. In addition, community outreach offices were opened near the eight stockpile sites in the continental United States.

MG Orton saw the Army and the Federal Emergency Management Agency form an integrated Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Project (CSEPP) Core Team, and CSEPP started providing funds and equipment, as well as training to emergency responders in Utah, Indiana and Oregon, and planning for the other sites.

In the final months of his leadership, two states approved permits for their respective sites, a court challenge was overcome, and construction began on the Anniston and Umatilla disposal sites. Earlier, MG Orton put construction of the Pueblo and Blue Grass sites on hold as the 1997 National Defense Authorization Act (Public Law 104-201) gave birth to what is now the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternative program.

MG Orton oversaw a multitude of Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project remediation activities at sites across the country and on Johnston Island, including an 8-month remediation effort at the former Raritan Arsenal in New Jersey.

In 1996, MG Orton was one of the key presenters at the first Environmental Forum on the United States Chemical Weapons Destruction Program, held in Denver, Colo.

Throughout the early years of chemical weapons disposal, of public concern, of legal and technical challenges, MG Orton was present. He was a stabilizing force, a voice of reason, a military man of peace. His decorations included multiple awards of the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, and other decorations, ribbons, and honors.

Thanks to Major General Robert D. Orton, and his memory, for a legacy of safely making chemical weapons history.

### CMA Employees under NSPS will convert to GS this Month

CMA has about 360 employees who are currently under the National Security Personnel System (NSPS) who will convert to the General Schedule (GS) system on June 20, as a result of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010, which repealed the statutory authority for NSPS.

These CMA employees fall into the third round of conversions within the Department of Defense, and will benefit from the lessons learned of the two prior rounds. These employees will not suffer any loss or decrease in pay as a result of the conversion from NSPS to the GS system and every CMA employee who is affected will be informed of his or her GS grade by their supervisors.

The evaluation component of the GS system is the Total Army Performance Evaluation System (TAPES). Employees will develop annual performance objectives with their supervisors, which should align with the agency's overarching objectives. All CMA employees converted to the GS system will receive a performance appraisal under TAPES in October. A more thorough description and a TAPES tutorial are located at:

<http://www.chra.army.mil/NSPS-training/index.htm>

Once the conversion is completed, each employee can download a copy of his or her Standard Form (SF) 50. The SF 50 identifies the pay plan, grade and step, adjusted salary, position title and occupational series. This important form should be checked for accuracy. Employees are encouraged to talk with their supervisor or contact Human Resources if they have any questions at any time during the conversion process. Also, more information is located on the CMA Today intranet site under the NSPS button.

### Excellence in Federal Careers Awards



U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency recipients of the Baltimore Federal Executive Board's 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Excellence in Federal Careers Awards were (from left) Deb Dawson (Gold Award), Steve Penrod (representing Trooper Studdert), Theresa Strickler, Tim Snidow, Leon Patterson (Gold Award), Leon Jefferson, Tracey Corkran and Kevin Shetterly. Not shown is Thom Hawkins and Pamela Shelley. Gold, silver and bronze awards for excellence in job performance during 2009 were awarded to 298 Maryland federal employees and military service members in nineteen job categories.

### Summer Grilling Safety

It's that time of year again - flowers are blooming, bees are swarming and the smell of barbecuing fills the neighborhood.

Great care is required when handling all fires, and grilling is no exception; common logic and preparation will prevent injuries when you grill.

Use these quick and easy steps to ensure safe grilling:

- Always follow the grill manufacturer's instructions
- Grill in an outdoor area with plenty of ventilation
- Ensure plenty of space between a hot grill and flammables (such as decking, shrubs and trees, lighter fluid, loose clothing), and meltables (vinyl siding, toys)
- Use long utensils when handling food over the fire
- Never leave a lit grill unattended
- Always be prepared to extinguish flames if needed

Since grilling is an official pastime of summer, let's be sure to keep it a safe one!