



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

# FACT SHEET

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## Newport Chemical Depot

### The agent disposal process at Newport Chemical neutralization technology was used. Some key features included:



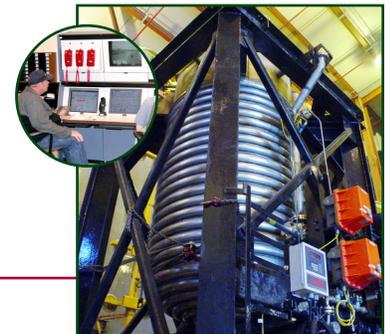
**1** Steel containers of liquid nerve agent VX were transported by truck from a secure storage area to the Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility.



**2** A specially designed forklift loaded the steel containers into the chemical agent transfer system (CHATS) inside the agent disposal facility.



**3** Highly-trained operators manually drained agent from the containers by attaching a specialized pumping unit (inset) to the container. This was accomplished using the CHATS – a protective, airtight glove box system.



**4** Agent was neutralized in steel reactors by thoroughly mixing with heated sodium hydroxide and water. Control room operators directed and monitored the entire process remotely, using a state-of-the-art control system (inset).



**5** Once agent neutralization was verified at the on-site laboratory (inset), the caustic wastewater was placed into on-site intermodal storage containers awaiting transport for final treatment to Veolia Environmental Services in Port Arthur, Texas.

**6** Before the empty steel container left the CHATS, operators triple rinsed the container with hot sodium hydroxide and water. Workers circulated hot air through the interior of the container and conducted a visual inspection to ensure the container was clean and dry. The exterior of the container was monitored before workers transported it to the final decontamination unit. The container was placed inside this unit and heated by electrical induction to destroy potential residual traces of agent. Once the decontaminated container cooled, it was transported to storage for off-site transport to a commercial recycling center.



**NECD**

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For more information, contact the Newport Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office (866) 300-9034 toll-free

or contact the NECD Public Affairs Office (765) 245-4475

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