



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL  
MATERIALS AGENCY

# NON-STOCKPILE CHEMICAL MATERIEL PROJECT

*Celebrating a Treaty Milestone*



C R E A T I N G   A   S A F E R   T O M O R R O W



## Mission Success

The U.S. Army Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project (NSCMP) began operations at the Pine Bluff Explosive Destruction System (PBEDS) located at Pine Bluff Arsenal (PBA), Ark., in June 2006 to destroy more than 1,200 munitions, such as 4.2-inch mortars and German Traktor rockets captured during World War II. Operators completed operations in April 2010, marking the destruction of the largest recovered chemical warfare inventory in the nation.

This also marks the completion of all non-stockpile Recovered Chemical Warfare Materiel (RCWM) declared upon the United States' Entry-Into-Force of the Chemical Weapons Convention, an international treaty mandating the destruction of chemical warfare materiel.

Since 2001, NSCMP has used the Explosive Destruction System (EDS) to destroy more than 1,700 items, including those from PBEDS, at Rocky Mountain Arsenal, Colo.; the former Camp Sibert, Ala.; the Spring Valley neighborhood in Washington, D.C.; Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.; Dugway Proving Ground, Utah; Dover Air Force Base, Del. and extensive testing overseas at Porton Down, UK.

## Public Involvement

During development of the EDS, NSCMP officials solicited public involvement, which continued for the permitting process at PBEDS. In 2003, NSCMP representatives invited Pine Bluff community leaders to tour the EDS, and gain insight to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act permitting process, an Environmental Protection Agency permit for treating, storing or disposing of hazardous waste.

NSCMP officials updated stakeholders at every step of the process, hosting media roundtables prior to the 2006 mission start. NSCMP project managers continued to update citizens monthly at local community meetings.

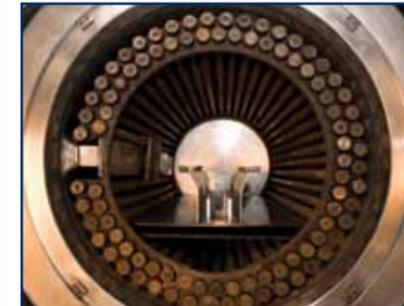
## History

In 1941, the War Department (now the Department of Defense) established PBA to manufacture mustard and lewisite chemical agents and to assemble and load incendiary, pyrotechnic and chemical munitions. The production of chemical agents and munitions ceased in 1969.

In the 1980s, PBA workers recovered hundreds of buried chemical warfare munitions on post during arsenal environmental restoration activities. NSCMP was tasked with the destruction of the recovered items as well as other RCWM shipped to PBA for safe storage and monitoring.



*Personnel monitor operations from the PBEDS command post.*



*A view inside the EDS vessel of the Advanced Fragment Suppression System.*



*A lab worker prepares a chemical sample for analysis.*

## Innovations

The NSCMP research and development team, faced with the unique and diverse inventory of recovered munitions at PBEDS, invented patent-protected processes and cutting-edge vessel enhancements.

NSCMP engineers and chemists received a U.S. National Patent for developing a technology that improves the detoxification of lewisite, an arsenic based chemical agent. Before their work, the Army was challenged by disposal of lewisite and other arsenical compounds.

System enhancements included the Advanced Fragment Suppression System, which reduces the amount of solid waste generated by up to 80 percent, significantly cutting costs and keeps with NSCMP's commitment to environmental stewardship.



For more information,  
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# Explosive Destruction System (EDS) missions

