



PRESS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY **Deseret Chemical Depot**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: 18 January 2012

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ARMY PROCESSING FINAL CHEMICAL AGENT AT DEPOT

DESERET CHEMICAL DEPOT, STOCKTON, Utah -- Workers began processing the depot's last remaining chemical agent, Lewisite through the Area 10 Liquid Incinerator, today, following the disposal of the final mustard agent-filled 155 mm projectiles through the depot's Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF).

Over the next few days, these two separate disposal operations will bring to an end the storage and destruction of what was once the largest-single chemical weapons stockpile in the United States.

"From the research and development of destruction technologies developed at the Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System (CAMDS) to more than 24,000 safe deliveries to the disposal facility, our workers have demonstrated excellence and perseverance," said Col. Mark B. Pomeroy, depot commander. "Our workforce represents the nation's finest examples of experts in the safe and secure handling of chemical agents."

"We destroyed our first munition, a GB nerve agent-filled rocket, on Aug. 22, 1996. Since then we have destroyed more than 1.1 million munitions containing more than 13,600 tons of chemical agent," said Ted Ryba, TOCDF site project manager. "Our contribution to ridding the nation of its aging chemical weapons stockpile has been significant with 44 percent of our country's stockpile destroyed here."

"I'm proud of our workers for all their efforts over the years to reach this point – mission completion," said Gary McCloskey, URS vice president and TOCDF general manager. "And we reached this milestone safely, working more than 13.5 million manhours without a lost workday injury. As we move into closure of the demil facilities, we will continue to emphasize safety for our workers and the environment."

DCD will be returned to Tooele Army Depot in July 2013. Until then, the number of employees will steadily decline as the workload decreases. Over the next two years, secondary waste operations will be completed and the TOCDF facility will be decontaminated and dismantled.

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