



NEWS RELEASE

Anniston Chemical Activity



April 10, 2012

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CHEMICAL ACTIVITY COMPLETES FIRST STAFFING REDUCTION

ANNISTON ARMY DEPOT, Ala. (April 10, 2012) - The first Anniston Chemical Activity (ANCA) reduction in force that became effective this weekend resulted in one employee being involuntarily separated from government service.

The ANCA reduction in force is not associated with other personnel activities announced earlier by Anniston Army Depot officials. Instead, the work force realignment within ANCA naturally follows the safe and complete destruction of the chemical munitions the employees were responsible for storing since 1963.

The reduction in force began in November 2011. According to Lt.Col. Willie J. Flucker, Jr., ANCA commander, "The reorganization of the work force was accomplished through a combination of job reassignments, grade reductions and one involuntary separation. Throughout the four-month notice period, U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency and ANCA Management used a combination of tools to minimize involuntary separations and mitigate the effects of grade reductions, including 'CMA First' - an initiative to reassign ANCA employees to other CMA sites where possible, incentivized early retirements, the Department of Defense Priority Placement Program, and job swaps with retiring Anniston Army Depot employees."

At one time, ANCA monitored and maintained 661,529 chemical agent-filled munitions. It was authorized more than 170 employees. Now, during closure activities, there are less than 90 employees.

ANCA's closure campaign includes monitoring former chemical weapons storage igloos to verify they are agent free and the transfer of facilities and equipment to Anniston Army Depot and other DOD agencies. Closure is estimated to be completed in July 2013, but the Commander's closure objectives are not time-limited.

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Flucker said, "Successful completion of our chemical stockpile management mission required great diligence and precision. We will apply no less of either to safely and efficiently close the Activity in full compliance with U.S. Army and State of Alabama requirements. Of course, we have a schedule, but we'll change it as necessary to meet the standards of closure."

Flucker is the last of nine U.S. Army Chemical Corps officers to command ANCA. In that role he said, "From my very first day in command, I have been impressed with the ANCA professionalism and work ethic that is evident in everything that is done and achieved. Even though we are all working ourselves out of a job we all take great pride in, we have the personal satisfaction of knowing we will have done our individual and collective jobs well."

Closure activities are expected to take about 15 months. During closure, ANCA will continue to provide protective clothing to the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in support of separate closure activities there. ANCA employees will also be preparing their munitions handling equipment for turn in and possible reissue to the remaining two chemical munitions storage sites in Colorado and Kentucky.

ANCA is a subordinate unit of the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

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