

Anniston
Summer 2003

Contact Us

**Anniston Chemical
Demilitarization Community
Outreach Office**

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Outreach Office Hours

Monday–Friday
8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.
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U.S. Army
Chemical Materials Agency
(Provisional)

1-800-488-0648

www.cma.army.mil

Operations begin at Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility

On August 8, 2003 the Army began its mission to safely destroy the 2,254 tons of nerve and mustard agent stored at the Anniston Army Depot.

“We have begun to safely eliminate a source of risk that this community has been living with for more than 40 years,” says Timothy K. Garrett, the Army’s project manager for Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ANCDF). “Keeping the safety of the community, our workers, and the environment as our first priority, operations have begun slowly.”

The first munitions being processed are the aging GB M55 rockets, which are the munitions that pose the greatest threat to the community.

The process began as workers transported six pallets of the M55 rockets from the storage igloos. They were placed in three enhanced on-site containers (EONCs) and transported to the Container Handling Building. There the EONCs were monitored and delivered to the Unpack Area. Then, the rockets, still in their shipping/firing tubes, were placed on conveyors and sent to the Explosive Containment Room where they traveled through the Rocket Shear Machine, which punched and drained the rocket of its agent and sheared the rocket into eight pieces.

In the next step, the eight pieces of the rocket, including the explosive components, were fed into the Deactivation Furnace. Once there, they were heated to about 1,100 degrees Fahrenheit. While the rocket itself is put through the Deactivation Furnace, the liquid agent is sent to a holding tank until enough is collected to be burned in the Liquid Incinerator at approximately 2,700 degrees Fahrenheit. As the agent is burned, the state-of-the-art pollution abatement system and monitoring systems ensure the safety of the public.

Once all the munitions filled with GB nerve agent are destroyed, efforts will turn to safely destroying munitions filled with VX nerve agent. Operations



Westinghouse Anniston Project Manager Bob Love, left, and Anniston Chemical Activity Commander Lt. Col. Robert Jones watch the destruction of the first chemical weapon from the Control Room of the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility.

Photo courtesy of Westinghouse Anniston

will conclude with the destruction of mustard agent munitions. Once all the chemical weapons have been incinerated, the ANCDF will undergo the process of closure. Altogether, the incineration process will take approximately seven years to destroy all the chemical weapons stored at the depot.

“We have a highly trained and skilled staff that is prepared to eliminate this threat to our community safely,” said Bob Love, the Westinghouse-Anniston project manager. “Each member of the work force feels a sense of personal responsibility to keep their friends, family and community safe. That is why we are all here.”

The plant will start by running on a limited schedule. This will enable workers to drain rockets during the day and process the rockets through the incinerator in the evenings. This schedule also allows the Army Corps of Engineers to finish over-pressurizing the remaining schools, which are located in the Immediate Response Zone. Once this project is completed, the plant will begin to reach its full processing capacity.

Westinghouse Anniston employees reach four million safe work hours

ANCDF workers among safest in nation

“Safety is our main concern at ANCDF. This milestone illustrates the extensive safety culture at ANCDF. I ask employees to continue making safety their top priority as we drive toward agent operations.”

*—Bob Love,
project manager,
Westinghouse
Anniston*

The 600-plus Westinghouse Anniston employees and subcontractors working at the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ANCDF) reached a major safety milestone earlier this summer, recording an astounding 4 million consecutive hours without an injury that resulted in days away from work. Based on criteria established by the National Safety Council, this achievement places ANCDF employees among the safest in the nation.

“Safety is our main concern at ANCDF,” said Bob Love, Westinghouse Anniston Project Manager. “This milestone illustrates our extensive safety culture. I ask employees to continue making safety their top priority as we proceed with agent operations.”

The safety record began on May 19, 2000. It spans more than 1,068 consecutive days without a lost-time injury. The average rate of lost days for similar industry in the year 2000 was 3.6 cases per 200,000 hours worked. The facility’s rate is 0 cases per 200,000 hours worked.

This safety record was completed while achieving major milestones for the facility. Since May 2000 the work force has completed construction of the facility, completed systemization and achieved operation readiness.

Working four million hours without a lost time injury is like one man working 40 hours a week for 52 weeks a year for about 1,923 years without taking a day off for an injury received at work.

“I’m very proud of the work force,” said ANCDF Project Manager Timothy K. Garrett. “By working in this manner, they continue to demonstrate their commitment to working not only to keep themselves safe, but their friends, families and fellow Alabamians as well.”

ANCDF starts operations

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“We have reached a milestone. This is the beginning of the end of chemical weapons storage in Anniston,” said Garrett. “Many people have worked very hard together to bring this facility on-line. Bob and I



Photo courtesy of Westinghouse Anniston

A Control Room operator looks intently as the first chemical weapon is destroyed at the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility.

Westinghouse Anniston, a subsidiary of Washington Group International, operates ANCDF for the U.S. Army. The disposal facility is designed to destroy 2,254 tons of chemical nerve (GB, VX) and mustard (HD, HT) agent contained in thousands of munitions stored at Anniston Army Depot.

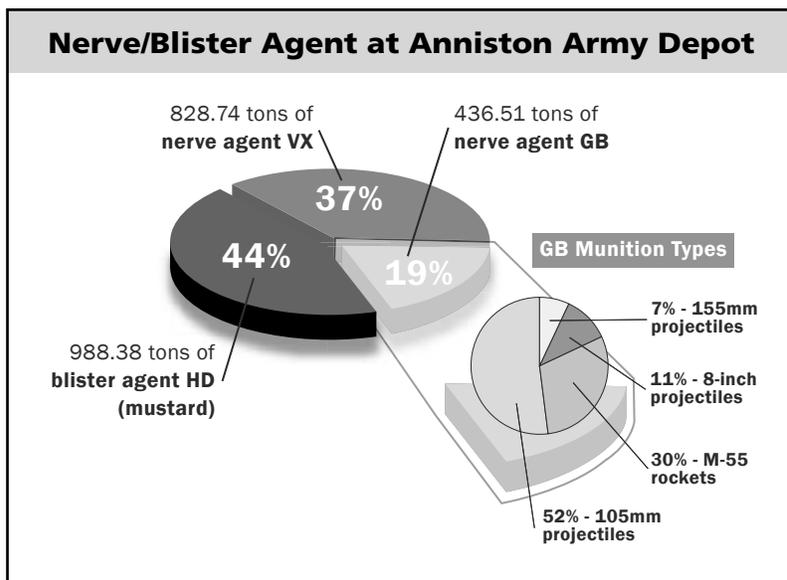
Washington Group also manages three other Department of Defense chemical weapons demilitarization facilities, at Pine Bluff, Ark.; Umatilla, Ore.; and Johnston Atoll. Earlier this year, Washington Group was named as part of a team with Bechtel National Inc. to help design, build, operate and close the Army’s other chemical weapons destruction facilities in Pueblo, Colo. and Blue Grass, Ky.

appreciate the hard work and the support of many, many people within government and outside of government circles. Together we will work to make this community safer.”

ANCDF Progress Update

Where We've Been

- In June 2001, construction was completed on the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ANCDF), a third generation facility that has utilized lessons learned from both the Johnston Island and Tooele, Utah chemical agent disposal facilities. Using the lessons learned program, a state-of-the-art pollution abatement system was incorporated into the ANCDF.



- Workers at the ANCDF are highly trained professionals. Each employee undergoes dozens of hours of specialized training before being certified to work within the facility.
- Since June 1990, the Army has safely destroyed 26 percent of the nation's entire stockpile of chemical agent. The chemical weapons on Johnston Island were the first to be completely destroyed. Weapons disposal is now taking place at the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Utah and the Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Maryland. Anniston Army Depot is home to 7.1 percent of the total stockpile of chemical weapons in the United States.

Looking Ahead

- The facility is processing GB nerve agent first. Destruction is anticipated to take 22 months, barring any unforeseen delays.
- The first GB munitions to be destroyed are the M-55 rockets as they pose the greatest threat to the public in continued storage. The stockpile currently consists of 437 agent tons of GB, including projectiles and rockets.
- Following completion of GB destruction, the ANCDF will be reconfigured for nerve agent VX munitions destruction.

ANCDF is a third generation facility that has utilized lessons learned from both Johnston Island and Tooele, Utah chemical agent disposal facilities.

We want to hear from you

The Anniston Chemical Demilitarization Community Outreach Office serves as a clearinghouse of information about the chemical weapons stockpile stored at Anniston Chemical Depot and the Army's plans for its disposal. The outreach office has informational materials that can address your questions or concerns.

If you would like more information about the Anniston Chemical Demilitarization Community Outreach Office, please call (256) 238-0120 or return this form by mail to:

Anniston Chemical Demilitarization
Community Outreach Office
11 East 10th Street
Anniston, AL 36201

Would you like to be added to our mailing list?

Yes No

Would you like an information packet mailed to you?

Yes No

If you answered yes to either of these questions, please complete the following:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (optional) _____

E-mail (optional) _____

The outreach office schedules presentations that can be given to community groups, clubs, organizations, etc. If you know of a community group that might be interested, please complete the following:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (optional) _____

E-mail (optional) _____

