



# CMA NEWS

February 2007

## CMA PROGRESS AT A GLANCE

**Anniston Chemical Activity, Ala.,** recently received its sixth Washington Group President's Safety Award in six years. The safety award recognizes projects with employees who worked safely for 1 million hours in one year.

**Deseret Chemical Depot, Utah,** recently demonstrated the Metal Parts Furnace and Liquid Incinerator (LIC) performance to the state of Utah through a series of trial burns. This effort culminated several months of intense efforts dealing with a series of unique issues associated with the much larger-than-projected heels in mustard ton containers.

As a result of working with regulators, Deseret can process ton containers with heels up to 630 pounds and burn agent in the LIC up to approximately 1,200 pounds per hour. Deseret will go through the feed restriction for the next three months; however, these rates fully support the planned schedule.

**Newport Chemical Depot, Ind.,** recently passed the 1 million-pound mark for destruction of its VX chemical agent and also passed the 40 percent destruction milestone of the chemical agent stockpile. Both milestones demonstrate the commitment of the work force and the agency in creating a safer tomorrow.

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## INTERNATIONAL CHEMICAL WEAPONS INSPECTORS COMPLETE ANNUAL INSPECTION OF BLUE GRASS ARMY DEPOT CHEMICAL STOCKPILE

International chemical weapons inspectors from six countries conducted a verification inspection of the chemical weapons stockpile maintained by the Blue Grass Chemical Activity recently to ensure continuing compliance with the Chemical Weapons Convention. The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons inspectors, operating under the authority of the Chemical Weapons Convention treaty, counted and verified every one of the chemical weapons stored at Blue Grass Army Depot.

The inspection team chief hailed from Romania, while other members were from Pakistan, France, Cote D'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), Russia and Burkina Faso. Lt. Col. Tom Closs, commander of the chemical activity, commented, "The inspection was very thorough in its scope and efficient in its execution – thanks to the combined efforts of all involved. The international inspectors were accompanied by a United States Escort Team and, together with our own professional and dedicated workers, were able to accomplish the 100 percent inventory without incident or delay." He went on to say that to "physically inventory more than 100,000 chemical munitions is an enormous task. It was truly an international, national and local team effort that made it happen so effectively. I'm proud of our employee's performance and our team's role in demonstrating the United States' compliance to this important treaty."

This was the 11th time that Blue Grass Chemical Activity has been inspected as part of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

## SAFETY IS OUR TOP PRIORITY - CMA Ranks Low in Workplace Injuries

The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency continues to reach new safety records as it ended its fiscal year with an overall 12-month Occupational Safety & Health Administration recordable injury rate of 1.13 incidents (workplace injuries and illnesses) per every 200,000 hours worked, down slightly from the previous 12-month low rate. The closest comparable industry for incidents, according to recent statistics from the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, is the insurance industry (RIR=1.1).





### CMA PROGRESS AT A GLANCE

*(continued from front)*

#### **Pine Bluff Chemical Activity, Ark.,**

has named Mark Greer as the site project manager for the Pine Bluff



Mark Greer,  
Pine Bluff Chemical  
Agent Disposal Facility  
Site Manager

Chemical Agent Disposal Facility. Greer had been named acting site project manager in November.

Previously, Greer was the Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal

Facility assistant site project manager for operations. Prior to that, he was the Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility site project manager for compliance.

#### **Umatilla Chemical Depot, Ore.,**

has successfully completed off-site recycling of its approximately 50 tons of legacy hazardous waste stored since the early 1980s. "Legacy" waste is chemical agent stockpile-related operational waste.

Approximately 235 tons of stored legacy waste may now be eligible for off-site recycling. This trend will greatly reduce the amount of legacy waste originally slated for on-site disposal at the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility.

#### **Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project**

recently reached a significant milestone by requesting a final treaty inspection for the open field that until December 2006 was the Pine Bluff Integrated Binary Production Facility compound.

### **CMA DESTROYS MORE THAN 40 PERCENT OF NATION'S CHEMICAL AGENTS**

The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) has safely destroyed 40 percent of the nation's chemical blister and nerve agents. The Chemical Weapons Convention, which went into effect in 1997, requires the United States to destroy 45 percent of its chemical weapons stockpile by December 2007.

"This puts us in a fine position to make the 45 percent destruction milestone on or ahead of schedule," said Dale A. Ormond, acting director of CMA. He added, "We are continuing with our efforts to safely destroy the agent stockpiles in Alabama, Arkansas, Indiana, Oregon and Utah."

The 40 percent destruction level was achieved through the combined efforts of the disposal sites currently in operation, former disposal sites at Johnston Atoll in the South Pacific and in Maryland, and CMA's Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project.

Chemical agents destroyed to date include GB (sarin) and VX nerve agents and HD (mustard) blister agent. Chemical munitions destroyed include bombs, projectiles, mortars, land mines, rockets, spray tanks and bulk containers.



*One of the first deliveries of 155mm GB projectiles is loaded into the Container Handling Building at the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility. The movement of the munitions from depot storage to the disposal facility marked the official start of the final GB munitions campaign at the depot.*

### **UMATILLA DEPOT BEGINS FINAL SARIN-FILLED MUNITIONS CAMPAIGN**

Workers at Umatilla Chemical Depot, Ore., recently began the final GB (sarin) munitions campaign when they moved 155mm diameter GB artillery projectiles to the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility.

The 155mm GB projectiles are the last class of sarin-filled munitions stored at the depot. Other classes of chemical weapons, including VX nerve agent munitions and mustard agent ton containers, are slated for disposal after this campaign is complete.

"Team Umatilla has worked safely and very well to get to this point—

the beginning of the end of GB agent," said Lt. Col. Donna Rutten, depot commander. "While we still have several years to go until we dispose of all chemical munitions stored here, starting this campaign is a significant accomplishment."

Since Sept. 8, 2004, when it began destroying chemical munitions, the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility has destroyed more than 108,000 rockets, bombs, ton containers and 8-inch projectiles.