



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

FACT SHEET

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Anniston Chemical Activity

Anniston: Creating a Safer Tomorrow

Did you know that the Army is making chemical weapons history in Anniston?

The Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ANCDF) is destroying a large chemical weapons stockpile that has been stored at Anniston Army Depot (ANAD) for many years.

What are chemical weapons?

The weapons are sturdy containers of various types and sizes holding toxic chemical agents. Contrary to popular belief, chemical agents are not gases. Chemical agents are liquid in original form; however, they deteriorate into a thick, sludge-like substance over long periods of time.

Where are the weapons located?

Anniston Chemical Activity (ANCA), on ANAD, has stored chemical weapons since the mid-1960s. ANCA's mission is to ensure that the storage of the stockpile remains safe for the community, workers and the environment. A trained, professional work force oversees storage and is dedicated to safely maintaining the stockpile until it is destroyed.

What is the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility?

The ANCDF is a state-of-the-art incineration facility designed to dispose of the chemical weapons stored at ANCA safely and efficiently.

How are the weapons being destroyed?

ANCDF incinerates the weapons using robotic equipment that disassembles the weapons and treats each component in a separate incinerator. Specifically, the chemical agent is drained from the weapon and burned in a liquid incinerator, while the weapon's explosive components are destroyed in a special deactivation furnace. You can learn more about incineration in the fact sheet entitled "Incineration: A Safe, Proven Disposal Process."

Who is destroying the weapons?

The Army's Chemical Materials Agency is responsible for safely disposing of the stockpile.

The Army awarded Westinghouse Anniston the contract to build, test, operate and close Anniston's facility. Many other organizations work in partnership with the Army to successfully complete this mission including the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM), the state of Alabama and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Some of your family members, friends or neighbors may work on this important project.

How long will it take to destroy the weapons?

ANCDF disposal operations began in 2003. The Chemical Weapons Convention date for completion of agent destruction is 2012.

How is the environment being protected?

The permits for the facility, which ADEM approved, were written based on studies conducted locally. This ensures that operations at the disposal facility are protective of local citizens, the work force and the environment.

What will happen to the facility once the weapons are gone?

The disposal of the chemical weapons is the final mission. Once the disposal of chemical weapons is complete, ANCDF will be decontaminated and decommissioned.

How can I learn more?

The Anniston Chemical Demilitarization Community Outreach Office is a convenient "one-stop" source of information about the chemical disposal program. The outreach office has a large repository of fact sheets, brochures, exhibits and technical studies for you to peruse. Outreach office staff are available to provide community presentations, hold public meetings, distribute informational materials and attend community functions.



For more information, contact the **Anniston Chemical Demilitarization Community Outreach Office**
11 E. 10th St.
Anniston, AL 36201
Phone: (256) 238-0120
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or contact the **Public Affairs Office**
(256) 238-1652, ext. 235

or the **CMA Public Affairs Office**
(800) 488-0648