

Bring on the VX



Munition handlers Craig Hams and Kim Drysdale place the first VX rocket on the Rocket Metering Machine Monday, Oct. 29.

VX agent campaign begins

The Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) safely destroyed its first VX M55 rocket shortly after noon on Monday, Oct. 29. It was the first munition destroyed in Umatilla's VX nerve agent disposal campaign, which is expected to take about a year and a half.

"This is another landmark day for the Umatilla project," said Don Barclay, site project manager for the Army. "Our team is pleased to get started on its second agent campaign, and we'll continue working toward making our community safer."

Doug Hamrick, project general manager for Washington Group International, which built and operates the disposal plant for the Army, said, "Safety and environmental compliance are our top priorities," he said. "So we'll increase the processing rate gradually to be sure the equipment is working properly and our employees are comfortable with the process."

The VX disposal campaign will include rockets, aircraft-mounted spray tanks, artillery projectiles, and land mines.

Since the last GB munition was destroyed on July 8, a plant "changeover" from GB to VX agent processing was necessary. UMCDF employees converted and tested equipment to monitor and process VX munitions, and underwent extensive refresher training and practice that involved running simulated munitions through the processing lines. The changeover period also provided an opportunity to inspect all the furnaces and processing systems, and perform repairs and annual maintenance.

UMCDF Highlights

- It has been 481 days since a lost-time accident occurred at the UMCDF (July 7, 2006).

Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Processing (Oct. 25 - 31, 2007)

Total number of VX-filled rockets destroyed this period	130
Total number of VX-filled rockets destroyed to date	130
Percentage of VX rockets destroyed to date	0.8
Pounds of VX agent destroyed this period	53.4
Pounds of total agent destroyed to date	53.4
Total munitions destroyed to date since start of operations (Sept. 8, 2004)	155,669
Nominal tons of chemical agent destroyed to date	1,014.01
Percentage of total agent tons destroyed	27.28

UMCD/UMCDF Milestones

- **Oct. 29, 2007:** First VX M55 rocket processed
- **Oct. 26, 2007:** First shipment of VX M55 rockets from depot storage to the disposal facility
- **July 8, 2007:** Final GB 155mm projectile processed through the MPF — GB campaign complete.
- **Feb. 1, 2007:** Processed the first GB 155mm projectiles through the Metal Parts Furnace (MPF).
- **Jan. 25, 2007:** Began the GB 155mm projectile campaign with delivery of munitions from depot storage to the disposal facility.
- **Jan. 3, 2007:** Completed the GB 8-inch projectile campaign.
- **Nov. 6, 2006:** Processed the 100,000th munition stockpiled at Umatilla.
- **Sept. 28, 2006:** Began GB M426 8-inch projectile campaign.
- **Aug. 9, 2006:** Completed GB M55 rocket campaign.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS:

Bruce Henrickson
Phone: (541) 564-5312
bruce.henrickson@us.army.mil

Jim Hackett
Phone: (541) 564-5418
james.s.hackett@us.army.mil

OUTREACH OFFICE:

Steve Meyers
Phone: (541) 564-9339
steve.meyers@umcdf-fo.org

SYSTEMS CONTRACTOR:

Hal McCune
Phone: (541) 564-7304
hal.mccune@wgint.com

Umatilla Chemical Disposal Outreach Office

190 E. Main St.
Hermiston, OR 97838
Phone: (541) 564-9339
Fax: (541) 564-9532

Information Line:
(888) 866-5928
(541) 564-7103

Outreach Office Hours:
8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.,
Monday - Friday
(Additional hours available upon request)