



CMA PROGRESS AT A GLANCE

- **Anniston Chemical Activity, Ala.**, Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility work force has safely processed 60,661 VX-filled 155mm projectiles and 37,192 gallons of liquid VX since disposal operations resumed in June.
- **Deseret Chemical Depot, Utah**, Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility has safely disposed of 2,271 mustard agent-filled ton containers and 1,680 mustard agent-filled 155mm projectiles as of Nov. 25. Mustard operations began in August 2006.
- **Newport Chemical Depot, Ind.**, Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility has safely neutralized 69 percent (1,765,784 pounds) of the Newport agent stockpile. The United States has received credit for destroying 1,377,325 pounds of the Newport stockpile under the Chemical Weapons Convention.
- **Pine Bluff Arsenal, Ark.**, Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility has processed 2,582 VX nerve agent-filled M55 rockets and 23,219 pounds of VX since starting VX operations Oct. 11. A small number of mustard agent samples were shipped from Pine Bluff Arsenal to an off-post laboratory for analysis. These were the fifth and sixth of several shipments of mustard samples that will occur during the next several months.
- **Umatilla Chemical Depot, Ore.**, Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) safely processed its first VX munition, an M55 rocket, Oct. 29. Lt. Col. Bob Stein, depot commander, dedicated the first Enhanced Onsite Container shipment of rockets to Bob Flournoy, long-time chairman of the Oregon Chemical Demilitarization Citizen's Advisory Commission, in honor of the commissioner's public service. In the first three weeks of operation, UMCDF destroyed more than 2,500 rockets.
- **Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project's** Explosive Destruction System at Pine Bluff Arsenal, Ark., continues its mission destroying arsenical German Traktor Rocket (GTR) warheads. The GTR Separation System is being worked to complete pre-operational findings, with an estimated start-up in December. Workers are ramping up the Ton Container Disposal Facility to its operational rate of thermally cleansing ton containers, working toward a maximum rate of ten containers per day.

OPCW EXECUTIVE COUNCIL VISITS ANCDF



Control Room Tour Harry Futral, Westinghouse ANCDF Control Room Supervisor, points to a control room video monitor as he describes safe disposal operations to Ambassador Rogelio Pfrirer OPCW Director-General and his group.

Representatives from the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) Executive Council visited the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Oct. 22-23. During this visit, members toured the facility to get a better understanding of how workers safely dispose of chemical munitions. The tour included a thorough demonstration from the vantage point of the control room of safe chemical munitions

disposal operations that take place within restricted areas of the facility. Dale Ormond, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Elimination of Chemical Weapons and Acting Director, U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, was one of several key U.S. representatives on hand to brief the OPCW group on national and local efforts to safely achieve chemical munitions disposal milestones.

OSHA APPROVES PBCDF FOR ONE OF NATION'S HIGHEST SAFETY HONORS

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) approved the Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility's (PBCDF) application for Star Status in the Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) - one of the nation's highest honors for worker safety

The recognition comes after a team from OSHA reviewed safety processes and procedures and interviewed employees at PBCDF regarding safe work habits. The team made the unanimous recommendation for Star Status due to PBCDF's tremendous performance and commitment to safety and health.

Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health Edwin G. Foulke said, "Designation as a VPP Star participant is a testament to sustained excellence in all areas of your safety and health management system. On behalf of OSHA, I extend my thanks to you and your employees for your commitment,

hard work and dedication to the principles embodied in VPP. "

The VPP is OSHA's tool for promoting excellence in safety through management, leadership and the direct involvement of the workers. The program sets performance-based criteria for a managed safety and health system and assesses applicants against those criteria.

"This is definitely an honor. It confirms that our employees take safety seriously and we have a safety culture in which our employees take great pride," said David Reber, Washington Group International project general manager. "This is another landmark day. The employees at PBCDF have earned this honor."

"This is yet another positive indication of the employees' commitment to safety," said Mark Greer, PBCDF site project manager.



TOCDF BEGINS PROCESSING 155MM PROJECTILES AND OVERCOMES CHALLENGES

Workers at the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) this month began destroying the first of more than 50,000 mustard agent-filled 155mm projectiles stored at Deseret Chemical Depot.

TOCDF workers have successfully destroyed nearly one million projectiles containing GB and VX nerve agents. However, mustard projectiles present different challenges.



After unhooking the first mustard agent-filled 155mm projectile from a lifting device in the Unpack Area, TOCDF Operators Glen Strickland and Dean Nielson prepare to place the munition on the conveyor to be moved into the Explosive Containment Room.

TOCDF operators will not drain the projectiles before conveying them into the facility's Metal Parts Furnace (MPF) because the agent contents are largely solidified. Prior to the start of mustard projectile processing, solid and liquid agent samples were extracted and analyzed for metals content. As a result of the analyses, Utah regulators gave approval for processing the projectiles through the MPF.

In addition, some of the projectiles are configured with explosive components that bonded to the interior components of the projectile. A new remotely-operated Burster Rotating Adapter Device will rotate the "stuck" explosive components, called bursters, to allow removal. Another innovation is a burster-well punch system which will clear a path for furnace heat into the projectiles' agent cavity, facilitating combustion of the liquid and solid agent.

CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION FROM TEAD MOVED TO DCD

This month, Tooele Army Depot (TEAD) began moving low-level explosive ammunition from storage at TEAD, located approximately twenty miles north of Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD), to former chemical storage igloos at the DCD for long-term storage. DCD Commander Col. Frederick Pellissier and TEAD Commander Col. Anne Davis signed an agreement, supporting Army requirements for storage.

Army projections for the FY07 through FY11 period show the total available covered storage space at all U.S. facilities will exceed 85 percent occupancy. It is expected that by FY10 all available covered storage space in that inventory will be occupied.

The occupancy level for TEAD's explosive storage structures is 94 percent as of April 2007. Re-warehousing conventional ammunition presently stored at TEAD will lower overall occupancy levels at a rate of 0.1 percent per DCD igloo filled.

"The use of Area 10 provides TEAD increased ammunition storage capacity so we can better support the Global War on Terrorism and provides a substantial cost savings to AMC," stated Col. Pellissier.

A pre-operational survey was conducted the week of Oct. 15 with no adverse findings. Representatives from the U.S. Army Materiel Command Surety Team reviewed and documented the process to ensure the project is in the best interest of the Army and is safe for the community.

"This move has been a joint effort between the employees of TEAD and DCD. I am very pleased with the dedication of all those involved in making this move a success. This will definitely enhance TEAD's storage capabilities while having no negative impact on DCD's chemical demilitarization mission," said Col. Davis.

VX NERVE AGENT: TWO SITES DOWN, FOUR TO GO!

The risk to the nation from chemical weapons storage will be reduced 97 percent when the Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) destroys the VX nerve agent stockpiles under their responsibility. With the Oct. 29 start of the VX nerve agent disposal campaign at the Umatilla Chemical Depot (UMCD) in Oregon, the efforts began to safely destroy the final nerve agent in the CMA stockpile.

CMA has already destroyed all chemical agents (including VX) at the former Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System in the Pacific and all of the GB and VX nerve agent munitions at the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Utah. Only CMA's disposal facilities at Anniston, Ala., Newport, Ind., Pine Bluff, Ark., and Umatilla, Ore., have VX munitions to destroy. All four facilities are now actively and safely destroying the nerve agent, daily reducing the storage risk to their surrounding communities.

On Oct. 26 the first VX M55 rockets were transported from the UMCD storage bunkers to the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility; operators began processing the rockets the following Monday. Umatilla's VX campaign (rockets, aircraft spray tanks, projectiles and land mines) will take approximately 18 months and will be followed by changeover for their final campaign—processing the mustard blister agent bulk containers.

The Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (PBCDF) also began its VX disposal campaign last month (rockets and land mines). The PBCDF is scheduled to complete its VX campaign in May 2008 and then enter their final campaign—mustard ton containers.

The Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility began VX disposal (rockets, projectiles and land mines) in 2006 and is scheduled for completion in 2010, with a final switch over to the destruction campaign of mustard agent.

The Newport Chemical Depot is unique among the CMA disposal sites in that it only contains VX nerve agent stored in bulk containers. The Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (NECDF) began disposal operations May 5, 2005, and is more than halfway complete. NECDF should wrap up VX destruction by fall 2008, reducing the storage risk to the nearby communities to zero.

Commenting on the final nerve agent campaigns being underway, CMA's Acting Director, Dale Ormond, said, "I am proud of the CMA and contractor work force. In each of these campaigns, including the final mustard campaigns in Utah, Oregon, Arkansas and Alabama, CMA's number one priority is and will remain the safety of its workers, the public and the environment. The stockpile at Blue Grass, Ky. and Pueblo, Co. will be safely guarded until it is destroyed by the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives Agency. It will be a good day when the risk from storing chemical weapons is history."

That day looms on the horizon.