



# CMA NEWS

## February/March 2008

### CMA PROGRESS AT A GLANCE

#### as of March 5, 2008:

- Anniston Chemical Activity, Ala.,** Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility workforce has safely processed 102,014 VX-filled 155-mm projectiles and 62,932 gallons of liquid VX since disposal operations resumed in June 2007.
- Deseret Chemical Depot, Utah,** Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility has safely disposed of 2,271 mustard agent-filled ton containers and 22,573 mustard agent-filled 155-mm projectiles as of March 2. Mustard operations began in August 2006.
- Newport Chemical Depot, Ind.,** Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility workforce has safely neutralized approximately 81 percent of the chemical agent VX stored at Newport Chemical Depot. The United States has received credit for destroying 1,727,310 pounds of the Newport stockpile under the Chemical Weapons Convention.
- Pine Bluff Arsenal, Ark.,** on Jan. 24 and 28 the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality approved the VX Agent Trial Burn Preliminary Data Reports for the Liquid Incinerator (LIC) and the Deactivation Furnace System (DFS). With these approvals, Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility increased the feed rates to the LIC and DFS from 50 to 75 percent. The last VX rocket was processed on Feb. 29, marking the disposal of all rockets formerly safely stored at Pine Bluff Arsenal. The local public risk is reduced by 97 percent. This percentage includes not only the elimination of the rockets, but also the measures implemented to protect the chemical weapons from damage during inclement weather while in the storage igloos.
- Umatilla Chemical Depot, Ore.,** Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility completed VX rocket disposal on Jan. 23, taking three months to safely eliminate the Umatilla Chemical Depot's stockpile of approximately 14,500 VX rockets. Workers are preparing for 155-mm VX projectile disposal in late March by removing equipment in the Explosive Containment Rooms that will no longer be used and decontaminating the rooms so projectile processing equipment can be installed. Other work involves preventive maintenance on the DFS and installation of monitoring equipment to support processing of GB secondary waste, in addition to existing VX agent monitoring.
- Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project's** Ton Container Disposal Facility at Pine Bluff Arsenal (PBA), Ark., continues to process ton containers using the thermal decontamination system, with treated containers being sent to a Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facility for recycling. The Pine Bluff Explosive Destruction System continues to destroy recovered chemical warfare materiel stored at PBA.

### CMA COMPLETES DISPOSAL MISSION MILESTONE

The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) has reached another major milestone with the destruction of a munition type at one of its sites.

This milestone was reached on Feb. 29, 2008, when the Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (PBCDF) at Pine Bluff Arsenal, Ark., destroyed its last M55 rocket.

The end of the M55 rocket campaign reduces the overall cumulative storage risk to the public by 94 percent counting all sites. CMA has safely destroyed all GB and VX-filled M55 rockets stored at Johnston Island in the south Pacific; Tooele, Utah; Pine Bluff, Ark.; Umatilla, Ore.; and Anniston, Ala.

"By destroying the last M55 rocket at Pine Bluff, CMA continues to do its part to improve the safety of those living nearest our stockpiles," said CMA Director Conrad Whyne. "We have reduced the chemical storage risk for the communities around our sites as well as the risk to our workers who are charged with destroying some of the most dangerous weapons from our past."

Rockets represent a greater risk in storage than any other munitions in the U.S. stockpile because they are a complete weapon system, containing high explosives, a propellant motor and an agent-filled warhead that work together to ignite, propel the rocket and release the agent. Each rocket contains approximately 10 pounds of agent.

M55 rockets were never used in combat, but served as a deterrent. Developed in the late 1950s, more than 400,000 were produced in the United States between 1961 and 1965.

CMA overcame both storage and disposal challenges presented by the rockets' explosive configuration.

Safety measures were taken to reduce the risk to workers and the public. GB-filled M55 rockets were targeted first for disposal at each of the above-mentioned sites. CMA also implemented strict inspection procedures, conducted risk assessments and developed contingency plans to reduce risk. Mitigation measures were implemented to reduce the risk of external events such as lightning strikes or earthquakes.

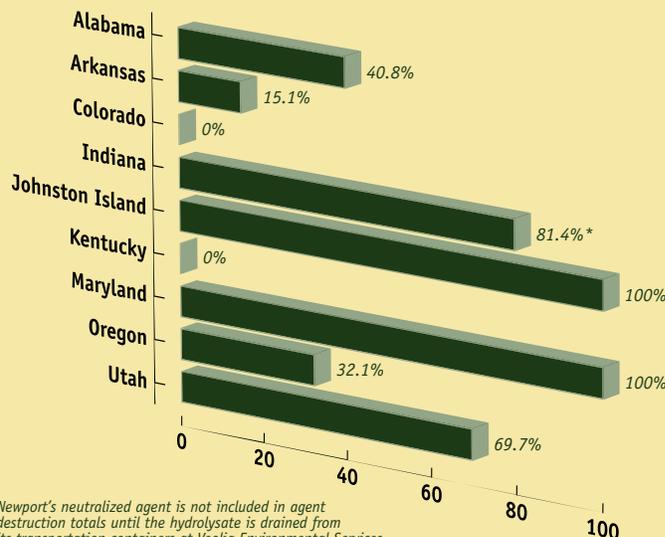
"With both the GB and VX rockets destroyed, the risk to the local Pine Bluff community has been reduced by 97 percent," said Lt. Col. Clifton Johnston, Pine Bluff Chemical Activity commander.

"This is a significant accomplishment for all the dedicated men and women working on the chemical weapons disposal project," said Mark Greer, PBCDF site project manager.

The Pine Bluff facility will now focus on disposing VX-filled land mines. CMA hopes to reach its next major milestone, the elimination of all VX agent, in 2009.

While reaching this rocket disposal milestone is a significant achievement, CMA remains vigilant in its M55 rocket safe storage mission. A CMA subordinate unit, the Blue Grass Chemical Activity, is responsible for the safe storage of M55 rockets at the Blue Grass Army Depot in Richmond, Kentucky. CMA will continue this storage mission pending those rockets being destroyed via the Program Manager for Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA).

### CMA - CREATING A SAFER TOMORROW



# 50.8%

OF U.S. CHEMICAL AGENT STOCKPILE DESTROYED

(as of March 5 measured by original agent tonnage since entry into force - April 29, 1997)

\* Newport's neutralized agent is not included in agent destruction totals until the hydrolysate is drained from its transportation containers at Veolia Environmental Services.



## ALABAMA CAC MEETS DURING CONTRACTOR ROUNDTABLE

*What did we do? What are we planning to do?*

With key questions in mind about the future, Timothy K. Garrett, site project manager, Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ANCDF), spoke to the Alabama Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC) earlier this year.

CAC Chairman Erma Wilkins and fellow commission members were briefed at the 138th Roundtable Luncheon hosted by the ANCDF systems contractor, Westinghouse Anniston.

During his briefing, Garrett stated that Anniston Chemical Activity (ANCA) and ANCDF employees have safely removed from storage and processed 14,177 M55 VX rockets, 75,509 155-mm VX projectiles, 63,006 gallons of VX and 141,868 gallons of decontamination solution in 2007.

As for 2008, Garrett noted that ANCA and ANCDF managers and employees are committed to safe operations and are planning for the conclusion of the VX projectile campaign and the transition to VX land mine disposal operations, as well as the construction and testing of a Linear Projectile and Mortar Disassembly (LPMD) machine.

The LPMD is a new robotic machine that will be tested in Anniston for the removal of energetics and explosives from locally stored mustard-filled munitions. The resulting test data and work experience will be used by personnel in Pueblo, Colo., when chemical munitions demilitarization operations begin there.

Following the luncheon, Wilkins said the CAC appreciates and supports all of the achievements made to safely dispose of the chemical munitions. She congratulated the Anniston team for reducing community risk from a possible but unlikely incident involving the chemical munitions stored at Anniston Army Depot.

The Westinghouse Roundtable Luncheons have been a staple of the project's outreach program since Westinghouse became the systems contractor on Feb. 29, 1996.

Three of six emergency management agency directors from surrounding counties also attended the informational luncheon, which was held in the Anniston Outreach Office.



*Timothy K. Garrett, site project manager, Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, briefs members of the Alabama Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission and County Emergency Management Agency directors during a Roundtable Luncheon earlier this year.*

## CMA HOSTS "INDUSTRY DAY" TO INVESTIGATE ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGIES

As the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) continues its steady progress in safely eliminating the nation's stockpile of nerve and mustard agents, it must plan for the elimination of smaller amounts of agents which require disposal under the Chemical Weapons Convention. Recently, CMA invited technology vendors to attend an "industry day" briefing at the Chemical Demilitarization Training Facility at Aberdeen Proving Ground - Edgewood Area, Md. to discuss the safe destruction of two such agents, Lewisite (L) and Tabun (GA).

Although the majority of the U.S. chemical agent stockpile consists of the nerve agents GB and VX, and mustard blister agents HD and HT, small amounts of L (a blister agent and lung irritant), GA (a nerve agent similar to GB), and GA/UCON (GA combined with a thickening agent), are held in one-ton bulk agent containers at Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD), Tooele, Utah. Because the quantities of L, GA and GA/UCON are comparatively small, CMA is looking for opportunities to destroy them in a cost-effective and timely manner without impacting other agent destruction efforts.

At the briefing held Sept. 27, 2007, CMA representatives described the challenges and requirements of L, GA and GA/UCON disposal and disposal programs for secondary waste (waste generated from chemical agent storage and destruction). The forum also provided attendees the

opportunity to participate in a question and answer session. At the conclusion of the briefing, interested technology providers were given guidelines indicating how to submit information papers for consideration by CMA in its disposal technology assessment.

This process of working with outside vendors and agencies to determine alternative technologies has been used by CMA throughout its history of chemical weapons storage and disposal. While existing technologies at DCD can safely eliminate L, GA and GA/UCON, the facility was designed to treat large quantities of specific chemical agents, and requires rigorous changeover of equipment and facilities (for example, decontamination of areas and calibration of new agent monitors) when preparing to process different types of chemical agent. For this reason, the Army is interested in whether other technologies could safely destroy these materials with less impact on existing stockpile destruction campaigns.

The Army is awaiting input from interested parties on the availability and maturity of technology before it finalizes disposal plans for the L/GA material. CMA remains committed to the safe, efficient disposal of the U.S. chemical agent stockpile, using technologies that ensure protection of workers, the public and the environment.