

### Depot honors victims of World War II igloo blast



*Sgt. 1st Class Mack Dyer rings a bell in honor of the victims of an accidental explosion at the depot on March 21, 1944. The bell sounded six times, once for each victim.*

About 60 people braved the wind and cold Wednesday to pay tribute to the individuals who lost their lives in the only fatal munitions accident in Umatilla Chemical Depot history. On the evening of March 21, 1944, an igloo filled with 500-lb. bombs exploded and killed six civilian workers. The force of the blast was felt up to 25 miles away and heard even further.

Yesterday, surviving members of one of the victims, as well as an office worker on duty that night, attended the commemoration, along with dignitaries from the Hermiston area. Depot Commander Lt. Col. Bob Stein presided over the ceremony.

### VX 'projo' campaign begins with munitions movement

The Umatilla Chemical Depot and Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) officially kicked off its VX 155mm projectile campaign today. Depot chemical operations sent several containers of the munitions to the plant in preparation for disposal activities. Processing the first 'projos' will occur either today or tomorrow.

The event caps an eight-week changeover period as the plant transitioned from the VX rocket campaign, which ended on Jan. 23.

### UMCDF Highlights

- It has been 621 days, or more than 2.7 million work hours, since a lost-time accident occurred at the UMCDF (July 7, 2006).

### Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Processing (March 13 - 19, 2008)

Total number of VX-filled rockets destroyed this period	
Total VX-filled rockets destroyed to date	<b>14,519</b>
Percentage of VX rockets destroyed to date	<b>100</b>
Total number of VX-filled spray tanks destroyed this period	
Total VX-filled spray tanks destroyed	<b>156</b>
Percentage of VX-filled spray tanks destroyed	<b>100</b>
Pounds of VX agent destroyed this period	<b>11,307</b>
Pounds of total VX agent destroyed to date	<b>363,641</b>
Total munitions destroyed to date since start of operations (Sept. 7, 2004) including non-stockpile GB and VX ton containers	<b>170,219</b>
Nominal tons of chemical agent destroyed to date (stockpile only)	<b>1,192.37</b>
Percentage of total agent tons destroyed	<b>32.08</b>

### UMCD/UMCDF Milestones

- **Jan. 23, 2008:** Completed VX rocket campaign.
- **Dec. 24, 2007:** Completed VX spray tank campaign.
- **Nov. 26, 2007:** Processed the non-stockpile VX ton container.
- **Nov. 23, 2007:** Destroyed the first VX spray tanks in the MPF.
- **Nov. 19, 2007:** First VX spray tank transported from depot storage to disposal plant.
- **Nov. 9, 2007:** First VX chemical agent destroyed in the Liquid Incinerator (LIC).
- **Oct. 29, 2007:** Processed the first VX M55 rockets in the Deactivation Furnace System (DFS).
- **Oct. 26, 2007:** First VX M55 rockets transported from depot storage to disposal plant.
- **July 8, 2007:** Completed GB munitions campaign.

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