



### CMA PROGRESS AT A GLANCE

#### as of April 7, 2008:

- **Anniston Chemical Activity, Ala.**, Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility work force has safely processed 118,452 VX-filled 155mm projectiles and 73,105 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 32,289 mustard agent-filled 155mm projectiles as of April 6. Mustard operations began in August 2006.
- **Newport Chemical Depot, Ind.**, Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility work force has safely neutralized approximately 85 percent of the chemical agent VX stored at Newport Chemical Depot. The United States has received credit for destroying 1,817,413 pounds of the Newport stockpile under the Chemical Weapons Convention.
- **Pine Bluff Arsenal, Ark.**, Mr. Paul Hansen, Area Director for Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Region VI, presented URS/EG&G WDC Project General Manager David Reber with the Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Star Status flag and plaque. OSHA uses the VPP as a tool to promote excellence in safety through management leadership and the direct involvement of the workers. The VPP Star status is the highest honor the program can award a facility's employees.  
In addition, Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (PBCDF) was honored by the Arkansas Department of Labor for achieving 10 million safe man-hours without a lost day away from work. PBCDF is one of five companies to achieve the 10 million safe hours mark in Arkansas history.  
During the week of March 17, PBCDF processed the Rocket Shear Machine 101 through the Metal Parts Furnace. Assembly of the Mine Handling System began in the Explosive Containment Room (A).
- **Umatilla Chemical Depot, Ore.**, on March 20, the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) began the 155mm VX projectile campaign with the receipt of the first delivery of projectiles from Umatilla Chemical Depot. As of April 16, UMCDF has processed 4,976 155mm VX projectiles. When destruction of these projectiles is complete, the facility will retool for 8-inch VX projectiles.
- **Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project's** Ton Container Decontamination Facility at Pine Bluff Arsenal (PBA), Ark., continues to process ton containers using the thermal decontamination system. Treated containers are sent to a treatment, storage and disposal facility for recycling. The Pine Bluff Explosive Destruction System continues to destroy the recovered chemical warfare materiel stored at PBA.

### CMA LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE FOCUSES ON CURRENT, FUTURE SUCCESS

The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) has "one of the best teams of personnel in our history," said CMA Director Conrad Whyne at the CMA Leadership Conference March 12-14, and CMA is in "our best position in years."

"The storage mission is fully funded, and all five demil plants are operating," he said. "I am proud to have been chosen to lead this great group of personnel, and look forward to continuing to meet the challenges that we face daily."

The conference, held at Deseret Chemical Depot, Utah, brought together commanders, site project managers and support staff to discuss the Agency's path forward as destruction of chemical warfare materiel continues.

Whyne focused on the qualities that make a leader during his opening remarks, drawing heavily on an article by Lt. Col. (R) Larry Dandridge.

"A leader is assertive, but not aggressive. A leader is fair, predictable and consistent," he said. "Leading when you can, following when you should and getting out of the way when you have nothing to offer is leadership. Leadership knows that the most important word is 'we' and the least important word is 'I'."

"These are some of the values we expect in CMA," Whyne said. "We see these traits in CMA today. We expect continuous improvement."

He noted that in the past, attaining a zero Recordable Injury Rate (RIR) seemed to be an impossible goal. Now, with every site's RIR averaging less than 1.0, perfection is an attainable goal.

"My number one vision is finish the storage and destruction of the stockpile safely, with an RIR of zero, and zero human environmental findings," he said. "I want CMA to continue to set the bar high and to continue to be used

**"...the most important word is we and the least important word is I."**

— *Conrad Whyne*  
*Director, CMA*

as an example for other programs. I want our employees taken care of to the best of our abilities. At the same time, I am committed to making sure that we set our employees up for success in the future while continuing to improve our professional development opportunities and improve and expand our internal communications."

Whyne also introduced Don Barclay, CMA's new Deputy Director, who joined the CMA Headquarters' staff after serving as the site project manager at Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility. He described his work as "the implementing arm of Mr. Whyne's vision."

The conference included updates on surety, including how changes to AR 50-6 may affect CMA storage and demilitarization operations. CMA Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Graham joined the meeting on the second day, and encouraged the Agency's leaders to "take advantage of the different management styles" provided by civilians and noncommissioned officers.

"Civilians have the technical side, and the military has the task and military side," Sgt. Maj. Graham said. "A non-commissioned officer with responsibility and no authority can't do anything."

The next CMA Leadership Conference is scheduled for Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., July 29-31, 2008. Meanwhile, the work at CMA will continue, Whyne said.

"We have a lot of work to do, many years to go," he said. "But there are many milestones to achieve before we are done."



## PLANS FOR OPERATION SWIFT SOLUTION CONTINUE AT BGAD

Planning continues for Operation Swift Solution, the early destruction of three ton containers (TCs) along with their GB and acidic liquid contents at Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD), Ky. Elimination of these three bulk containers will pay dividends for the eventual destruction facility, but more so for Blue Grass workers and community.

In late August 2007, the oldest of the three TCs developed a leak from one of the plugs, allowing roughly one gallon of the nerve agent/acid mixture to escape into its secondary containment steel pan. Although the toxic chemical workers at Blue Grass Chemical Activity (BGCA) were successful in containing the hazard, decontaminating the TC, and replacing the plug, the extreme deterioration of the containers left no option other than neutralizing their contents and destroying all three TCs much earlier than originally scheduled.

The project is a combined effort between the Program Manager Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA), Chemical Materials Agency



*BGCA toxic chemical workers prepare to shroud the ton containers with plastic sheeting, adding yet another safeguard against a possible vapor leak from the bulk chemical containers. (U.S. Army photo)*

(CMA), Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC), BGAD and BGCA. While the execution date for the operations schedule has not yet been solidified, emphasis has steadfastly remained on a safe, transparent and deliberate process. Extensive coordination for the required temporary permit from the State of Kentucky continues.

Likewise, multiple community briefings and solicitations of input have been accomplished. Meanwhile, the details and execution planning for Operation Swift Solution are well under way.

Once an authorization from the State has been received, ECBC will ship its Chemical Agent Transfer System (CHATS) system to BGAD, along with a secondary containment structure. A series of training and pre-operations checks will occur and BGCA then will begin moving TCs to the destruction location. ECBC then will begin draining the TCs and neutralizing and analyzing their contents. Neutralization is expected to be completed in approximately 55 to 60 operating days. Several legacy waste containers are also planned to be destroyed during this operation.

The TCs themselves will be cut up, decontaminated and sent to an approved steel recycling center.

In the end, Blue Grass workers and the community will be safer and the CMA/ACWA team will be one step closer to complete destruction of America's chemical stockpile.

## SERGEANT MAJOR GRAHAM JOINS CMA

"My first impression of CMA was 'what a remarkable organization!' I am really happy to be here in Maryland where everyone has been so helpful," said Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Graham.

Joining CMA in January 2008 in the newly created headquarters position of senior enlisted advisor, Graham's position entails working with all employees within the organization to assist with any issues or concerns they may have. He will be a personal advisor to CMA's Director Conrad Whyne.

As part of his role at CMA, Graham will travel to chemical demilitarization storage and disposal sites. While there, he plans to take advantage of opportunities to tour the facilities to see how they operate and to meet the employees. He added, "I want to be hands on and meet the individuals who put the munitions in the metal parts furnace and see how the liquid incineration furnaces operate."

Graham's preparation for this assignment spans 20 years of service in the Army in various leadership roles. Prior to coming

to CMA, Graham was assigned to the 13th Sustainment Command in Fort Hood, Texas. He also did three tours in Iraq, as well as tours in Bosnia and during Operation Desert Storm.

Graham's parents and siblings live in Warren, Ohio, where he was raised. Now that Graham is living on the East Coast he will experience a very different climate from the Texas heat that he, his wife and daughter had become accustomed to.

"I had to deal with a lot of heat and sand when I did my tours in Iraq. However, Bosnia had a climate very similar to what I expect to see here in Maryland," Graham said.

While living in Maryland, Graham also hopes to finish his bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts. He will continue his education by working toward a master's degree in Homeland Security.

When he is not studying, he enjoys riding his motorcycle, golfing and fishing.

"I am really looking forward to fishing in the Chesapeake Bay," Graham said.



*Russell Fendick, Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project (NSCMP) Field Operations Group Leader, explains to Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Graham how the Portable Isotopic Neutron Spectroscopy (PINS) system assesses the contents of suspect chemical warfare materiel.*