

**CMA PROGRESS AT A GLANCE**

as of May 20, 2008:

- **Anniston Chemical Activity, Ala.**, Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility's work force has safely processed 136,757 VX-filled 155mm projectiles and 84,498 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 42,228 mustard agent-filled 155mm projectiles as of May 18. Mustard operations began in August 2006.
- **Newport Chemical Depot, Ind.**, Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility's work force has safely neutralized approximately 91 percent of the chemical agent VX stored at Newport Chemical Depot. The U.S. has received credit for destroying 2,051,712 pounds of the Newport stockpile under the Chemical Weapons Convention.
- **Pine Bluff Arsenal, Ark.**, Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (PBCDF) started processing M23 VX landmines on May 3, and has processed 1,254 mines and 17,959 pounds of VX agent from the mines as of May 19. On May 8, the initial public pre-application meeting for the PBCDF Resource Conservation and Recovery Act permit renewal was held. The meeting was an opportunity for the public to ask questions about the proposed permit renewal application, which will be submitted to the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality by July 15, 2008.
- **Umatilla Chemical Depot, Ore.**, Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility and Umatilla Chemical Depot workers have safely transported and destroyed one-third of the chemical agent tonnage originally stored in the depot's chemical weapons stockpile. The destruction milestone was reached May 4 as the disposal facility processed 155mm VX artillery projectiles. Overall the disposal facility is more than halfway through the VX nerve agent disposal campaign. Disposal operations were temporarily halted on May 14 when brine strainers in the Liquid Incinerator's (LIC) quench tower became plugged and the plant's protective systems shut down operations. There were no injuries and no danger to the community or environment. Work to repair the LIC continued through May.
- **Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project's** Ton Container Decontamination Facility at Pine Bluff Arsenal (PBA), Ark., continues to process ton containers using thermal decontamination and has processed approximately 700 containers. The Pine Bluff Explosive Destruction System continues to destroy recovered chemical warfare materiel stored at PBA and is more than 93 percent completed.

UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT, CMA PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL EXERCISE

On May 5-7, 2008, the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) held a three-day exercise at the Umatilla Chemical Depot (UMCD), Ore., and surrounding Oregon and Washington communities as part of a larger eight-day National Level Exercise.

The Umatilla Vignette of the Pacific Northwest Venue of National Level Exercise 2-08, provided emergency management officials in Oregon and Washington an opportunity to work with various Federal agencies in responding to and recovering from a chemical accident simultaneous with other national and regional incidents.

At Umatilla, the Army's Service Response Force (SRF), under command of U.S. Army Materiel Command Maj. Gen. James Pillsbury, provided significant reinforcements and coordination between states and Federal agencies. The national exercise involved scenarios around the country in addition to the chemical event at UMCD, such as a hurricane on the East Coast and terrorist events on the West Coast. Canada also conducted its Staunch Maple Exercise linked to these events.

"The exercise involved a lot of planning, people and coordination," said Lt. Col. Bob Stein, UMCD commander. "Overall, it was a success, and we're evaluating the lessons learned."

Though the first day of the Umatilla exercise focused on the initial emergency response and the next two days focused on re-entry and recovery drills, emergency response for the community continued through all three days as additional scenarios were injected into the exercise. For example, exercise scenarios included agricultural workers reported missing near the depot and a multi-vehicle bus accident that involved numerous deaths.

CSEPP began in 1988 to protect and improve preparedness in the country's chemical stockpile areas. The National Exercise Program was formed as a result of lessons learned after 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina. The SRF can be deployed in the event of a serious Army post accident or incident. For Department of Defense incidents, the SRF commander serves as the senior federal official to coordinate recovery efforts including technical capabilities to detect, analyze and mitigate hazards; Federal assistance; claims offices; environmental recovery; and communications and logistical support.

NEWPORT CHEMICAL DEPOT REACHES 90 PERCENT VX DESTRUCTION

Workers at the Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (NECDF) have safely neutralized 90 percent of the VX stored at the Newport Chemical Depot.

"I am proud of each member of the Newport team. Employees here are leaders of strong safety practices and will continue to be until all operations are complete," said Depot Commander Lt. Col. Brian Lynch.

According to NECDF Site Project Manager Jeff Brubaker, "We are predicting agent neutralization operations to be completed by summer's end. Reaching the safe destruction

of 90 percent of the stockpile makes us realize just how close we are to completing our project mission. The Newport team should be very proud of the work they are performing in order to make our nation safer."

Once agent neutralization operations are completed, the site will focus efforts on thorough decontamination of the equipment and demolition of the buildings used for agent neutralization operations. It is anticipated that this stage of the project will take approximately 18 to 24 months to complete.



BLUE GRASS CHEMICAL ACTIVITY AND BLUE GRASS ARMY DEPOT PARTICIPATE IN MADISON COUNTY SAFETY FAIR

More than 2,000 people attended the Madison County Safety Fair in Richmond, Ky., on Saturday, May 10, and most stopped by the Blue Grass Chemical Activity (BGCA) display to learn more about the chemical weapons stored at Blue Grass Army Depot. The display also illustrated how BGCA is fulfilling its mission of safe storage and monitoring.

The BGCA display was highlighted by a Real Time Analytical Platform (RTAP), a mobile laboratory capable of detecting chemical agent vapor at extremely low levels. Chris Chasteen, the RTAP operator, guided fairgoers through the vehicle explaining the operation and capabilities of its state-of-the-art gas chromatographs.

Two toxic chemical workers, Mike Young and Jason Kumfer, explained chemical weapons storage using inert Simulation Equipment Test Hardware (SETH) M55 rockets and SETH 8-inch projectiles. Scale see-through models of the munitions were on display along with models of an Enhanced On-Site Container and a Ton Container, helping with the explanations and demonstrations.



Madison County community members examine the display area while being briefed by one of the BGCA toxic chemical handlers.

An electric forklift capable of turning the forks sideways to navigate the narrow aisles within the igloos, where the chemical weapons are stored, was also on display. The BGCA exhibit was co-located with an information tent set up by the Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Destruction Pilot Plant's outreach office.

Anticipating the crowds, Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program Coordinator

Terry Ford and BGCA Commander Lt. Col. Thomas Closs, provided additional assistance.

"All in all, it was a great day," Lt. Col. Closs said. "The crowds seemed very appreciative of the work we do to reduce risk and safely maintain the chemical weapons stockpile. Who knows, we may have influenced some youngster, with an interest in chemistry, to come work for us one day."

VX LANDMINE DISPOSAL OPERATIONS BEGIN AT PINE BLUFF ARSENAL

On May 3, employees at the Pine Bluff Chemical Activity (PBCA) successfully transported the first enhanced onsite container carrying VX-filled landmines from the storage area to the disposal facility. The Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (PBCDF) then destroyed the first VX landmine.

"The VX landmines are the third of four disposal campaigns for us," said Lt. Col. Cliff Johnston, PBCA commander. "We are excited to be this far along in our operations."

Chemical weapons disposal operations began at Pine Bluff Arsenal, Ark., in March 2005 with the GB nerve-agent filled rockets. The second disposal campaign was VX nerve-agent filled rockets, which ended in February 2008.

"We have begun landmine disposal operations safely and several months ahead of schedule," said Mark Greer, PBCDF site project manager. "Current estimates place the end of landmine disposal operations at later this summer."



Following the completion of VX landmine disposal operations, there will be a changeover period, during which the facility and personnel will prepare for mustard ton container disposal operations. The mustard blister-agent filled ton containers will be the last disposal campaign at PBCDF.

"Our employees are committed to continue their outstanding record of safe disposal operations as we now have the opportunity to focus on mines for the first time," said David Reber, project general manager for Washington Defense Group, EG&G Division of URS Corporation, which built and operates the plant for the Army.

Prior to chemical weapons disposal, the arsenal safely stored 3,850 tons of chemical agent, or 12 percent of the Army's original chemical weapons stockpile, for more than 60 years.

With the completion of the GB and VX rocket campaigns, PBCDF has eliminated more than one million pounds of chemical agent, 15 percent of the total chemical agent in the arsenal's original stockpile.