

Army increases Oregon's Burrowing Owl habitat



Umatilla Chemical Depot Environmental staff, U.S. Fish and Wildlife biologists and volunteers have partnered to construct new homes for Burrowing Owls from modern materials that mimic desirable features — including the prerequisite darkness and dirt floors. The artificial burrows have several advantages including easy access points for banding or counting owls, plus predator-proof construction. The owls, a prevalent species on the depot, are a “bird of conservation concern” in the United States. Within a day of the first owl “condos” being installed, an owl nicknamed “Buffy” (pictured above) moved in to one of the 18 burrows.

UMCDF supports Hermiston's Breakfast of Champions

Washington Defense Group/UMCDF is once again the major sponsor of the Breakfast of Champions, which highlights student achievement and exemplary behavior in the greater Hermiston area.

The first of three Breakfast of Champions events planned for the school year was held Wednesday morning at the Hermiston Conference Center.

The Greater Hermiston Chamber of Commerce honors and recognizes students from the Hermiston School District, Hermiston Junior Academy and Hermiston Christian School, as well as the school districts of Echo, Stanfield and Umatilla. Teachers share stories of success about each student honored.

Hal McCune, UMCDF Protocol manager, noted that the site takes great pride in safely destroying the chemical weapons stored at the depot, ensuring a brighter future for the community and its students. He added that the most important resource of any community is its children, which is why UMCDF is happy to support the Breakfast of Champions.

UMCDF Highlights

- It has been 824 days, or more than 3 million work hours, since a lost-time accident occurred at the UMCDF (July 7, 2006).

Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Processing (Oct. 2 - 8, 2008)

Total number of VX-filled land mines destroyed this period	1,761
Total VX land mines destroyed to date	2,637
Percentage of VX land mines destroyed to date	22.6
Pounds of VX agent destroyed this period	21,359
Pounds of total VX agent destroyed to date	607,524
Total munitions destroyed to date since start of operations (Sept. 7, 2004) <i>including non-stockpile GB and VX ton containers</i>	208,917
Nominal tons of chemical agent destroyed to date	1,330.35
Percentage of total agent tons destroyed	35.79

UMCD/UMCDF Milestones

- Sept. 25, 2008:** First mines transported from depot storage to disposal plant; first mines destroyed in the Deactivation Furnace System (DFS).
- Aug. 6, 2008:** Completed VX 8-inch projectile campaign.
- July 16, 2008:** Processed first VX 8-inch projectile in the Metal Parts Furnace (MPF).
- July 15, 2008:** First VX 8-inch projectiles transported from depot storage to disposal plant.
- June 27, 2008:** Completed VX 155mm projectile campaign.
- March 21, 2008:** Destroyed first VX 155mm projectile in the MPF.
- March 20, 2008:** First VX 155mm projectiles transported from depot storage to disposal plant.
- 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 DFS.
- Oct. 26, 2007:** First VX M55 rockets transported from depot storage to disposal plant.
- July 8, 2007:** Completed GB munitions campaign.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS:

Bruce Henrickson
Phone: (541) 564-5312
bruce.henrickson@us.army.mil

Jim Hackett
Phone: (541) 564-5418
james.s.hackett@us.army.mil

OUTREACH OFFICE:

Steve Meyers
Phone: (541) 564-9339
steve.meyers@umcdf-fo.org

SYSTEMS CONTRACTOR:

Hal McCune
Phone: (541) 564-7304
hal.mccune@wgint.com

Umatilla Chemical Disposal Outreach Office

190 E. Main St.
Hermiston, OR 97838
Phone: (541) 564-9339
Fax: (541) 564-9532

Information Line:
(888) 866-5928
(541) 564-7103

Outreach Office Hours:
8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.,
Monday - Friday
(Additional hours available upon request)