

Six Million Safe Man-Hours!

Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) workers marked a major industrial safety milestone on November 7 – the TOCDF team reached and surpassed six million consecutive man-hours without a lost workday injury.

EG&G Vice President and General Manager Gary McCloskey congratulated workers, noting it was the first time in the project's history that workers had reached the six million safe man-hours milestone. "Our workers have been working safely without a single lost workday injury for more than three years. Very few industrial plants in the world have achieved this level of safety performance, let alone one with such a challenging and high-hazard mission. Our people have made this project successful, and they deserve this recognition for an outstanding achievement," McCloskey said.

Nearly 1,000 men and women are employed at the TOCDF, where they are safely destroying the Army's single-largest stockpile of chemical weapons stored at the Deseret Chemical Depot. TOCDF workers have destroyed more than one million chemical weapons, representing nearly 10,000 tons of chemical agents.

Since the start of the project, TOCDF workers have recorded seven different strings of more than one million consecutive safe man-hours. The previous project record was 3,579,072 hours, set between July 16, 2002, and September 14, 2004. The current string of more than six million hours began on October 26, 2005.

Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Processing

(as of Nov. 16, 2008)

Total number of mustard agent-filled bulk containers destroyed	2,625
Total number of mustard agent-filled 155mm projectiles destroyed	54,453
Percentage of total mustard agent stockpile destroyed	42.93%



DCD Commander Col. Gerald L. Gladney signs the Army Community Covenant, which serves as a formal commitment of support from local communities to soldiers and vice versa.

A Sign of Support

Military and community leaders in Tooele County have joined together in support of U.S. soldiers. Commanders from all three Army bases and the mayors of Grantsville and Tooele recently signed the Army Community Covenant. The covenant is a formal commitment of support by local communities to soldiers and their families.

"It is an honor to sign this covenant," said Tooele Mayor Patrick Dunlavy. "It reiterates the tradition of honor and gratitude that Tooele has with the military."

Dunlavy pointed out Veterans' Memorial Park as a key example of the city's appreciation for the country's servicemen and women. "We built that park to show that our community loves them and honors them."

Col. Robert E. Jones Jr., Commander of Dugway Proving Ground, said that gratitude runs both ways. "We are here today to sign a covenant, but more importantly we're here to say 'thank you.' We're grateful for your support, we're grateful to be a part of this county, of this state, and of this great country."

Col. Gerald L. Gladney, Commander of Deseret Chemical Depot; Col. Yolanda C. Dennis-Lowman, Commander of Tooele Army Depot; and Grantsville Mayor Byron Anderson also signed the Community Covenant. A group of soldiers and their families also attended the signing, which took place following the Tooele County Chamber of Commerce monthly luncheon held on Nov. 12, 2008.

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Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office

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Outreach Office Hours:

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Monday - Friday

(Additional hours available upon request)



Past and present Newport Chemical Depot Commanders attended the chemical stockpile elimination ceremony on Oct. 25. (Pictured left to right) Col. Scott Kimmell, Lt. Col. Brian Lynch, current NECD Commander Lt. Col. William Hibner, Col. Christopher Isaacson (retired) and Col. Joseph Marquart.

Newport Ceremony Celebrates Elimination of Chemical Stockpile

A ceremony commemorating elimination of the chemical stockpile that was stored at Newport Chemical Depot was held Oct. 25 at South Vermillion High School in Clinton, Ind. The ceremony was hosted by the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA); Newport Chemical Depot (NECD), where workers monitored and guarded the stockpile; and the Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (NECDF), where the employees neutralized the VX.

Workers at NECDF began destroying the stockpile on May 5, 2005 and the last batch was neutralized on August 8, 2008. Indiana is now the third site in the United States to completely eliminate its stockpile of chemical agent, following Johnston Atoll, a U.S. territory southwest of Hawaii, and Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Maryland.

After an invocation by Ronald C. Henton, Mason & Hanger vice president and general manager, a welcome was provided by CMA Director Conrad F. Whyne. Mr. Whyne noted that the project's recordable injury rate (RIR) at the end of neutralization operations was 0.53, which is far less than the industry average of 4.6, or even the CMA average of 1.27. The RIR is the number of reportable injuries for every 200,000 hours worked.

Col. Robert B. Billington, Project Manager Chemical Stockpile Elimination, pointed out the decision to process hydrolysate, the byproduct of VX neutralization, off site was complicated, but it proved to be the safest and most cost-effective option for

Newport. He added that Newport shipped 424 truckloads of hydrolysate to Veolia Environmental Services in Port Arthur, Texas, without incident in nearly a year and a half.

Col. Billington commented, "I credit the workers and leadership at CMA, Parsons, Mason & Hanger, Veolia Environmental Services and Tri-State Motor Transit for remaining steadfast and working together to put safety first throughout this process."

Emphasizing the international importance of the facility's accomplishment, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army Carmen J. Spencer said, "The example of the depot and NECDF in completing your missions is truly a model for the world to follow. As we share our destruction technology with the other signatory nations of the world, we will also be sharing the example of your work here."

Lt. Col. William D. Hibner shared a brief depot history and a member of the contract work force, Mona Harney, provided reflections on the local Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP)

Upcoming Events

- Dec. 3, 6:00 p.m. – TOCDF RCRA Class 2 and Class 3 Permit Modification public meetings. The meetings will be held at the Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office, 54 S. Main Street in Tooele.

The Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office will be closed on Nov. 27 and 28 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

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