



CMA PROGRESS AT A GLANCE

as of Jan. 28, 2009:

Anniston Chemical Activity, Ala.: On December 24, 2008, the last VX-filled land mine was safely demilitarized, concluding the storage and disposal of Anniston's stockpile of nerve agent munitions. Altogether, 361,802 GB and VX-filled munitions, as well as 293,003 gallons of liquid nerve agent have been safely eliminated from Anniston's storage igloos and the U.S. inventory. The Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility is in a changeover period in preparation for the final chemical munitions demilitarization phase, mustard (blister) agent-filled munitions. This destruction phase is scheduled to begin in spring or early summer.

Deseret Chemical Depot, Utah: Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility continues to process mustard filled TCs. They have safely destroyed 2,964 mustard agent-filled ton containers and 54,453 mustard agent-filled 155 mm projectiles since mustard operations began in August 2006.

Newport Chemical Depot, Ind.: Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility's work force continues closure activities. In the utility building toxic cubicle, agent pumps and piping have been removed. Demolition of the Chemical Agent Transfer System (CHATS) gloveboxes is complete, as well as the airlock installation between the Toxic Maintenance Area and the CHATS. The next step will be decontamination of agent/reactor skids.

Pine Bluff Chemical Activity, Ark.: Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (PBCDF) received approval from the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) to process secondary waste carbon filters and multiple chemical agents. The site has successfully completed "mini-burns" which are preparatory processing runs of the two mustard agent campaign furnace systems – the Liquid Incinerator and Metal Parts Furnace. The mini-burns were done to ensure that the plant is ready to perform two, eight-hour processing runs to show the furnace systems operate at 90 percent or better of the permitted feed rates established by the ADEQ. The eight-hour processing runs are a prerequisite for the Agent Trial Burns (ATB), a series of tests designed to demonstrate the environmental performance of the furnace systems to the site's regulatory agencies. The ATBs for the mustard campaign are scheduled to begin this month. PBCDF has successfully performed ATBs in every furnace for each prior agent campaign.

Umatilla Chemical Depot, Ore.: Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility continues its changeover from VX nerve agent to mustard (blister) agent. The VX campaign concluded in November 2008. Mustard agent processing is scheduled to begin in spring or early summer.

Veolia Ceremony Marks End of Newport Hydrolysate Destruction

On Feb. 3, a joint ceremony was held to commemorate the end of VX hydrolysate destruction.

The ceremony was held at Veolia Environmental Services in Port Arthur, Texas, and marked the end of processing the caustic waste water, commonly referred to as hydrolysate, produced in the neutralization process of bulk VX nerve agent at the U.S. Army's Newport Chemical Depot in Indiana.

Ceremony attendees included Mr. Conrad Whyne, director of the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency; Col. Robert Billington, CMA's Project Manager for Chemical Stockpile Elimination, Mr. Jim Bell, chief executive officer for Veolia, and Mr. Glen Garret, owner and president of Tri-State Motor Transit, the company Veolia used for transporting the hydrolysate nearly 1,000 miles from Indiana to Texas.

The project was completed without incident in both transport and destruction, with Tri-State delivering more than 400 isotainers of hydrolysate, totaling nearly 2 million gallons of caustic waste water, to Veolia for ultimate destruction. Transportation of the wastes began on April 16, 2007 and ended on Sept. 4, 2008.

Whyne thanked both companies and their employees for a job well done. "Thank you and your dedicated employees," Whyne said in addressing Bell. "Veolia has done an outstanding job partnering with the U.S. Army in the Newport hydrolysate project. The Army has enjoyed considerable success in that partnership and (has) every reason to expect more of the same as we move toward the completion of our mission, the safe and complete destruction of our chemical weapons stockpile."

Addressing Garret, Whyne said "thank you to Tri-State and its team of dedicated professionals who ably transported the caustic waste water here for disposal. Getting (it) from point A to point B can sound simple, but prove most difficult."

Col. Billington echoed Whyne's remarks by saying "We need to concentrate on what the end result of this effort shows and that is a real commitment to safety and sound environmental practices by both Veolia and



Col. Robert Billington, CMA Project Manager for Chemical Stockpile Elimination, Mitch Osborne, General Manager of Veolia Environmental Services, Conrad Whyne, Director of the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, and Greg Allen, CMA Treaty Office take a tour of Veolia's Port Arthur facility.

Tri-State. Attention to the smallest detail was always paid by those of you on the front lines of this effort. Thank you for your efforts."

The project was the culmination of hard work between the Army, various oversight officials, Veolia and Tri-State. Originally, the hydrolysate was to be treated on site in Indiana at the Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (NECDF) on the depot, but complications with the chosen destruction technology persisted. The Army then moved to use an alternative technology, first in Ohio, and, when that effort failed, in New Jersey. Both efforts were met with opposition and eventually shelved. Veolia approached the Army with its solution and both Veolia and the Army worked with local stakeholders in Indiana, Texas and Washington to facilitate the plan before the Army awarded the contract to Veolia. In an unprecedented move, the Army and Veolia also engaged the eight states along the transportation route from Indiana to Texas in advance of the shipments. The final decision to ship the hydrolysate was ultimately recommended by many oversight agencies, such as the National Research Council.

The VX was stored at Newport for more than forty years in 1,690 steel containers. The VX was moved from the depot to the NECDF where it was neutralized by mixing it with heated sodium hydroxide and water in a reactor, resulting in hydrolysate. Neutralization operations at the NECDF began May 5, 2005, and ended on Aug. 8, 2008, with 1,269 tons of VX processed.

The United States is engaged in the destruction of its chemical weapons stockpile under international treaty.

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Veolia Ceremony Marks End of Newport Hydrolysate Destruction

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The Chemical Weapons Convention Treaty mandates completion of agent destruction by April 2012. CMA has four remaining active chemical agent storage and destruction sites in operation – the Umatilla (Ore.) Chemical Agent Disposal Facility; the Tooele (Utah) Chemical Agent Disposal Facility; the Pine Bluff (Ark.) Chemical Agent Disposal Facility and the Anniston (Ala.) Chemical Agent Disposal Facility.

Two other locations, Johnston Atoll, southwest of Hawaii, and the Aberdeen (Md.) Chemical Agent Disposal Facility have completed operations. The NECDF has also completed operations and is in its closure phase.

The Army has two other storage locations, one in Richmond, Ky., the other in Pueblo, Colo. Those stockpiles are slated for destruction under a separate Department of Defense program known as the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives program.

Anniston Roundtable Salutes Team Anniston

As Anniston Chemical Activity (ANCA) and Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ANCDF) personnel neared the end of the local nerve agent storage mission and VX-filled land mine disposal operations, managers were busy planning the 144th Community Roundtable luncheon. The Roundtables, which have been a very effective component of local public outreach efforts since 1996, bring ANCA and ANCDF managers together with community leaders to discuss topics and issues of mutual interest.

The 144th Roundtable was held Feb. 5 in Anniston, Ala. Robert C. Love, the Anniston Systems Contractor project manager and roundtable host, noted the event recognized the collective achievements of Team Anniston since disposal operations began in August 2003.

Most recently, the last VX-filled land mine was safely demilitarized, concluding the storage and disposal of Anniston's complete stockpile of nerve agent munitions. Altogether, 361,802 GB and VX-filled munitions, as well as 293,003 gallons of liquid nerve agent, have been safely eliminated from Anniston's storage igloos and the U.S. stockpile.

The February Roundtable was the largest event since the March 2007 luncheon that recognized the end of GB storage and disposal operations. The event was



Carmen Spencer, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Elimination of Chemical Weapons, speaks to about 150 people during the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Community Roundtable.

attended by hundreds of local and regional business, community and political officials.

This month's Roundtable featured key note speaker Carmen J. Spencer. Spencer is the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for the Elimination of Chemical Weapons. He provides executive level policy and oversight of the chemical demilitarization program. Earlier in his career as an Army officer, Spencer commanded the Army Chemical Demilitarization Activity on Johnston Atoll as well as Pueblo Chemical Depot, Colo.

Conrad F. Whyne, director, U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, and Mark Evans, senior vice president, Chemical Demilitarization Programs, URS/EG&G Division, also spoke at the luncheon.

Draft FONSI Issued in Effort to Eliminate GA and Lewisite at DCD

The Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD) issued a Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for public comment on Dec. 23, 2008, regarding the Army's proposal to install and operate a small-scale liquid incinerator (LIC) system to destroy chemical agents Tabun (GA) and Lewisite. The FONSI concludes that the system would have no significant environmental impacts.

The proposed incinerator and pollution abatement system along with other required equipment would be installed within the boundary of DCD's Area 10. The proposed LIC would be approximately one-third the size of one of the existing LICs at the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF).

By building and operating an incineration system, all of the GA and Lewisite, as well as spent decontamination solutions generated during operations will be destroyed. Also, the GA and Lewisite can be eliminated in Area 10 while mustard is destroyed at the TOCDF. This will expedite the process of reaching the Chemical Weapons Treaty deadline of April 2012.

The DCD stockpile includes two ton containers (TCs) containing 1.4 tons of agent GA and two TCs referred to as GA/UCON that contain approximately 0.6 tons of agent GA. These GA/UCON TCs were originally thought to contain a mixture of GA and UCON (a thickener used during the 1950s and 1960s). Subsequent sampling has shown these TCs do not contain UCON, but the name has remained.

Additionally, the DCD stockpile includes 10 TCs containing Lewisite and 10 empty Lewisite TCs that may be contaminated with residual Lewisite solids or "heel" material.

Chemical agent GA is similar to nerve agent GB, producing similar effects, but not as toxic. Of note is the fact that the GA was not produced in the United States but was transported from Germany at the completion of World War II. Lewisite is an arsenic-based blister agent, similar to mustard.

Johnston Atoll to be one of three New Marine Monuments

Johnston Atoll, the cluster of Pacific islands southwest of Hawaii that was home to the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency's Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System (JACADS), was included in former President Bush's three new marine monuments. Bush announced in January 2009, the establishment of more than 190,000 square miles of sea and sea floor in the Pacific Ocean as marine monuments which will be protected from commercial fishing and mining.

The marine national monuments include the Mariana Trench in the western Pacific, a chain of remote islands in the central Pacific including Johnston Atoll and American Samoa's Rose Atoll.

The Mariana Trench encompasses a string of undersea volcanoes and thermal vents with the deepest area of ocean on the planet, reaching depths of nearly

seven miles in some areas. The Pacific remote islands include coral reefs surrounding Kingman Reef, Palmyra Atoll, Howland, Baker and Jarvis islands, Johnston Atoll and Wake Island. The Rose Atoll has the highest proportion of live coral cover anywhere in the world with pilot and humpback whales as well as porpoises frequenting the area. JACADS, located about 750 miles southwest of Hawaii, was the Army's first chemical munitions disposal facility. When the facility was operating, more than 400,000 munitions containing more than 2,000 tons of agent were destroyed. JACADS completed operations in 2000 and is a wildlife refuge to nesting sea birds and migratory shore birds, hundreds of fish species and endangered turtles.