

# MONTHLY UPDATE WWW.CMA.ARMY.MIL

# **DESERET CHEMICAL DEPOT** March 19, 2009

# Star performance

TOCDF recommended for coveted Star status in national safety program

An intense commitment to safety has earned the Tooele Chemical Agent Destruction Facility (TOCDF) coveted recognition from the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). More than two years ago the TOCDF's project contractor, EG&G Defense Materials, Inc., and its lab and monitoring subcontractor, Battelle, set their sights on OSHA's Voluntary Protection Program (VPP). The VPP formally recognizes exemplary industrial safety cultures, with its "Star" status being the highest honor a workplace can achieve.

As part of the VPP application process, an OSHA team of experts recently completed a five day TOCDF audit, observing and questioning employees about TOCDF's pledge to safety. The audit ended with the best news possible: both EG&G and Battelle will be recommended for VPP Star status.



"This is a tremendous accomplishment and a tremendous validation of the work of everyone involved in achieving it, which was everyone on site," said EG&G Vice President and TOCDF General Manager Gary McCloskey.

The VPP Star status places TOCDF in an elite class of worksites said OSHA VPP audit team leader Brad Baptiste, who pointed out that

(See VPP - continued on next page)



Two TOCDF workers place a mustard agent-filled 155mm reject projectile and its primary over pack container into a secondary over pack container to ensure the safe containment of the munition and its agent.

# Difficult projos sent back to storage

Approximately 50 mustard agent-filled 155mm "problem" projectiles will soon be shipped back to Deseret Chemical Depot's (DCD) storage area. They were being stored at the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) awaiting disposal, but because processing the problem projos overpacked leakers or munitions with stuck lifting lugs and/or bursters—proved to be so difficult, plans have changed. The 155mm problem projos will now be destroyed in a detonation chamber located within DCD's Area 10. (The detonation technology has not been chosen and the destruction start date has yet to be determined.)

In addition, the TOCDF will soon start destroying HT mustard agent-filled 4.2-inch mortars, and permitting requirements prohibit 155mm projectiles from being stored in the Explosive Containment Vestibule (ECV) while 4.2-inch mortars are being processed.

TOCDF workers overpacked the munitions a (See projo move – *continued on next page*)

# **PUBLIC AFFAIRS:**

# **Alaine Grieser**

Phone: (435) 833-4295 alaine.grieser@us.army.mil

# Tamra Peterson

Phone: (435) 833-4575 tamra.peterson@us.army.mil

#### **OUTREACH OFFICE:**

# **Amy Blauser**

Phone: (435) 882-3773 ablauser@qwestoffice.net

# **SYSTEMS** CONTRACTOR:

#### Mark Mesesan

Phone: (435) 882-5888 mmesesan@egginc.com

## **Tooele Chemical** Stockpile Outreach Office

54 S. Main St. Tooele, UT 84074 Phone: (435) 882-3773 Toll Free: (800) 471-1617

# **Outreach Office Hours:** 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday - Friday (Additional hours available upon request)

# **DESERET CHEMICAL DEPOT**

# **Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Processing**

(as of March 15, 2008)

Total number of mustard agent-filled bulk containers destroyed	3,216
Total number of mustard agent-filled 155mm projectiles destroyed	54,453
Percentage of total mustard agent stockpile destroyed	51.45%

# **VPP**

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an audit team's VPP recommendation has never been denied or changed, making TOCDF's Star status pretty much a done deal. With final approval, EG&G and Battelle will become the 71st and 72nd VPP Star sites in OSHA's Region 8, which includes Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana and North and South Dakota.

"Seventy-two have done what you've done. And in many cases, haven't done it nearly as well as you," Baptiste said to TOCDF employees after the announcement.

Formal approval of the recommendations will take at least six weeks. A formal award ceremony is being planned.

# Progress continues for **GA/Lewisite disposal operations**

Plans for the addition of a small-scale liquid incinerator at the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) are moving forward. The final Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has been issued, and concludes that a small-scale incinerator would not pose a significant adverse impact to the public or the environment. The small-scale liquid incinerator will be used to destroy the Deseret Chemical Depot's small stockpile of GA nerve and Lewisite blister agents. Approximately one-third the

size of TOCDF's existing liquid incinerators, the small-scale system will be similar in design and will include additional pollution controls.

Necessary permit applications are being prepared and will be provided to the Utah State Department of Environmental Quality to begin the approval process for construction and operation. Construction of the small-scale liquid incinerator is anticipated to begin in early 2010.

Copies of the Environmental Assessment and the FONSI, including a summary of the responses to public comments, may be read or obtained at the Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office (location and hours listed on the left). These documents and additional information may also be obtained online at www.cma.army.mil.

# Projo move

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second time to ensure safe containment before transporting them a short distance to DCD's storage igloos. The depot's original stockpile consisted of more than 50,000 mustard agentfilled 155mm projectiles. All but the nearly 200 problem projos have been destroyed.

# **Upcoming Events**

- April 9, 1:30 p.m. Utah Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste Control Board monthly meeting. The meeting will be held in Room 101 at the Department of Environmental Quality building, 162 N. 1950 W. in Salt Lake City.
- April 16, 5:00 p.m. TOCDF RCRA Class 3 Permit Modification public hearing. The hearing will be held at the Tooele County Administrative Building, 47 S. Main Street in Tooele.

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