

**CMA PROGRESS AT A GLANCE****as of March 24, 2009:**

- **Anniston Chemical Activity, Ala.:** Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ANCDF) changeover to mustard (blister) agent-filled munitions, in preparation for the final chemical munitions demilitarization phase, is 50 percent complete. Changeover involves preparing the building, equipment and workers for the next phase of operations. The ANCDF is expected to begin destroying 4.2-inch mustard agent mortar rounds later this summer. To date, ANCDF employees have safely processed 361,802 GB and VX-filled nerve agent munitions and 293,003 gallons of nerve agent, which is 55 percent of the Anniston stockpile.
- **Deseret Chemical Depot, Utah:** Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility has safely disposed of 2,625 mustard agent-filled ton containers and 54,453 mustard agent-filled 155 mm projectiles. Mustard operations began in August 2006.
- **Newport Chemical Depot, Ind.:** Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility's work force continues closure activities. Agent pumps and pipes were removed from the Utility Building. Level C entries in the Toxic Cubicle are now permitted under certain conditions. Demolition at the truck load/unload area continues. Demolition and removal of the Process Auxiliary Building piping and tank is nearly complete. A permit modification request is out for public comment regarding the addition of a Subpart 1X Thermal Treatment Unit to the waste management process in the Drum Repack Facility.
- **Pine Bluff Arsenal, Ark.:** Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (PBCDF) processed all Agent Collection System tank GB-contaminated charcoal filters in the Metal Parts Furnace. Mustard ton container disposal operations began on March 22. PBCDF continues operations at or below 50 percent of the maximum feed rates as stipulated by the current restrictions in the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act permit. The feed rates for the furnaces will increase to 75 percent, once the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality approves the Agent Trial Burn data report.
- **Umatilla Chemical Depot, Ore.:** Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) continues a lengthy changeover from VX to HD (mustard) agent, with processing expected to begin in spring or early summer. In order to eliminate the mustard ton containers, 10 plant facility changes and 12 permit modifications are needed. UMCDF plans to characterize the mustard stockpile at the onset of the campaign using approved Environmental Protection Agency sampling methods.

OPCW Technical Secretariat Team Visits PBCDF and TOCDF

OPCW members, escorts and treaty support staff during the OPCW visit to TOCDF March 19-20.

A joint U.S.-Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) Technical Secretariat (TS) team visited the Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (PBCDF) March 16-17 and Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) March 19-20. Six OPCW TS staff members, headed by Dr. Horst Reeps, Director of the Verification Division Technical Secretariat, performed a Chemical Weapons Convention Treaty Quality Review. The objective was to review and evaluate the quality of the verification process and to agree on any follow-up actions for enhancement.

During the visit to the PBCDF, the team observed the ongoing HD and HT operations at the demilitarization facility. They also interviewed the on-site inspection team, reviewed monitoring and recording capabilities, discussed ton containers weight

consistency checks and reviewed the current and anticipated workload for inspectors.

When the team visited TOCDF, their focus was procedures for processing high-heel ton containers and the future Area 10 Liquid Incinerator.

A joint U.S.-TS Treaty Quality Review Team visits each of the four optimized chemical demilitarization sites on an 18-month basis to review and evaluate the effectiveness of optimization measures and discuss additional procedures and methods that could be implemented to enhance efficiency. The team does not foresee a need for future quality reviews at the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility or Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility due to no foreseen changes to the destruction and verification activities.



SE&TH: Good-Bye CMA, Hello ACWA



Fill, press, and upload of SETH M55 Rockets

To the line, on the line, on time: this is the slogan for a program that, after 20 years, is coming to a close for the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA). CMA's Support Equipment & Test Hardware (SE&TH) program has provided Simulation Equipment Test Hardware (SETH) to seven chemical weapons demilitarization sites and 16 authorized government agencies, including the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program and the Chemical Demilitarization Training Facility.

The SE&TH program was vital to the chemical weapons disposal program, allowing the chemical demilitarization sites to systemize equipment and successfully complete their missions. Now that all of CMA's sites have completed the testing and design phases, SE&TH is at the end of its life cycle. The program closed on March 31, 2009.

SETH munitions are inert and converted from unused munitions or manufactured from raw materials to simulate actual chemical weapons. Simulated M23 land mines, cardboard rockets, simulant-filled inert M55 rockets and patchable ton containers are just a few of the team's products. Simulated items are produced in accordance with Army regulations and the Chemical Weapons Convention, but are not counted as part of the U.S. stockpile.

In the history of the SE&TH program, the SETH motto has always been to the line, on the line, on time—unparalleled site support that has helped ensure the successful and timely completion of CMA's current and upcoming chemical weapons disposal.

The SE&TH team continually solved difficult problems. Throughout the years, the team has produced specialized tools to help the sites in their missions. One such tool, the Remote Manipulator System, helped Pine Bluff Chemical Activity in its M23 Land Mine repalletization effort. This helped the site complete their repalletization mission six months ahead of schedule.

Y.F. Lin, CMA's SETH Project Officer, said, "The success of the project is attributed to cooperation, teamwork and customer focus. I will miss those who have worked with me on the project. Thanks to all for your dedicated support and I wish your continued success on the other projects."

Although the program has reached its end for CMA, it will continue its mission under the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA) Test Equipment program. ACWA sites in Blue Grass, Ky., and Pueblo, Colo., will have access to SETH products, called ACWA Test Equipment, and the benefit of valuable lessons learned from its two decades supporting CMA.

PBCA Awarded Premier U.S. Army Materiel Command Safety Award

The Pine Bluff Chemical Activity (PBCA) at Pine Bluff Arsenal, Ark., was recently awarded the U.S. Army Accident Prevention Award of Accomplishment in Safety from the U.S. Army Materiel Command (AMC). PBCA is the first recipient of this award.

"It's no surprise to me that this organization, these employees, received the very first award of this kind from AMC," said Lt. Col. Cliff Johnston, PBCA Commander.

"Last year the Activity was recognized for one year without a lost-time accident with the Accumulative Years Safety Award from the Arkansas Department of Labor and the Arkansas Insurance Department."

In 2005, PBCA had command and control of the second largest chemical weapons stockpile in the country. Obsolete and aging weapons, such as M55 rockets and M23 landmines containing nerve agents sarin and VX, were safely and securely stored in earthen-covered igloos since the 1960s. The arsenal had the unique distinction of housing the largest inventory of M55 rockets in the nation. The stockpile also includes mustard blister agent in 1940s ton containers. The weapons are stored in a high security area.

Congress ordered the U.S. Army to destroy the stockpile in compliance with treaty obligations, to provide emergency preparedness to the communities and to comply with all state and federal regulatory provisions.

PBCA has successfully transported stockpile materials to the Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (PBCDF) where they were eliminated. Those materials included 90,231 M55 rockets, 178 M56 warheads, 2 bulk ton containers of GB, 19,582 VX M55 rockets, 9,378 VX M23 landmines and 26 M56 warheads.

The last campaign – destroying the mustard agent-filled ton containers – continues at PBCDF. Again, safety is the primary concern in transport as well as destruction.

"Safety stands at the forefront of everything we do at PBCA," said Johnston. "All it takes is one person to create a safety climate around themselves that is contagious. They watch, they listen, they 'talk the talk' and 'walk the walk,' and that attitude spreads like wildfire across the organization."

"Although safety has always been a high priority, PBCA has taken it to a new level. We afford protection not only to our fellow workers, but to a community that's our own," he said. "It's not just another word to us and our employees are proudly being recognized for their efforts."