U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY www.cma.army.mil

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CMA PROGRESS AT A GLANCE

as of April 30, 2009:

Anniston Chemical Activity, Ala.: Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ANCDF) has been receiving simulated mustard-filled 4.2-inch mortars from Anniston Chemical Activity (ANCA) for testing purposes. ANCA employees have been servicing and issuing safety equipment to support ANCDF employees. In addition to changeover activities at the ANCDF, two other projects are underway – a Linear Projectile/ Mortar Disassembly system has been installed in an ANCA building and a team is evaluating various commercially-available detonation chambers for the safe disposal of deteriorated mustard munitions. An environmental assessment has determined use of a detonation chamber will not have an adverse impact on the environment.

Deseret Chemical Depot, Utah: Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility has safely destroyed 3,372 mustard agent-filled ton containers and 54,453 mustard agent-filled 155 mm projectiles and 336 4.2-inch mortars. Mustard operations began in August 2006.

Newport Chemical Depot, Ind.: Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility's work force continues closure activities. Removal of agent vent system piping, caustic skid piping and the reactor agitator systems is in progress. Demolition continues at the Ton Container Line as well as the exterior piping between the Process Auxiliary building and the Utility Building. Cleaning in preparation for closure of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit is in progress. The Operational Readiness Review for the Drum Repack Facility began April 28.

Pine Bluff Chemical Activity, Ark.: Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility is restricted to operating at or below 50 percent of the maximum feed rates as stipulated in the RCRA permit until the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality receives and approves the Agent Trial Burn Data Report. At that time, the feed rates for the furnaces will increase.

Umatilla Chemical Depot, Ore.: Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) continues a lengthy changeover from VX to mustard agent in anticipation of starting processing in early summer 2009. On April 2, 28 elected officials, citizens and Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program staff toured UMCDF to learn about equipment changes and permit modifications needed for eliminating mustard ton containers. In addition, 93 Hermiston High School students and teachers toured the depotApril 8 to learn about history, wildlife, chemical disposal and environmental restoration.

CMA reaches 60 percent Elimination of Chemical Weapons Stockpile

As of April 25, 2009, the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) has destroyed 60 percent of its declared chemical weapons stockpile under the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). This achievement comes less than two years after the treaty milestone of 45 percent and 16 months after reaching the 50 percent mark.

CMA Director Conrad Whyne praised members of CMA's work force for their tireless efforts. "This accomplishment is a result of a true team effort between our storage and destruction staff consisting of both government and contractor personnel, and I commend the dedication of the members of our highly skilled work force," he added.

"It took eight years to destroy the first 10 percent of agent, including agent destroyed before the CWC entered into force. Back then, the Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System (JACADS) was our first operating facility, and we were still mastering operations," said Col. Robert Billington, CMA Project Manager for Chemical Stockpile Elimination. " Since then, we have systematically applied the lessons learned from JACADS and our other operating sites to continually improve our efficiency," he said.

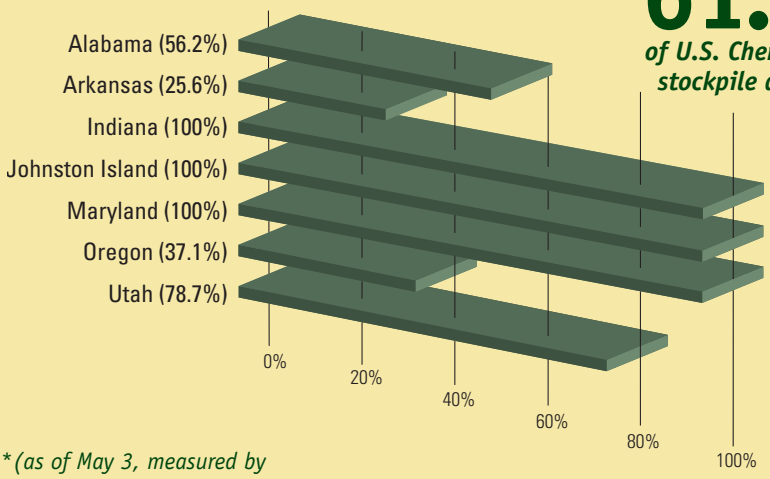
Another big success of the Army's chemical demilitarization program is safety. "We have worked hard to instill a safety culture throughout the program," said Greg. St. Pierre, Director of Risk Management. "Over time, our work force has reduced our Recordable Injury Rate or RIR - the rate of injuries per 200,000 man-hours worked which we report to OSHA– from more than 4.0 at JACADS to 0.62, our March 2009 rate. By contrast, the construction industry RIR is 6.3. Industries with a lower injury rate are finance, data processing and libraries," he added.

Although 60 percent is not a treaty-mandated milestone, it demonstrates the dedication of CMA's workers to meeting the national imperative of eliminating this class of weapons while maintaining the highest standards of safety and environmental protection.

This is also an important accomplishment for the communities surrounding the stockpiles. The overall risk of continued storage of the nation's stockpiled chemical weapons has now been reduced by 94 percent. The storage risk will continue to decrease with each new destruction milestone achieved.

CMA - U.S. CHEMICAL AGENT STOCKPILE DESTROYED

61.3%
of U.S. Chemical Agent stockpile destroyed*



**(as of May 3, measured by original agent tonnage since entry into force – April 29, 1997)*

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Year of the NCO Honors 'Backbone of the American Army'

The U.S. Army's Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) Corps comprises a distinguished group of professional enlisted leaders. To honor these men and women, Secretary of the Army Pete Geren has declared 2009 the "Year of the NCO."

Throughout the year, the Army will honor NCOs through various events such as congressional visits to installations and activities at the White House. The events will highlight NCO roles and responsibilities. The NCO Corps – in existence since 1775 – has often been referred to as the "backbone of the American Army," due to their commitment, professionalism and strong leadership skills. The NCO is effective in any environment and proficient in all aspects of being a soldier, while always leading by example.

Most of the Army's chemical demilitarization sites have NCOs. Their official title is Chem. Demil. Ops. Sgt. NCO and their duties range from overseeing safety and security, to compliance of applicable regulations, to training personnel. While NCOs report to the Commander at their site, they may be appointed other duties, as necessary.

The NCOs supporting the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency include: Sergeant Major Ricardo Soto-Acevedo, HQ CMA; Sergeant First Class Marvin Merillat, Umatilla; Sergeant First Class Neil Tucker, Anniston; Sergeant First Class Joseph Conant, Newport; Sergeant First Class Michael Farish, Tooele; Sergeant First Class David Moragne, Blue Grass; and Sergeant First Class John Coughlin, Pueblo.

Distinguished NCO alumni include Tom Ridge, former governor of Pennsylvania and Cabinet Secretary; Rep. Tim Walz, the only retired Army (Army National Guard) Sergeant Major in Congress; and Rep. Jim Marshall from Georgia.

The year also will be marked by initiatives to foster career development through education programs. In addition to increasing the number of online colleges accessible under the Service Members Opportunities Colleges Army Degrees, the Army aims to transform the existing NCO Education System. These changes will be accompanied by other programs aimed at NCO career building.

NCOs are an integral part of the United States' military forces. As the backbone of the American Army, they ensure the Army stands strong and proud.

Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Closure: Phase Two

The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) has successfully completed operations at three sites – the Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System southwest of Hawaii; the Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Edgewood, Md.; and the Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (NECDF) in Newport, Ind. NECDF is now in its final step, closure, which involves four phases.

The closure process is governed by environmental permits and Army regulations to ensure long-term protection of human health and the environment. Specifically, the closure plan applicable to Resource Conservation and Recovery Act-permitted facilities is reviewed and approved by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

NECDF completed phase one of closure on Oct. 24, 2008, which involved initial cleanup and removal of agent processing systems. Facility decontamination was initiated by performing a flush of the chemical agent processing systems with a caustic solution. The solution was flushed through the facility piping and into neutralization reactors where it was processed and tested to confirm the absence of chemical agent. Following decontamination, workers carefully removed the agent processing system pumps, piping and instrumentation.

During phase one, the areas and equipment used to store hydrolysate, the byproduct of the chemical neutralization process, were also decontaminated. The pumps, piping and instrumentation were cleaned and removed in preparation for final treatment and disposal.

NECDF is currently in the second phase of the closure process. Phase two involves the final decontamination and dismantlement of all other areas and equipment that was used to neutralize the VX agent. Workers will decontaminate the walls, floors, stairs, walkways and external surfaces to support lowering worker personal protective equipment requirements.

In addition, the Ton Container Line equipment, which was used during operations to decontaminate the empty steel containers in preparation for recycling, will be cleaned and dismantled. A performance standard for decontamination, utilizing a health-based risk assessment approach, was developed to ensure continued personnel and environmental safety when the NECDF air exhaust filtration system is shut down.

Monitoring is performed during a temporary shut down of this air exhaust filtration system to demonstrate successful decontamination. Once the VX agent contamination has been successfully removed below one short-term exposure limit, air exhaust filtration is terminated and demolition of the facilities is initiated. This will complete phase two of closure.

In order to reach closure, NECDF successfully and safely neutralized 1,269 tons of the chemical nerve agent VX, which had been stored at the Newport Chemical Depot since 1968.

As NECDF nears complete closure, a decision regarding the site's reuse will be made. The Newport Chemical Depot Reuse Authority, a board of five citizens appointed by Vermillion County Commissioners and recognized by the Department of Defense, is working on a reuse plan. Final decision will be made by the Department of the Army Base Realignment and Closure Act.

The safe and efficient closure of NECDF marks a significant milestone in our nation's history.

CMA News is produced by the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency Public Affairs Office.
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