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Monday - Friday

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Celebrating CAMDS

Better late than never. That was the sentiment behind a special event held June 18 in honor of the Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System (CAMDS). The celebration was an opportunity to formally recognize CAMDS' long list of contributions to the nation's chemical weapons elimination program before it's too late. The former research, test and development facility is currently undergoing closure and is expected to be completely torn down within two years.

"Today we pay tribute to the legacy of CAMDS and its workers...and all of those who have supported the mission of CAMDS over the last 30 years," said DCD Commander, Col. Gerald L. Gladney. "You can take great pride in where you worked and what you all have contributed."

Located at the Deseret Chemical Depot, CAMDS started operations in September 1979. During its existence, workers destroyed more than 363,000 pounds of chemical agents and more than 40,000 munitions, and they pioneered most of the processes and techniques still used at U.S. stockpiles, including chemical munitions handling/disassembly, incineration, pollution abatement systems, neutralization, personal protection equipment and secondary waste treatment.

Doug Peirce, who worked at CAMDS from the start, highlighted one particular CAMDS accomplishment: the rocket saw machine. It was a temperamental piece of equipment that didn't cut up M55 rockets very well because its six saw blades frequently broke. "That machine was a nightmare," recalled Peirce. CAMDS workers transformed the rocket saw machine into the rocket shear machine with one guillotine-like blade. The switch was a huge success—requiring little maintenance and saving both time and money.

"The rocket shear machine is an excellent example of how CAMDS did its job," said Peirce. "Its job was to efficiently develop processes that would work well in a large facility."

CMA Deputy Director Don Barclay, who started his career within the Army's chemical demilitarization program as the risk manager for CAMDS and later served as the director, attributed CAMDS' success to its workforce. "It didn't matter what the barrier was or the challenge, you took it on. You believed you could do anything and you believed in yourselves. You knew there would be

(See CAMDS on page 3)



Inside a temporary sampling facility in DCD's storage area, a U.S. Army CARA West technician demonstrates how a ton container (TC) is transferred from the TC cradle into the sampling glove box. The front of the glove box is then sealed and ventilated, allowing technicians to pull samples of the TC's contents.

Team prepares for agent sampling

Army technicians have constructed a temporary facility in the Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD) storage area in preparation for a sampling project targeting DCD's GA nerve agent and Lewisite blister agent stockpiles.

The sampling operations will be performed by a team of chemical engineering technicians, who are members of the 20th Support Command Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High Yield Explosives Analytical and Remediation Activity, better known as CARA West. The team will also identify the contents of some so-called "transparency" ton containers (TCs) that may contain chemical agent; if any, most likely Lewisite.

Technicians will collect samples of GA nerve agent and Lewisite blister agent for characterization and analysis. The resulting data will be used for design and permitting activities. However, the primary goal of the sampling project is to identify the contents of the transparency TCs.

DCD munition handlers will deliver the TCs to the sampling facility, where the technicians will place them into
(See SAMPLING OPERATIONS on page 3)

Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Processing

(as of June 21, 2008)

Total number of mustard agent-filled bulk containers destroyed	3,667
Total number of mustard agent-filled 155mm projectiles destroyed	54,453
Total number of mustard agent-filled 4.2-inch mortars destroyed	336
Percentage of total mustard agent stockpile destroyed	57.9%

New Deputy Commander for DCD



Donald L. Campbell has been selected to fill the shoes as Deputy to the Commander for Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD). Since his arrival in early June, Campbell has been familiarizing himself with DCD and TOCDF issues, operations and regulations. However, having served as the former Deputy Program Manager/Technical Director (and Acting Deputy Commander) at Rocky Mountain Arsenal, Campbell is no stranger to chemical weapons.

Campbell brings with him valuable experience—from chemical storage and disposal operations to closure and environmental restoration and remediation efforts. In his last assignment at Rocky Mountain Arsenal, Campbell managed the Department of Defense's largest cleanup program, overseeing the shut down of the chemical demilitarization operations, decontamination and demolition of the chemical facilities and clean up of the hazardous wastes.

Campbell began his career by serving 16 years as a civilian project manager with the Department of the Army. During this time he directed Army programs in chemical agent demilitarization and environmental restoration at Tooele Army Depot, Pine Bluff Arsenal and Aberdeen Proving Grounds.

Campbell replaced Dan Hancock, who left DCD to attend the U.S. Government's prestigious Senior Service College at the Air Force War College at Birmingham, Ala.

Upcoming Events

- **July 8, 6:00 p.m.** – TOCDF RCRA Class 2 Permit Modification public meeting. The meetings will be held at the Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office, 54 S. Main Street in Tooele.
- **July 14, 5:30 p.m.** – DCD Restoration and Advisory Board meeting to discuss environmental clean-up activities associated with the depot. The meeting will be held at the Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office, 54 S. Main Street in Tooele.
- **July 15, 6:00 p.m.** – TOCDF RCRA Class 3 Permit Modification public meeting. The meetings will be held at the Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office, 54 S. Main Street in Tooele.
- **July 15, 6:00 p.m.** – GA/Lewisite Public Information Meeting. An opportunity for the public to provide input as TOCDF officials prepare to submit the Class 3 RCRA permit request for GA/Lewisite operations. The meeting will be held at the Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office, 54 S. Main Street in Tooele.
- **July 22, 6:00 p.m.** – DCD RCRA Class 2 Permit Modification public meetings. The meeting 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 July 3 for the observance of Independence Day.

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CAMDS

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challenges, but you were willing to stand up and take those challenges on for the Army.”

The CAMDS workforce was not only dedicated, but close-knit as well. Like siblings, this working family teased each other endlessly, but there was affection, admiration, and an unspoken oath to look after one another—no matter what. “You got sang to on your birthday, you got slammed at the Christmas party, and you got harassed every day of your working career,” recalled former CAMDS employee Vern Carson, “but you knew that if you ever got into trouble, these same people would risk their lives to save yours.”

The celebration made it abundantly clear that even though CAMDS will soon be gone, it will never be forgotten. Along with countless memories and an unbreakable bond of dedication and perseverance, CAMDS will forever remain the foundation of the U.S. chemical stockpile elimination program.

Sampling operations

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ventilated glove boxes. From there, the plugs will be unscrewed, relieving any gas pressure inside and allowing samples to be removed for later analysis at an off-site laboratory. Sampling work is scheduled to begin early July and will take approximately three weeks to complete.

Design and planning activities continue for the small-scale liquid incinerator that will be used to destroy DCD's stockpile of GA and Lewisite agents. Construction is scheduled to begin this fall and will continue through summer 2010. Disposal operations are expected to be completed in time to meet the April 2012 Chemical Weapons Convention Treaty deadline.



This temporary facility has been set up in DCD's storage area in preparation for a three-week project to sample the contents of DCD's stockpile of GA nerve agent and Lewisite blister agent ton containers. Sampling will begin in July.



CMA Deputy Director Don Barclay recounts many of the CAMDS achievements that have contributed to the success of the U.S. Army's chemical demilitarization program. Barclay has a personal history with CAMDS; in 1993 he was introduced to CAMDS as the risk manager and later served as the director.

CAMDS Milestones & Contributions

- CAMDS construction 1974-1978
- Disposal operations began September 16, 1979
- Neutralization testing of agent in rockets and projectiles
- Testing and development of reverse assembly, demilitarization, rocket shear, projectile/mortar disassembly and multi-purpose demil machines
- Testing and development of bulk drain station and explosive containment chamber
- Testing and development of liquid incinerator and metal parts furnace
- Testing and development of agent quantification system
- Deep bed carbon filter and mustard thaw container testing
- Rocket separation
- Cryofracture and VX water neutralization testing and development
- Demil protective ensemble technology developed
- Removed explosive components in 4.2-inch mustard mortars
- Supported the development of Simulation Equipment Test Hardware (SETH)
- Development of carbon tray filling and certification
- Development and support for chemical agent monitoring
- Alternative technologies tested for the ACWA program, including: energetic rotary hydrolyser, projectile and mortar washout systems, continuous steam treater, VX and mustard hydrolysate
- Non-stockpile empty ton container processing
- Sampling of 155mm projectiles' explosive components
- Study of neutralization processes for full-scale destruction of Lewisite
- Secondary waste segregation and treatment

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