



CMA PROGRESS AT A GLANCE

as of June 29, 2009:

- **Anniston Chemical Activity, Ala.:** Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility and Anniston Chemical Activity employees began on June 29, 2009, the third and final munitions disposal campaign, mustard agent, following a six-month maintenance phase. Nerve agent munitions operations concluded in late December. Since August 2003, 361,802 nerve agent GB- and VX-filled rockets, projectiles and land mines have been safely processed. Mustard-filled munitions operations began with the demilitarization of 4.2-inch mortars. Some of the completed maintenance work required prior to the start of the mustard campaign included servicing the Enhanced On-Site Containers, nerve agent decontamination of the Munitions Demilitarization Building, removal of mine processing equipment and the incorporation of air monitoring systems to detect mustard agent. Once all the mortars and ton containers are processed, the Anniston team will demilitarize 105mm and 155mm mustard-filled projectiles.
- **Deseret Chemical Depot, Utah:** Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility has safely destroyed 3,703 mustard agent-filled ton containers, 54,453 mustard agent-filled 155mm projectiles and 336 4.2-inch mortars. Mustard operations began in August 2006.
- **Newport Chemical Depot, Ind.:** Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility workers continue closure operations. Workers at the Drum Repack Facility continue to repack material with a Vapor Screening Level greater than 1. Preparations for the unventilated monitoring test are taking place in the Utility Building. The new Site Project Manager, Anthony Reed, replaced Jeff Brubaker effective June 22, 2009.
- **Pine Bluff Arsenal, Ark.:** Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (PBCDF) is processing mustard blister agent-filled ton containers, its final chemical weapons disposal campaign. On June 17, URS EG&G employees surpassed two million consecutive man-hours without a lost day away from work. This milestone underscores the project's outstanding safety culture and the dedication of Team PBCDF.
- **Umatilla Chemical Depot, Ore.:** Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) has destroyed 15 ton containers of mustard agent that was stored at the Umatilla Chemical Depot. The campaign began with the first delivery of ton containers to the UMCDF on June 4 and destruction of the first ton container in the Metal Parts Furnace on June 11.

Celebrating CAMDS



Workers from CAMDS leave their mark by signing historical photos that were on display at the ceremony. Each photo included a plaque that stated "The CAMDS Legacy will Forever Remain the Foundation for the United States Chemical Weapons Disposal Program, 1979-2009."

On Thursday, June 18, Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD) celebrated 30 years of operations at the Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System (CAMDS) with a recognition ceremony. The theme was "Thirty Years in Retrospect."

CAMDS, the primary research, test and development facility for the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) chemical weapons disposal program, served a vital role in the destruction of chemical weapons throughout the country.

Although closure activities for CAMDS have been underway since 2006, this anniversary is significant because of the facility's contributions to the chemical weapons destruction program. Construction of CAMDS began in 1974 and processing of chemical agent-filled munitions started in September 1979. During operations, CAMDS was responsible for the development and testing of new technology for the demilitarization and destruction of chemical warfare materiel; developing technical packages for use in design and construction of other plants; and processing unserviceable chemical munitions.

"During CAMDS' operations, more than 203,000 pounds of chemical agents were neutralized and more than 159,000 pounds of chemical agents were incinerated, resulting in the elimination of more than 363,523 pounds of chemical agents and nearly 40,000 munitions," noted Col. Gerald L. Gladney, Commander, DCD, during the celebration.

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 its director, also offered words of gratitude for the years of service by CAMDS personnel. "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 challenges, but you were willing to stand up and take those challenges on for the Army."

The ceremony also included presentations by Vern Carson, a former CAMDS employee, Dan Hancock, Deputy Commander of DCD, and Doug Peirce, a former CAMDS employee who is now a Surety Officer at DCD.

At the ceremony, CAMDS workers looked back at their accomplishments and contributions to our Nation's chemical warfare program.



UMCDF Surpasses 5 Million Safe Hours

The Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) surpassed 5 million hours without a lost-time accident on June 8. It has been 1,067 days or nearly three years since a UMCDF employee missed work because of an accident.

UMCDF has approximately 830 workers and this is the first time they have reached this mark. It is the equivalent of a person working 2,500 years without a lost-time accident.

“Our dedication to safety every day led to this important milestone,” said Mike Strong, UMCDF Site Project Manager for the Army. “We’ll stay focused on worker safety as well as community and environmental safety.”

“What’s most important about that number is it means people are not getting injured at work,” said Bob Dikeman, project general manager for the Washington Defense Group of URS, the company that built and operates the incineration plant. “And when our employees work safely, it means we are keeping the community and environment safe as well.”

One measurement of the effectiveness of a company’s safety is its 12-month rolling recordable injury rate (RIR). The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) describes a recordable injury as one that requires medical attention. UMCDF has a RIR of 0.34, or 0.34 recordable injuries for every 200,000 work hours.

“That’s a remarkable safety record,” Dikeman added, “especially considering the heavy industrial work that’s done at UMCDF. Workers regularly do jobs such as crane work, welding and electrical work.”

The management at UMCDF credits the project’s employee-led teams that focus on safety and environmental compliance as the key to reaching this milestone. The project has also been designated a Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Star site by OSHA. VPP Star status represents the highest safety recognition issued by the federal government. It is OSHA’s official recognition of exemplary occupational safety and health.

Construction of Pollution Abatement System Filtration System is Complete

The Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility’s new Pollution Abatement System Filtration System (PFS) construction is complete. The system is designed to capture any mercury remaining in the emissions after incineration of mustard agent-filled bulk storage containers and 4.2-inch mortars.

A series of tests are being performed to ensure the system meets performance expectations. The tests include systemization and function testing of the filter systems for two Liquid Incinerators and the Metal Parts Furnace.

The permitting process for PFS operations has already begun, with an anticipated start date this fall.

Umatilla Chemical Depot Begins Mustard Operations

The Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) began HD mustard-filled bulk container destruction operations last month, marking the final disposal campaign at the facility. This is a significant milestone for the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, moving closer to fulfilling the treaty with the Chemical Weapons Convention.

It’s been almost five years since the site in Oregon began munitions destruction in September 2004. Since then, 12 chemical munitions campaigns have been completed safely, some of them simultaneously. The Army has safely stored approximately 12 percent of the nation’s original chemical weapons at the Umatilla Chemical Depot since 1962.

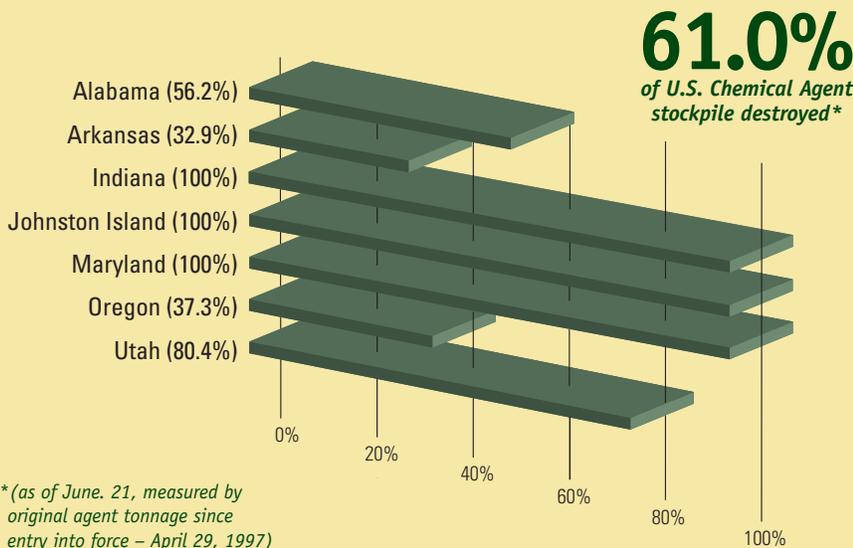
UMCDF’s most recent campaign—VX nerve agent land mines—was completed in November 2008. Since then, UMCDF has been in campaign changeover, retrofitting the facility and training employees in preparation for mustard operations—the last campaign. Unlike several of the nerve agent munitions, the mustard is in large steel containers with no explosives. The campaign should be completed within two years.

Once completed, UMCDF will begin closure—the process of shutting down, cleaning and disassembling the plant, in accordance with environmental permits. The facility is expected to close in 2013.



Workers at the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility receive a shipment of mustard agent in an Enhanced On-Site Container on June 4, 2009. Mustard agent stored in ton containers is the final munition to be processed at the facility, which began disposal operations in September 2004.

CMA - U.S. CHEMICAL AGENT STOCKPILE DESTROYED



Oops!

Sergeant First Class Anthony D. Jones was inadvertently omitted from the article, “Year of the NCO Honors ‘Backbone of the American Army,’” in the May issue. Jones is an NCO at the Pine Bluff Chemical Activity in Pine Bluff, Ark.