



CMA PROGRESS AT A GLANCE

as of July 22, 2009:

- **Anniston Chemical Activity, Ala.:** Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility employees are making steady progress as demilitarization operations ramp up at the onset of mustard munition processing. Including all nerve agent munitions, Team Anniston has now safely processed more than 55 percent of the stockpile in northeast Alabama.
- **Deseret Chemical Depot, Utah:** In its current mustard agent campaign, Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility has safely destroyed 3,820 ton containers, 54,453 155 mm projectiles and 336 4.2-inch mortars. Mustard operations began in August 2006.
- **Newport Chemical Depot, Ind.:** Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (NECDF) workers continue closure operations. The Drum Repack Facility task has been completed and the facility is in standby. The unventilated monitoring test is scheduled to begin this month. The NECDF demolition subcontractor was selected and started onsite safety training and mobilization the week of July 20. Demolition of the Process Auxiliary Building and loading dock has begun.
- **Pine Bluff Chemical Activity, Ark.:** Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (PBCDF) workers continue safe storage and disposal of mustard agent-filled ton containers, their final chemical weapons campaign. PBCDF continues to process at the 75 percent ADEQ-approved processing rate. PBCDF recently had the best processing day to date on July 14 when 12 ton containers were processed in the Metal Parts Furnace.
- **Umatilla Chemical Depot, Ore.:** Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) workers have destroyed 35 mustard agent-filled ton containers stored at the Umatilla Chemical Depot. The UMCDF's final munition campaign, which began in June, is expected to last one-two years.

SITE HIGHLIGHT



Eleven Chemical Corps Soldiers from Fort Campbell, Ky., recently had the opportunity to witness local storage and disposal operations at ANCA. Led by 1st Lt. Matthew S. Hacker, the 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) Soldiers learned first-hand how U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency sites safely store chemical munitions and how the munitions are disposed of in plants like the ANCDF.

New Commanders Assume Assignments

Three commanders have assumed leadership in change of command ceremonies this summer:

Pine Bluff Chemical Activity – July 14

Lt. Col. Nathaniel W. Farmer replaced Lt. Col. Clifton R. Johnston

Umatilla Chemical Depot – July 16

Lt. Col. Kris N. Perkins replaced Lt. Col. Robert T. Stein

Pueblo Chemical Depot – July 21

Lt. Col. Robert C. Wittig replaced Lt. Col. Christopher K. Chesney

Lt. Col. Farmer's most recent assignment was Battalion Commander, U.S. Army Reserve Officer Training Corps at the Georgia Institute of Technology. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education from Western Kentucky University (WKU) and a Master of Science Administration in Human Resource Management from Central Michigan University. Farmer was

commissioned a Second Lieutenant, United States Army Chemical Corps Officer in 1989. He is a Distinguished Military Graduate from WKU Army Reserve Officer's Training Corps.

Lt. Col. Perkins served in the Army's III Corps as G4 Chief of Logistics, Plans and Operations and Combat Operations Integration Cell Officer in Charge of Logistics in Fort Hood, Texas. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Communications from Oklahoma State University in 1992. He has served both as an enlisted Infantry Soldier and Infantry Officer in the Oklahoma National Guard and was called to active duty in 1993 as a Chemical Officer.

Lt. Col. Wittig's most recent assignment was Headquarters Commander, Multi-National Security Transition Command in Bagdad, Iraq. He holds a bachelor's degree in History from New York Excelsior College and a Master of Arts in Military Science – Land Warfare from the American Military University in Manassas Park, Va.

CSEPP National Workshop Highlights Preparedness

For 20 years, the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) has brought together federal, state and local participants to protect communities around chemical weapon stockpile sites. On June 30 and July 1, 300 CSEPP participants came together in Salt Lake City, Utah, at the CSEPP National Workshop to discuss ongoing preparedness issues, and to recognize two decades of partnership.

That partnership includes the Army, responsible for the stockpiles; the Federal Emergency Management Agency, experienced in preparing for and dealing with emergencies; other federal agencies; and state and local entities.

When CSEPP began, the challenges were enormous and unprecedented. Federal, state and local partners had to build a fully integrated emergency preparedness program that would protect communities during storage and destruction of the U.S. chemical weapons stockpiles. With emergency plans, training, equipment and facilities in place, CSEPP communities today have some of the most advanced emergency response capabilities anywhere.

"It took a long time on the part of the Army to understand that (chemical weapons disposal) mission could not get done without the cooperation and the partnership of the community," said Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army Carmen Spencer. "It has been a long, hard row over the last 20 years, but what we've accomplished has been absolutely amazing."

The first CSEPP workshop was held in Utah in 1989 with 77 people in attendance. The 20th anniversary workshop topics included CSEPP closeout, which already has taken effect at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., and Newport Chemical Depot, Ind., following chemical weapon stockpile elimination at those sites. CSEPP will continue at the other chemical weapon stockpile sites through elimination, including Pueblo Chemical Depot, Colo., and Blue Grass Chemical Depot, Ky., where chemical weapon destruction plants are still under construction.

CSEPP community preparedness includes improved emergency facilities, equipment, training and planning, increasing their ability to respond not only in the unlikely event of an incident at the chemical weapons stockpile, but more likely emergencies such as transportation accidents involving hazardous materials, floods and fires. Communications equipment, emergency alert radios, sirens, computerized planning and accident assessment all are part of the program.



The Grey Beards of CAMDS

Some had been soldiers, some were civilian construction workers, some were laboratory chemists and others were already skilled in chemical weapons production. All of them arrived at the Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System (CAMDS) in Tooele County, Utah in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Constructed between 1974 and 1978, CAMDS officially started operations in 1979 and was the U.S. Army prototype facility for developing and testing new technology for demilitarization and destruction of chemical agent munitions. Over the course of 26 years, CAMDS personnel developed technical data packages for use in design and construction of other similar plants, and performed trouble-shooting for technical obstacles encountered at those plants.

The personnel arriving at CAMDS in this period became its grey beards, the senior technical experts with the depth and breadth of experience and the institutional knowledge that made them the go-to people for solving all types of chemical demilitarization issues. The legacy they left is a chemical weapons demilitarization program that leads the world in chemical agent destruction technology, having already destroyed more than 60 percent of the nation's stockpile.

Dr. Woodrow Lash was among the first to arrive in 1976 while the facility was still under construction. Previously, as a soldier, he helped put on live fire demonstrations at Dugway Proving Ground for NATO VIPs, and then went into the U.S. Army Chemical Corps. "When I arrived, we were using the first generation monitoring equipment. They could only detect gross quantities of agent. When I left, agent could be detected to below one part per billion (ppb)," he recalled. "The evolution of agent identification was amazing. We used bubblers which were basically solvent-filled glass bulbs that air samples were passed through. It had a detection limit of about 500 ppb. In the 1990s when we started using DAAMS (Depot Area Air Monitoring System) tubes for sampling and mass spectrometer gas chromatographs in the lab, we got below 1 ppb."

By the time Lash left CAMDS in 2006, he was credited by his colleagues with having a significant role in developing the U.S. chemical demilitarization program's agent analytical methodologies that are still used today. While working at CAMDS he even advanced his education— earning a Ph.D. in history. His thesis was, not unexpectedly, on the history of U.S. chemical warfare.

Steve Mallen also arrived at CAMDS in 1976, by way of Rocky Mountain Arsenal near Denver, Co. He recalled the period from 1979 to 1981 at CAMDS when the plant struggled to develop an effective neutralization technology. "We kept expecting our GB batches to clear after treating them with a caustic solution, and we consistently found agent in them. We finally figured out that minute amounts of neutralization byproducts were reforming into agent after we treated them," he said.

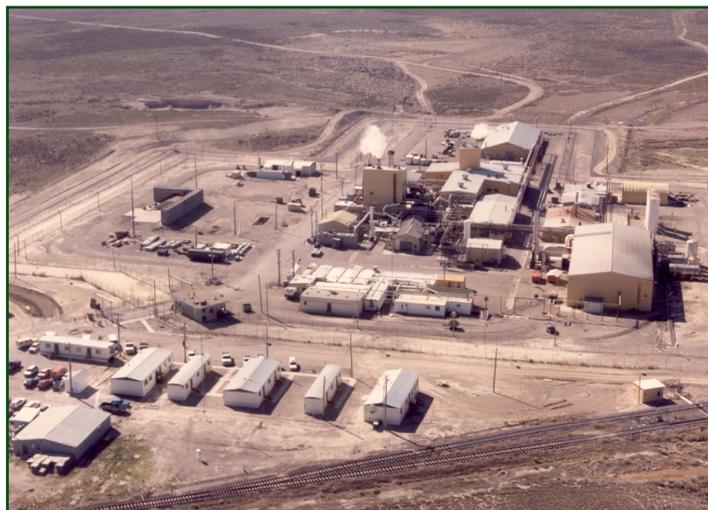
Faced with several impediments to neutralization, the CAMDS team was able to establish incineration as a more feasible destruction technology, and the chemical demilitarization program moved forward with incineration facilities at Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System in the Pacific Ocean and Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Utah. When Mallen left CAMDS in 2001, he had risen to Laboratory Support Division Chief. He then moved to the neighboring Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD). He currently works at the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Oregon as a contractor.

A third 1976 arrival, Ken Norris, came to CAMDS after losing his job providing surveillance of rockets and munitions at the Tooele Army Depot South Area (renamed DCD in 1996) through a Reduction in Force. Arriving as an entry-level chemical plant operator, and having gone to the South Area straight from high school, he wondered if he could handle the technology at first. "I had to learn fast, but I got trained in each system and got up to speed," he remembered. He went on to become a foreman, a branch chief, a division chief and was CAMDS' project manager when he left in 1997.

"When I arrived, we had no provisions for moving munitions and establishing hot areas, and we didn't have airlocks or modern Demilitarization Protective Ensemble (DPE) suits. We had to do all the research and development for creating a modern, second-generation DPE suit," he added. "But we got it all done. We adopted the South Area's practice of moving munitions in sealed vans with monitoring inside. We drilled our personnel in getting out of agent-contaminated areas in a prescribed period of time, we found the company that made suits for the astronauts and adapted them by adding a radio to talk to the control room," he said.

We never turned down any request from U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency headquarters at Aberdeen Proving Ground no matter how busy we were. We took every new assignment on and just figured out how to do it. We took pride in being the pioneers," Norris said.

When asked what the scariest thing that ever happened at CAMDS was, one of them answered, "It was in 1980 when we were told that the facility would be closed in two years." As it turned out, CAMDS completed its last research and development task in 2005.



1986 aerial view of CAMDS.



CAMDS personnel donning a DPE suit in the mid 1980s.