

### DCD planning for employees' future

The Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD) hopes to do again what was accomplished for the closure of the Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System (CAMDS): survive a Reduction in Force (RIF) without separating one employee. Much in the same way CAMDS did a few years back, DCD hopes to lessen the impact of a RIF by reshaping its workforce as DCD transitions its workload from regular mission operations into closure operations.

Kathy Ryan, DCD's Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) Transition Coordinator, told depot workers about DCD's preliminary RIF plans at the August town hall. Ryan said restructuring tools such as retention packages, early retirement and retirement incentives, transfers and local job opportunities will be used for an effective workforce transition aimed at helping those who still need a job to remain employed.

Ryan said she and her closure planning team look at  
(See CLOSURE PLANNING on page 2)

### Ongoing remediation efforts pose new challenges

Along with the safe storage and destruction of its chemical weapons, DCD has another vital mission on its plate: to leave DCD in the best environmental shape possible. Not an easy task considering the old-fashioned way of doing things—burying, burning and detonating chemical and conventional weapons. As a result, there's a lot of cleaning to do.

Spread out among the depot's nearly 20,000 acres are a number of Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs), areas that have been used for the treatment, storage or disposal of solid waste. The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) requires DCD to assess and remediate its SWMUs. While the depot is making some progress (out of 29 SWMUs, 14 require no further action and three more will be completed this year), it also faces some major challenges, particularly SWMUs 1 and 25, which were used for demil operations between 1945 and 1980. Located along DCD's southern boundaries, SWMUs 1 and 25 are the most heavily contaminated, said Troy Johnson, DCD's Environmental Program Manager, who addressed DCD's remediation plans at the August town hall.

SWMU 1 encompasses approximately 373 acres and has 130 areas where demil activities—burning and detonating of conventional munitions, as well as burying chemical munitions—took place. Johnson said there are approximately 59,000 empty 4.2 inch mustard mortars sitting on SWMU 1's surface, and one GA bomb was also disposed there.

"We have quite a challenge ahead in the cleanup of this area," he acknowledged. Johnson also confirmed that soil samples from SWMU 1 indicate trace amounts of GA nerve agent and mustard agent, but stressed the low levels to employees. "We're talking nanograms," Johnson said, "well below levels that are immediately dangerous to anyone. The area is safe and people can travel to the area with out worry of exposure to chemical agents."

(See CLEAN UP on page 2)



A depot worker takes action to assist his fellow co-worker to safety in response to a mock accident in DCD's storage area during the 2009 CSEPP exercise.

### Annual emergency drill tests local responders

Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD) joined several local, state and federal agencies to demonstrate emergency response capabilities during the annual full-scale Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness program (CSEPP) exercise. Emergency personnel demonstrated a solid performance in response to a mock chemical incident at DCD and other non-related emergencies in Tooele County.

On Sept. 16, during routine storage operations, depot workers responded to a simulated accident that occurred around 9 a.m. The accident resulted in a vehicle fire and mustard agent spill. Less than an hour later, a 5.5 magnitude earthquake hit Tooele, causing an explosion in a Tooele High School laboratory, traffic accidents, power outages and broken water lines. Response efforts included activation of various emergency operations centers, the Tooele Community Joint Information Center, and decontamination and treatment facilities.

"The exercise was a huge success in bringing people together and helping us to identify our strong points and weaknesses so we can improve our response to a real emergency," reported Wade Mathews, public information officer for Tooele County Emergency Management.

### Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Processing

(as of Sept. 20, 2009)

Total number of mustard agent-filled bulk containers destroyed	4,106
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	64.19%

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#### Outreach Office Hours:

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Monday - Friday

(Additional hours available upon request)



Rusted barrels and miscellaneous metal debris is scatter among one of DCD's SWMU sites that is currently under assessment.

## Clean up

*(Continued from front page)*

Johnson said a work plan, explosive and chemical safety plans and health and ecological risk assessments must be completed for SWMU 1 before surface cleanup can start in 2012.

SWMU 25, located next to SWMU 1, is 1,120 acres and includes M50 Thermite bombs (some with live charges), 50 clusters of high-explosive detonation craters (3.5 acres each) and ash piles from the cluster bomb activities. Carbon tetrachloride has been detected in the groundwater; soil sampling will be conducted in the spring. Clean up of SWMU 25 is expected to start in 2012.

Johnson estimates that remediation of all DCD's SWMUs will cost more than \$190 million and stretch into 2020.

"The Army's commitment to be good stewards of the land and clean up past practices will no doubt be costly and take a substantial amount of time and resources," Johnson said. "Yet it will leave this unique desert ecosystem a legacy for the flora and fauna that share the land with us."

## Closure planning

*(Continued from front page)*

TOCDF, CAMDS and DCD's projected schedules to estimate when the first RIF might be necessary. Ryan told employees that current schedules indicate that the first RIF could happen as early as 2012.

"We hope to use those tools, such as VERA VSIPs to manage our workforce and hopefully we won't have to lose anyone when the first RIF rolls around," said Ryan.

DCD employs approximately 350 people, and is scheduled for closure in January 2014.

## Upcoming Events

- **Oct. 8, 1:30 p.m.** – Utah Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste Control Board monthly meeting. The meeting will be held in Room 101 at the Department of Environmental Quality building, 168 N. 1950 W. in Salt Lake City.
- **Nov. 17, 1:00 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.

## Environmental Forum XVI

*An opportunity to meet the faces of Chem Demil*

The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) hosted its 16<sup>th</sup> Environmental Forum for the United States Chemical Weapons Destruction Program Aug. 25-26 in Portland, Ore.

The forum started with a meeting for environmental regulators and Citizens' Advisory Commission members from the various stockpile sites. The first day concluded with a poster session, where information products from CMA headquarters and each of the stockpile sites were on display, allowing attendees a chance to mingle and discuss the status of the program as well as the sites' progress.

The TOCDF Site Project Manager (SPM) Ted Ryba and Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System (CAMDS) SPM Jerry Linn were two of the guest speakers for day two, the general session of the forum. Ryba presented on the TOCDF Heel Transfer System (HTS) as TOCDF's lessons learned have proven to be invaluable to other disposal sites. Linn's presentation focused on the history and closure of CAMDS as a transportable disposal facility to the legacy it created by serving our nation's chemical weapons elimination program—researching, testing and developing many of the disposal technologies used throughout all of the stockpile sites today.

The annual Environmental Forum provides an opportunity for community members and regulators to meet the CMA government and contract employees who are working to make the world a safer place by ridding the United States of its chemical weapons.



In a short but poignant ceremony, Capt. King William, Sgt. Devin McNicol and Eric Williams, members of Deseret Chemical Depot's security force, lowered the national colors to half-mast on the morning of Sept. 11 in memory of the people lost during attacks of 2001 and the valiant efforts of rescue workers in the search for survivors. Curtis Vincent, a former employee of Deseret with family ties to the command group, sang a moving performance of "America the Beautiful." Col. Gerald L. Gladney, commander of the depot, made a short speech to workers, urging them to not forget this tragic event and thanking them for taking time out of their personal schedules to attend this remembrance.

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