

### Depot to hold ceremony honoring blast victims

The Umatilla Chemical Depot will host a Memorial Ceremony at 10 a.m., March 18 in honor of six depot workers killed in an igloo explosion in 1944. In commemoration of the 66th anniversary of this tragic accident, UMCD is inviting family members of the workers who died and depot workers of that period to attend.

This is the third commemoration held in the past three years and this year's ceremony marks the 66th anniversary of the March 21, 1944, igloo explosion in which six civilian depot workers died. The event also stands as the only fatal munitions handling accident in the depot's history since its opening on the eve of World War II.

"This tragic accident is a significant part of the local area, the depot and the Army's history. I feel it is very important that we honor these six depot workers who gave their lives in support of our country during World War II," said Lt. Col. Kris Perkins, depot commander.

Interested World War II-era depot workers or their family members should provide their names as soon as possible to the Umatilla Chemical Disposal Outreach Office in Hermiston at (541) 564-9339.



Local veteran Rollie Cassens plays "Taps" on his bugle during the 2009 Memorial Ceremony.

### UMCDF Highlights

- It has been 1,328 days, or more than 6 million work hours, since a lost-time accident occurred at the UMCDF (July 7, 2006).

#### Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Processing (Feb. 18 - 24, 2010)

Total number of originally stockpiled HD-filled ton containers destroyed this period	10
Total number of originally stockpiled HD-filled ton containers destroyed to date	203
Percentage of originally stockpiled HD-filled ton containers destroyed to date	7.7
Total "recipient" HD ton containers* destroyed this period	11
Total "recipient" HD ton containers* destroyed to date	110
Pounds of HD agent destroyed this period	20,671
Pounds of HD agent destroyed to date	344,170
Pounds of total agent destroyed to date <i>Includes GB, VX and HD</i>	3,110,352
Total munitions destroyed to date since start of operations (Sept. 7, 2004) <i>including non-stockpile GB and VX ton containers</i>	218,180
Nominal tons of chemical agent destroyed to date	1,549.95
Percentage of total agent tons destroyed	41.69

\*Recipient ton containers are byproducts of mustard disposal and were not a part of the original stockpile.

### UMCD/UMCDF Milestones

- June 11, 2009:** Began first HD ton container destruction in the Metal Parts Furnace (MPF).
- June 4, 2009:** First HD ton containers transported from depot storage to disposal plant.
- Nov. 5, 2008:** Completed VX munitions campaign.
- Oct. 26, 2007:** Began VX munitions campaign.
- July 8, 2007:** Completed GB munitions campaign.
- Sept. 7, 2004:** Began GB munitions campaign.

### Former depot worker passes away

John G. Janis, 73, retired depot security guard and chemical operations worker, died Feb. 17 at his home in Hermiston, Ore. A celebration of life was held Thursday, Feb. 25., followed by burial with military honors at the Hermiston Cemetery.

A veteran of the U.S. Navy, Janis went to Kuwait for six months in 2003, working as a civilian contractor for the Army near the Iraq border utilizing his skills as a toxic material handler.



Photo from the East Oregonian

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#### Outreach Office Hours:

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(Additional hours available upon request)