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CMA PROGRESS AT A GLANCE

as of Sept. 21, 2010:

— Anniston Chemical Activity, Ala.: Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ANCDF) work force continues to safely process 4.2-inch mustard-filled mortars. More than 77 percent of Anniston's stockpiled mortars have been safely demilitarized since July 2009. Overall ANCDF has safely processed more than 394,000 gallons of chemical nerve agent and mustard agent and more than 563,000 chemical munitions.

— Deseret Chemical Depot, Utah: Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) has safely destroyed 5,323 mustard agent-filled ton containers (TCs), 54,453 mustard agent-filled 155 mm projectiles and 63,274 mustard agent-filled 4.2-inch mortars. Overall, TOCDF has processed more than 84 percent of Deseret Chemical Depot's mustard agent stockpile, and nearly 92 percent of the original agent tonnage.

— Pine Bluff Chemical Activity, Ark.: Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (PBCDF) has safely processed more than six million pounds of chemical agent. The Heel Transfer System (HTS) is now available for processing mustard agent-filled TCs. The HTS will allow PBCDF to more efficiently process any TCs with an excess quantity of "heel," which is residual agent that normally remains inside the TCs after they are drained. PBCDF also continues safe and compliant mustard disposal operations as well as preventative and corrective maintenance activities.

— Umatilla Chemical Depot, Ore.: Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) continues to safely process mustard TCs, with 811 destroyed to date. The facility has also destroyed 232 "recipient" TCs, which contain byproducts from mustard disposal. Subject to approval by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, the UMCDF continues to make plans to construct, install and test a Rinsate Feed Collection System as a way to reduce the number of recipient TCs to be processed. If approved, the system could be in operation by early 2011. In all, UMCDF has destroyed about 56 percent of Umatilla's original stockpile of chemical agents.

TOCDF Reaches 10 Million Man-Hours without a Lost Workday

On July 27, 2010, the systems contractor at the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) reached and surpassed 10 million consecutive man-hours without a lost workday injury since Oct. 26, 2005, *marking nearly five years of a flawless work record.*

URS Vice President and General Manager Gary McCloskey called the achievement an "honor" for every employee who has worked at the chemical weapons disposal plant during the last five years. "Ten million man-hours is a reflection of each and every one of us living our core values and holding each other to the highest safety expectations possible," McCloskey said. "I also want to reinforce to each of our workers on Deseret Chemical Depot, whether URS, Battelle or Mellor/Science Technology Corporation employees, that while this is an outstanding achievement, unprecedented on this site, we should not look at it as the accomplishment of a goal. Our goal is to complete the TOCDF project without another lost workday injury or accident."

Carmen Spencer, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Elimination of Chemical Weapons, congratulates a crowd of contractor workers for recent safety, environmental and surety performances—specifically highlighting the recent milestone of reaching and surpassing 10 million man-hours without a lost workday injury. Spencer was among a host of U.S. Army and URS and Battelle corporate officials who spoke at the ceremony, congratulating and thanking workers.

Approximately 1,000 contractor workers are employed on the TOCDF project in activities ranging from operating and maintaining the TOCDF plant, disposing of secondary waste, preparing for the installation of an incinerator for GA nerve and Lewisite blister agents as well as an explosive destruction chamber for problematic mustard munitions, closing Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System and other numerous support positions for each activity. All contractor workers across these activities have contributed to successfully reaching this significant safety milestone. Each day of safe work without a lost workday injury, TOCDF workers accumulate approximately 6,500 man-hours.

TOCDF Site Project Manager Ted Ryba said, "Achieving 10 million man-hours without a lost-time injury is a noteworthy achievement in any industrial scenario, but even more noteworthy in the highly visible, highly political world of chemical demilitarization. This is a great achievement for the combined systems contractor work force."

Removal of Umatilla MDMs makes way for New Agent Spill Collection System

Last month, officials at the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) removed all Multipurpose Demilitarization Machines, known as MDMs, from the Munitions Processing Bay. UMCDF used the MDMs during the projectile campaigns to process 97,717 GB and VX projectiles.

The removal of the MDMs allows enough space within the Munitions Processing Bay for a new agent spill collection system. This new system will be installed, along with new equipment to process HD rinsate generated by the Heel Transfer System. The rinsate will then be processed in the facility's liquid incinerator (LIC). Rinsate is material created when a mustard heel is mobilized with high pressure hot water sprays. Pumping rinsate into the new system and then to the LIC will generally eliminate the need for recipient ton containers that now must be processed through the Metal Parts Furnace. Another advantage of this new system is that it will help the UMCDF to meet treaty obligations.

Fall Home Maintenance Tips

Autumn means cooler weather, autumn leaves and setting clocks back. With fall fast approaching, these tips will help in the coming months.

WINDOWS AND DOORS

- Air leaks around windows and doors take a toll on your energy bill. Check for air leaks around window and door frames by safely moving a lighter or candle flame around the window or door frame and see if the flame moves with a breeze.

CHIMNEY

- Have your chimney inspected and cleaned. Carbon monoxide could be released if there are any cracks in and around the base of your chimney. Ensure all of your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors have fresh batteries and operate properly.

LEAF DISPOSAL

- Wear thick gloves when raking leaves to protect against splinters and blisters. Use your knees to lift heavy bags of leaves to prevent back strain.
- Avoid a slipping hazard by removing wet leaves from your sidewalks, walkways, porch steps and porch.

PREPARE FOR FEWER DAYLIGHT HOURS

- As daylight hours dwindle, carry a flashlight in your car and adjust outdoor activities accordingly.

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Explosive Chamber Ready for Shipment

Following final testing requirements to validate the Detonation of Ammunition in Vacuum Integrated Chamber (DAVINCH), the equipment will now be prepared for delivery to Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD).

The DAVINCH system will be used to destroy more than 300 remaining mustard-agent filled munitions. These munitions include those that have previously leaked and are now safely stored in overpack containers and "reject" munitions—those munitions that are badly deteriorated, making it difficult to remove the munition components.

While the contract to destroy the munitions is with Versar, the chamber was fabricated by Kobe Steel, owners and operators of the DAVINCH system. The chamber has undergone a number of tests at the vendor location in Kanda, Japan, including initial testing early this year, which demonstrated that the DAVINCH is capable of safely destroying double overpacked munitions.

Last week, additional testing was conducted to determine the net explosive capacity of the equipment. The Department of Defense Explosives Safety Board (DDESB) requires this testing in order to set the explosive limit and certify the system for use before it is delivered to the United States.

Although the system is designed for at least 60 kilograms of net explosive material, or 133 pounds of TNT equivalent explosives, the DDESB requires the system to be tested with 75 kilograms, or 125 percent of the rated load. Additional testing was also conducted using different explosive weights in order to see how the chamber reacts to various scenarios.

"The chamber performed well and successfully achieved DDESB certification requirements," Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) Site Project Manager Ted Ryba said following his trip to Japan to observe the demonstration tests. "Not only did the system performance meet requirements, it surpassed all expectations."

Permitting activities continue as TOCDF officials wrap up the first public comment period. Once comments are addressed, the permit request will be submitted for a second comment period and a public hearing will be held.

The DAVINCH will be located in DCD's Area 10. Site preparation work is well underway and the system is scheduled to arrive in November. Following installation, crews will begin an extensive systemization period, ensuring that the equipment is working properly. Furthermore, an operational readiness review will be conducted prior to beginning operations next summer.

Alabama Engineering Hall of Fame Recognizes ANCDF

The Board of Directors of the State of Alabama Engineering Hall of Fame announced recently the selection of the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ANCDF) for induction into the Hall of Fame early next year.

According to Timothy K. Garrett, ANCDF government site project manager, "The induction is the culmination of years of team work. Teams designed and built the ANCDF. We have a team of professional, hard-working government and contractor employees who operate the ANCDF safely day in and day out. And, we had a team to prepare the nomination packet that was reviewed by the Hall of Fame Board of Directors."

Garrett summed up his personal assessment by saying, "Team work is the hallmark of our success. It is personally very gratifying to know that our efforts have been recognized by the prestigious State of Alabama Engineering Hall of Fame."

In his letter to Garrett announcing the selection of the ANCDF, Rodney W. Summerford, chairman of the Hall of Fame Board of Directors, noted the ANCDF will be recognized next year in the "project category."

Summerford wrote, "The State of Alabama Engineering Hall of Fame was formed in 1987 in recognition of the 150th Anniversary of engineering education in the state of Alabama. The Hall of Fame seeks to recognize those individuals, projects, and corporations/institutions that have excelled in the field of engineering, significantly impacting the technological and economic development in Alabama, the region, the nation, or the world."

The induction ceremony will take place in Montgomery, Ala., in February, 2011.

CAMDS Closure Moves Forward, Setting Example for other Sites

Just as the Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System (CAMDS) pioneered the nation's chemical weapons elimination program, it is now leading programmatic closure efforts. CAMDS is the only site under the U.S. Army's Chemical Materials Agency that is currently undergoing closure, and it is the first site to do so under the direction of systems contractor URS.

Closure plans for CAMDS include demolishing all of the buildings and facilities at once. But before that can happen, a lot of work has to be done. The Material Treatment Facility is now ready for demolition, having undergone a successful Unventilated Monitoring Test (UMT). Several other buildings are near completion, including the Chemical Treatment Facility and the Explosive Containment Cubical. The decommissioning work on these buildings is nearly complete, and the areas are awaiting concrete sampling and UMTs to ensure they are agent-free and ready for demolition. Decommissioning work is under way in the Brine Drying Area.

Meanwhile, the Decommissioning Work Package (DWP) for CAMDS' most heavily contaminated areas, the Multipurpose Demilitarization Facility (MDF) and the Bulk Item Facility (BIF), is being developed.

"The MDF was the facility where the demil equipment, including the punch and drain machine and the Linear Projectile M-mortar Disassembly machine, was tested and it included tanks to collect the agent from ton containers and projectiles," says Woody Burhoe, the Science Applications International Corporation Project Lead for CAMDS.

The ton containers were handled for sampling in the BIF. The DWP includes the historical use of these areas and proposes how they will be properly decontaminated and decommissioned; the plan is expected to be submitted to the state for approval by early November.

CAMDS personnel participated in the 8+1 Summit in Portland, Ore., Sept. 29-30. The summit serves as a stage for all chem demil sites to come together and discuss closure—particularly CAMDS' experiences and how those challenges apply programmatically. "Sharing information is the key to a successful programmatic-wide closure process," says CAMDS Site Project Manager Jerry Linn, "starting with Johnston Atoll and continuing with Aberdeen and Newport…now it's CAMDS' turn to be in the spotlight and share all the information it can to help other sites when it is time for them to start closure-related activities."

DCD Holds CSEPP Exercise

Once again, Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD), along with several local, state and federal agencies, proved their emergency response skills in the annual full-scale Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) exercise on Sept. 15. Between a mock chemical incident at DCD and various non-related emergencies throughout Tooele County, emergency personnel were successful in responding to and handling the various mock incidents.

While DCD workers were responding to a simulated accident that occurred in the depot storage area, resulting in a forklift fire and mustard agent spill, Tooele County was dealing with multiple disasters. The mock chemical incident at DCD kick-started the CSEPP exercise at around 9:00 a.m., and within a two-hour span Tooele County had responded to a construction accident, hiking accident involving wildfire, meth lab contamination, natural gas leak and a water main break. Response efforts included activation of various emergency operations centers, the Tooele Community Joint Information Center, and decontamination and treatment facilities.

In addition, the night before, Tooele County also exercised a mass casualty incident where a riot broke out during a community event, involving pepper spray and a chemical bomb that was set off as a prank. This provided an opportunity for the first responders that are not normally available for the day time exercise to practice their emergency response efforts.

"Since this is the last year that we will be conducting a federally funded CSEPP full-scale exercise, we felt it was important to involve as many agencies and organizations as possible," said Marilyn Candelaria, Tooele County Emergency Management Deputy Director. Candelaria spent the last year planning and preparing for this exercise. "We really wanted to make sure to test all of our resources," she added.

Approximately 100 people from around the country came to observe and critique the emergency response efforts of the experts and volunteers.

"This exercise demonstrated that the Tooele community, from professional responder to community volunteer, is well prepared," said Cheryl Layman, Emergency Management Specialist with Federal Emergency Management Agency Region 10. "They very effectively demonstrated their capability to protect the public. They showed that they could respond to not only a single incident, but more importantly, their ability to work together and coordinate efforts to handle multiple emergencies at the same time."

As part of the simulated exercise in DCD's storage area, an emergency responder performs decontamination procedures on a co-worker who's simulating exposure to mustard agent.

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