



CMA PROGRESS AT A GLANCE

as of November 22, 2010:

- Anniston Chemical Activity, Ala.:** Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ANCDF) work force continues to safely process 4.2-inch mustard-filled mortars. ANCDF has emptied 125 storage igloos, reducing Anniston Chemical Activity's stockpile by more than 90 percent. Overall, ANCDF has safely processed more than 413,000 gallons of chemical nerve agent and mustard blister agent contained in more than 597,000 chemical munitions.
- Blue Grass Chemical Activity, Ky.:** Blue Grass Chemical Activity (BGCA) continues the safe storage of 523 tons of chemical weapons. BGCA is storing the remaining U.S. inventory of M55 rockets that contain nerve agents GB and VX. BGCA will continue to provide maximum protection to the community until demilitarization is complete.
- Deseret Chemical Depot, Utah:** Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) has successfully destroyed 5,542 mustard agent-filled ton containers, 54,453 mustard agent-filled 155 mm projectiles and 63,274 4.2-inch mortars. Overall, TOCDF has processed more than 88 percent of the Deseret Chemical Depot's mustard agent stockpile, and nearly 94 percent of the original agent tonnage.
- Pine Bluff Chemical Activity, Ark.:** Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility safely completed disposal of the last mustard agent-filled ton container on Nov. 12, marking the successful completion of chemical weapons disposal operations at Pine Bluff Arsenal. The work force has processed more than 120,000 munitions, which equals more than 7.5 million pounds of chemical agent, since operations began in March 2005. The facility has begun its closure phase, which includes decontamination and dismantling of the facility and equipment. This is expected to last approximately two years.
- Pueblo Chemical Depot, Colo.:** Pueblo Chemical Depot (PCD) stores mustard-filled munitions, 105 mm projectiles and cartridges, 155 mm projectiles and 4.2-inch mortar cartridges. Current operations include leaker isolation operations and the installation of filters on all storage igloo doors and stacks within the Chemical Limited Area. Construction has begun on a company fire station near the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant site and will operate 24/7 and have three vehicle bays, supporting seven firemen. The project is scheduled to be completed in nine months.
- Umatilla Chemical Depot, Ore.:** Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) reached a milestone in late October of 5 million pounds of chemical agent destroyed. The UMCDF also completed a brief scheduled outage of the Metal Parts Furnace to install components of a new system to process TC heels in the Liquid Incinerator. During November, the UMCDF also reached 1,600 work days since the last lost-day due to injury. UMCDF has eliminated 1,035 ton containers of mustard agent and has destroyed 62 percent of Umatilla's original chemical agent stockpile, up from 58 percent the previous month.



Toxic material handlers use a forklift to place the last mustard ton container into an Enhanced Onsite Container for transport to the Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility. (Photo courtesy of U.S. Army)

Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Completes Stockpile Destruction

On Nov. 12, the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) checked another site off its list of stockpiles to destroy. Operators at the Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (PBCDF) destroyed the last of Pine Bluff's stockpile, ending more than five years of incineration operations that began March 28, 2005. PBCDF used incineration technology following a recommendation from the National Research Council.

Pine Bluff Chemical Activity (PBCA) provided the safe and secure storage and transport of approximately 12 percent of the nation's original chemical weapons stockpile to the PBCDF. Working together, PBCA and PBCDF personnel destroyed the stockpile safely: ensuring maximum protection of the installation and community population and providing treaty compliance. PBCA personnel safely transported the original inventory of chemical weapons in 5,879 Enhanced On-Site Container deliveries from storage to the PBCDF. That inventory included 90,409 M55 GB rockets, 19,608 M55 VX rockets, 9,378 M23 VX landmines and 3,703 mustard ton containers.

"For more than 60 years, the Pine Bluff team stored approximately 3,850 tons of the nation's original chemical agent stockpile," said CMA Director Conrad Whyne. "From the beginning, employees at Pine Bluff and throughout CMA made safety

the cornerstone of our chemical weapons stockpile storage and destruction missions. Today we reap the benefits of their dedication and vigilance."

With destruction operations complete, the PBCA and PBCDF have begun closure operations, which will continue for approximately two years. Activities included in closure operations are official termination of surety status, closeout of treaty requirements, management and disposal of wastes through safe and environmentally acceptable methods, transfer of property, closeout of related permits, records archiving, budget requirements processing, contract closeout and management of human resources. Closure operations will be conducted in accordance with facility and storage area end-states as agreed upon with state regulators and the Pine Bluff Arsenal.

CMA has safely completed disposal operations and closed its facilities in Edgewood, Md.; Newport, Ind.; and at the Johnston Atoll, located 800 miles southwest of Hawaii. CMA continues to safely store and destroy chemical weapons stockpiles in Anniston, Ala.; Tooele, Utah; and Umatilla, Ore. CMA also oversees the safe storage of chemical weapons stockpiles in Blue Grass, Ky., and Pueblo, Colo.

UMATILLA CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY DESTROYS 1000TH TON CONTAINER

On Nov. 7, the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) successfully processed the 1000th mustard-filled ton container (TC) since starting mustard agent processing on June 4, 2009. UMCDF has destroyed 1.76 million pounds of mustard agent—its final chemical weapons disposal campaign. Approximately 2.9 million pounds remain to be processed.



PCD Employee Participates in NYC Veterans Day Parade

Mitchelene (Mitch) BigMan, an administrative assistant to the Director of Emergency Services at Pueblo Chemical Depot (PCD), was the first female Native American military member of the Color Guard to march in Native American regalia in New York City's Veterans Day Parade.

BigMan recently retired from the U.S. Army at Fort Carson as a sergeant first class. She, along with Fort Carson Staff Sgt. Toni Eaglefeathers and Staff Sgt. Cindy Darrington, all Iraqi Freedom Veterans, marched in the parade on Nov. 11. They also Presented the Colors at Times Square on Nov. 10.

The three Soldiers hadn't planned on creating a Color Guard Team, but since they were good friends, they attended a Native American powwow last March in Denver, Colo. As they were getting ready for grand entry to show off their dresses, an Elder told them that they should be part of the Color Guard since they were veterans.

"I told the Elder that we weren't in uniform, but she said that our dresses speak more than a uniform, because we have our rank, combat patches, Iraqi Freedom patch and U.S. flag sewn on them," said BigMan.

The Fort Carson Soldiers were about to enter the arena when the arena directors approached them and asked their names, ranks and their Color Guard team name. "We were a little surprised," said BigMan. "We were placed last among the teams and when the Master of Ceremonies introduced us, he said that in all the Powwows he attended, he had never seen an all-female Native American Color Guard. The emcee said we made history that day. The response was so awesome. They announced our names, ranks and the nation we represented and gave us the name 'Army Women's Iraqi Freedom Veterans Color Guard.' We all cried, we didn't expect the massive response from the crowd."



Members of the Army Women's Iraqi Freedom Veterans Color Guard are, from left, Retired Sgt. First Class Mitchelene BigMan, Staff Sgt. Toni Eaglefeathers and Staff Sgt. Cindy Darrington (Photo by Jim Kelly)

Since then, the Color Guard team has been invited to participate in other regional events. Mitch is a member of the Crow Nation, Toni Eaglefeathers is Northern Cheyenne and Cindy Darrington is Navajo.

Construction of ATLIC Nearing Completion at DCD

A great deal of progress has been made at the Area 10 Liquid Incinerator (ATLIC) site and workers expect to complete construction work in January 2011. Most of the major elements are in place including the LIC, heating and cooling system, electrical equipment enclosure, control center and glove boxes, which will be used to drain and decontaminate the ton containers.

The ATLIC is located within Deseret Chemical Depot's (DCD) storage area and will be used to destroy DCD's small stockpile of GA nerve and Lewisite blister agents.

Installation of remaining process equipment is ongoing, including the Pollution Abatement System equipment that will ensure the furnace exhaust is environmentally compliant, meeting strict regulations before release into the environment.

Following construction, workers will begin testing the individual pieces of the system to verify that they can be operated from the control center. This will include turning motors on and off, filling and emptying the holding tanks, pressure valve checks and ensuring adequate air flow through the HVAC system. Once this is complete, the system's parts will be integrated together and fine tuned in preparation for final operational reviews and inspections.

Outside of construction, the environmental department has been busy with permitting requirements. While the first public comment period has concluded, a second 45-day public comment period is expected to start in mid-January 2011. Both must be held before the permit request can be considered for final approval.

HOLIDAY SAFETY MESSAGE

Unfortunately, the holidays and flu season sometimes go together like milk and cookies. With both seasons upon us, here are a few tips to avoid mixing the two.

- Get the flu shot every fall. Most insurance companies cover it for free, and it is readily available at various drug stores and clinics.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. Keep a bottle of anti-bacterial hand sanitizer in your purse or car and on your desk at work.
- Avoid digging into communal bowls of snacks at holiday parties, touching public door knobs and bathroom faucets, escalator hand rails and elevator buttons with your bare hands.
- Exercise often and eat healthy meals to boost your immune system.
- Avoid going into large public places, like shopping malls, unless absolutely necessary. Large public places put you into contact with more people, increasing your exposure to germs.

With the change in weather, the rush of the holidays and the gathering of friends and family at parties, everyone runs the risk of getting sick. However, if you follow these steps you will increase your chances of staying healthy this winter.

Explosive Chamber Arrives in Utah

The Detonation of Ammunition in Vacuum Integrated Chamber (DAVINCH) system successfully made its trek from Japan to Utah early last month.

The DAVINCH, an Explosive Destruction Technology, will be used to destroy more than 300 problematic mustard agent-filled munitions, in addition to approximately 50 mustard samples. The munitions slated for disposal in the DAVINCH consist of 155 mm projectiles and 4.2-inch mortars that are badly deteriorated or have leaked in the past and are now safely stored in overpack containers. This system was chosen because these munitions cannot be processed using the existing demilitarization process at the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) without increased risks to the workers. The DAVINCH will use donor and linear-shaped charges to detonate and destroy the munitions.

The DAVINCH system recently completed explosive testing in Japan and was shipped to the United States. The off-gas treatment system—which will clean, cool and neutralize the acidic gases—is currently being fabricated in Utah and is expected to be complete this month.

The DCD storage yard, known as Area 10, is where the DAVINCH will be constructed and housed within its own environmental enclosure. Site preparation work is currently under way, with installation activities scheduled to begin later this month and operations expected to start mid-2011.

The environmental permitting requirements are also moving along. The TOCDF environmental department has responded to the first round of comments received from the Utah Department of Solid and Hazardous Waste. Following resolution of these comments, a second 45-day public comment period is anticipated to begin in late December.



The Detonation of Ammunition in Vacuum Integrated Chamber (DAVINCH) is a controlled detonation system developed for chemical weapons destruction. The DAVINCH will be used at the Deseret Chemical Depot to destroy more than 300 remaining mustard agent-filled munitions.