



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL  
MATERIALS AGENCY

# FACT SHEET

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## Deseret Chemical Depot

### Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System

#### Closure Efforts Underway



*A lot of work had to be completed at CAMDS before demolition can start. In addition to decontaminating areas that could possibly have been contaminated with chemical agent, non-toxic equipment was removed from the site, including (above photos from left) CAMDS' landmark water tower, which was dismantled and recycled; a vintage rail car that housed CAMDS' backup generators was donated to the Utah State Railroad Museum; and the Explosive Containment Cubicle is now at the Army's Edgewood Chemical Biological Center in Maryland, where it will be used to support the activities of recovered warfare response teams and to test the strength of protective equipment and body armor developed for soldiers and emergency responders.*

For more information,  
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The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency's (CMA) first formal chemical weapons destruction efforts began with the Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System (CAMDS) at Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD), Utah. Designed and built as the primary test and development facility for the nation's chemical weapons elimination program, CAMDS has served a vital role in the destruction of chemical weapons.

Construction of the CAMDS facility began in 1974 and was completed in 1978. Processing of chemical agent-filled munitions began Sept. 10, 1979 with the destruction of the first M55 nerve agent rocket. During disposal operations at CAMDS, more than 203,000 pounds of chemical agent were neutralized and more than 159,000 pounds of chemical agent were incinerated, resulting in the elimination of more than 39,000 chemical agent-filled munitions.

Along with neutralization and incineration, CAMDS supported the development of additional alternative chemical demilitarization technologies such as cryofracture and hydrolysis. Other processes such as chemical munitions handling and disassembly, pollution abatement systems, personal protective equipment, chemical agent monitoring, lab support and waste treatment were also developed and tested throughout CAMDS' history in an effort to finding the safest and most environmentally sound practices for destruction.

CAMDS destruction operations ceased in 2005. In August 2006, physical closure of the facility started with the dismantling, decontaminating and disposal of the equipment and structures used during chemical agent operations. Equipment that could be recycled or reused has been removed from the site. Currently, the final preps are being made before demolition starts by early 2012. Eventually, the CAMDS property will be restored to standards set by the facility's environmental permit.

Though CAMDS will soon be gone, its pioneering legacy lives on, as many of its demonstrated successes will continue to be utilized at U.S. chemical weapons stockpile demilitarization sites.

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## Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System: *Closure Efforts Underway (continued)*

### CAMDS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Neutralization testing of agent in rockets and projectiles

Testing and development of reverse assembly, demilitarization, rocket shear, projectile/mortar disassembly and multi-purpose demil machines

Testing and development of bulk drain station and explosive containment chamber

Testing and development of liquid incinerator and metal parts furnace

Testing and development of agent quantification system

Deep bed carbon filter and mustard thaw container testing

Rocket separation

Cryofracture and VX water neutralization testing and development

Demil protective ensemble technology developed

Removed explosive components from DCD's stockpile of 4.2-inch mustard mortars

Supported the development of Simulation Equipment Test Hardware (SETH)

Development of carbon tray filling and certification

Development and support for chemical agent monitoring

Alternative technologies tested for the ACWA program, included: energetic rotary hydrolyser, projectile and mortar washout systems, continuous steam treater, VX and mustard hydrolysate

Non-stockpile empty ton container processing

Sampling explosive components inside 155mm mustard agent-filled projectiles

Study of neutralization processes for full-scale destruction of Lewisite

Secondary waste segregation and treatment