



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

MONTHLY UPDATE

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DESERET CHEMICAL DEPOT | May 24, 2012

Ceremony celebrates completion

End of Operations Ceremony draws big crowd to pay tribute to Deseret Chemical Depot's rich history, from storing its first weapon to destroying the last drop of chemical agent

Hundreds of people came together April 26 at Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD) to celebrate the destruction of the depot's entire chemical weapons stockpile—once the largest, most diverse stockpile in the United States. The crowd of more than 800 people included past and present workers, citizens, stakeholders, elected officials, friends and family who gathered to pay tribute to Team Deseret's accomplishments that spanned 70 years, from storing the first weapons to destroying the last of the depot's chemical agents.

Working under the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA), Deseret was the first stockpile in the continental United States to start disposal efforts and the last one to finish, following behind disposal sites in Maryland, Indiana, Arkansas, Oregon and Alabama. DCD destroyed its first weapon, a nerve agent-filled M55 rocket, on Aug. 22, 1996, and the last of its chemical agent, lewisite stored in ton containers, on Jan. 21, 2012.

"How fitting that the Deseret Chemical Depot and the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility should close out CMA's Chemical Stockpile Elimination mission," said Conrad Whyne, former director of the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA). "Deseret had the largest stockpile, it was the first site in the continental United States to start disposal efforts, and it was the only site to destroy more than one million chemical munitions."

Deseret's 1,138,772 munitions included spray tanks, rockets, land mines, ton containers, projectiles, mortars and bombs filled with GA, GB and VX nerve agents or blister agents mustard and lewisite. DCD was the only destruction facility to process such a diverse range of weapons and so many different types of chemical agents.

During his remarks, Utah Lt. Governor Greg Bell called chemical weapons, "One of the most horrible things made by man." He praised Team Deseret for safely destroying its large stockpile.

"Your accomplishment is a major statement of peace," said Lt. Governor Bell. "I am grateful that we can celebrate that today."

After his remarks, Lt. Governor Bell presented a procla- (See CEREMONY CELEBRATES COMPLETION on page 2)

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CREATING A SAFER TOMORROW

Ceremony celebrates completion

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mation from Utah Governor Gary Herbert that congratulated and thanked the work force. Tyler Vorwaller, a DCD security officer who has been in federal service for more than 48 years, and Lynn Chadwick, a URS hazardous waste technician, who made his 1,000th toxic entry a week before the ceremony, accepted the framed proclamation on behalf of all civilians, contractors and soldiers that ever served at the installation.

During the ceremony, Team Deseret was also praised for other accomplishments made during its destruction mission such as reducing waste and conserving resources, environmental stewardship, and an excellent safety culture, reaching more than 14 million man hours worked without a lost workday injury.

"I have an incredible sense of pride for what we have been able to accomplish," Gary McCloskey, general manager of the Tooele Chemical Agent Destruction Facility (TOCDF), told the crowd. "Every one of us has contributed a piece of success to this project, and the result has been tremendous and gratifying. It really warms my heart for the job we have done."

TOCDF Site Project Manager Ted Ryba concluded the ceremony with his praise, too. "I'd like to say 'thank you' to everybody in the audience who worked so hard to achieve the milestone we celebrate today. The men and women of Team Deseret who worked for nearly 70 years, first to keep the former stockpile safe then to safely and efficiently destroy the stockpile. Clearly, you have made the world a safer place."

(more CEREMONY PHOTOGRAPHS on page 3)

Citizens' Advisory Commission formally dissolved

The last Utah Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC) for Chemical Weapons Demilitarization meeting was held at DCD prior to the End of Operations Ceremony on April 26. The CAC has acted as a vital link between the community and the Army since 1993. During the last meeting, Chairwoman Debbie Kim-Burr read the Governor's declaration to officially dissolve the commission after successfully fulfilling its mission related to the disposal of Utah's chemical weapons. In the declaration, Governor Gary Herbert also thanked and congratulated the commission members for their "outstanding accomplishments." To the right of Kim-Burr sits Scott Anderson, CAC member and director of the Utah Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste.



Spring cleanup close to starting

Work includes removing thousands of empty munition casings

Surface cleanup activities are about to begin on Deseret Chemical Depot's (DCDs) most heavily contaminated Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs), known as SWMUs 1 and 25. SWMUs are contaminated areas located on depot that were once used for the treatment, storage or disposal of conventional and chemical weapons, as well as other industrial materials. Out of 29 SWMUs, 15 still require cleanup; several contracts have been awarded to begin remediation activities for the majority of those remaining SWMUs.

Shaw Group, Inc. has been awarded the contract to perform surface cleanup of SWMUs 1 and 25. Once Shaw receives the state's approval on the work plan, which is expected by the end of May, they can begin initial surface cleanup efforts. In the meantime, Shaw has started building their command post, which is located within close proximity to SWMUs 1 and 25 and will include restrooms, showers and a decontamination station.



On April 26, Mr. Ted Ryba, Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) Site Project Manager, was awarded the Meritorious Civilian Service Award by Col. John Lemondes, Program Manager for Chemical Stockpile Elimination. Ryba was accompanied by his wife, Tamara, who pinned the medal onto his suit. The Meritorious Civilian Service Award is the second-highest award presented to Army civilian personnel. Nominees must have established a pattern of excellence, demonstrated by achieving outstanding results. For nearly eight years, Ryba has provided exemplary leadership to the TOCDF Field Office and commendable oversight of the System Contractor. Ryba successfully lead the project to the end of the mission—complete disposal of DCD's chemical weapons stockpile—including the construction and operation of a second facility, the Area 10 Liquid Incinerator.

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CAMDS demolition work completed

Demolition of the Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System (CAMDS) is finished. Crews started tearing down the buildings of the former chemical demilitarization pilot plant on February 14, 2012. The only demo-related work that remains is backfilling the holes left from the deep concrete removal, and that should be completed next month.

Meanwhile, results of the soil samples taken earlier this month are still being finalized. The results will determine if any additional remediation will have to be done.

For more than 25 years, CAMDS developed and tested chemical weapons destruction methods and procedures, destroying more than 363,000 pounds of chemical agents and more than 40,000 munitions during that time.

This aerial photograph (inset photo) was taken of the Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System (CAMDS) in 2002. Now few of the original facilities remain. The buildings and support systems that are still standing (shown in the bottom righthand corner of the top photo) belong to the Sample Analysis Facility, which continues to support secondary waste disposal efforts and closure of the Area 10 Liquid Incinerator.

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