

## CHEMICAL MATERIALS ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Activity (CMA) supports continued compliance with the international chemical weapons treaty, assesses and destroys recovered chemical warfare materiel, and retains expertise for safe and secure chemical weapons stockpile storage, while protecting people and the environment. Headquartered at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, CMA's workforce includes the Army's leading experts in chemical weapons management, storage, assessment, and destruction in accordance with international treaty requirements.

### Comply



On April 29, 1997, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling, and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, known as the Chemical

Weapons Convention (CWC), entered into force. At that time, the United States and 86 other nations became the first countries to sign and ratify the CWC, with 193 nations ratified as of 2022. In doing so, participating nations agreed to destroy all their chemical weapons and former chemical weapons production facilities and to abide by prohibitions from development, use, production and acquisition of chemical weapons.

The CMA director serves as the Army Treaty Implementing Agent for CWC management and compliance. The CMA Center for Treaty Implementation and Compliance (CTIC) is a vital link between the United States and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the international implementing body of the CWC. CTIC is responsible for the development and maintenance of the arms control treaty and agreement implementation plan to ensure our nation upholds this international commitment.

### Assess and Destroy



The CMA Recovered Chemical Materiel Directorate (RCMD) provides centralized management and direction to the Department of Defense (DOD) for assessment and destruction of recovered chemical warfare materiel (RCWM) in a safe, environmentally compliant manner in support of the United States' obligation under the CWC.

RCWM includes items recovered from range-clearing operations, chemical weapons burial sites and other locations. Upon recovery, the CMA RCMD deploys specially trained personnel and mobile assessment and treatment systems to identify and treat RCWM using the best action determined.

### Store



CMA safely stored and eliminated chemical weapons at seven stockpile sites, completing that mission in 2012. CMA accomplished its mission of safely storing the two remaining chemical weapons stockpiles at Pueblo Chemical Depot, Colorado, and Blue Grass Army Depot, Kentucky, when the DOD completed stockpile destruction operations in 2023.

CMA retains this expertise for safe and secure storage of RCWM pending its destruction. Moreover, if storage operations are required to posture other nations' stockpiles for destruction in compliance with the CWC, the Army can draw on CMA's extensive knowledge and expertise regarding chemical agents and munitions, assessment and destruction, design of storage facilities, and safe handling and accountability processes.

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**CHEMICAL MATERIALS ACTIVITY OVERVIEW** (CONTINUED)**Protect**

Since its inception in 1998, the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) has worked closely with the communities around chemical

weapons stockpiles in Kentucky and Colorado. State and local emergency management officials partnered with the Army and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to improve their ability to protect communities. CSEPP will continue to support these communities through final closure of the stockpile sites.

Communities and states have reaped the benefits in new command and public/media information facilities, communications equipment, warning

sirens and tone-alert, computerized planning and accident-assessment tools, and improved emergency personnel training. The enhancements increase the capability to deal with more likely emergencies in these communities, such as transportation accidents involving hazardous materials, floods and fires.

CSEPP also has been a major driver for the development of emergency preparedness doctrine and policies, both within the Army and in civilian practice at the federal, state, and local level.

CSEPP guidance also served as the basis of the most important emergency management guides at the national level, including the Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program, the national guide for homeland security exercises.

