



# U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS ACTIVITY FACT SHEET

## CMA OVERVIEW

**U.S. Army Chemical Materials Activity (CMA) is the world leader in programs to store, treat, and dispose of chemical weapons safely and effectively.** The activity developed and used technologies to safely store and eliminate chemical weapons at seven stockpile sites while protecting the public, its workers and the environment. CMA also has the storage mission at the Nation's final two stockpile sites.

CMA headquarters management team, as well as scientific, communications and support staff, is based at the Edgewood Area of the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland, while other dedicated managers and staff fulfill the activity's mission at the two remaining chemical weapons stockpile storage sites at Blue Grass Army Depot, Kentucky, and Pueblo Chemical Depot, Colorado, as well as recovered chemical agent materiel sites and locations across the country.

### Store and Protect

#### Munitions Remaining

CMA retains the mission for safe and secure storage of chemical weapons at two locations, one in Blue Grass Army Depot, Kentucky, and one in Pueblo Chemical Depot, Colorado. The chemical agents and munitions at both sites are housed in designated storage areas and specially designed earth-covered magazines, commonly referred to as storage igloos or bunkers. Thorough job training and certification is designed to ensure safety is maintained at all times.

#### Chemical Stockpile Emergency Program (CSEPP)

The Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) works closely with the communities around the nation's remaining chemical weapons stockpiles in Kentucky and Colorado. Since the program began in 1988, state and local emergency management officials have teamed with the Army and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to improve their ability to protect communities. This partnership has helped these communities by enhancing emergency plans and providing chemical accident response equipment and warning systems.

### Comply

#### Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)

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 192 nations ratified as of 2015. 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. CWC treaty officials monitor to ensure all the activities illustrated in the map below comply with treaty requirements.

### Assess and Destroy

#### Recovered Chemical Warfare Materiel (RCWM)

Recovered chemical warfare materiel (RCWM) includes items recovered from range-clearing operations, chemical weapons burial sites and other locations. Upon recovery, the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Activity Recovered Chemical Materiel Directorate (RCMD) deploys specially trained personnel and mobile assessment and treatment systems to identify and treat RCWM using the best action determined.



*An operator holds an identification placard above chemical munitions set to be destroyed in the Explosive Destruction System, or EDS, in Pueblo. Chemical weapons destruction operations using the EDS began in March 2015.*

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## CMA OVERVIEW

### Storage and Protection

U.S. Army Chemical Materials Activity (CMA) is also responsible for safe storage of the Nation's chemical weapon materials pending its ultimate destruction. CSEPP was created in 1985 when the U.S. Congress passed a law directing the Army to dispose of its aging chemical weapons inventory with maximum protection of the public and environment as its primary consideration. Since its inception, the primary goal of CSEPP has been to educate and enhance emergency preparedness in communities surrounding the chemical stockpile stored at the Blue Grass Army Depot and Pueblo Chemical Depot.

### Blue Grass Army Depot, Kentucky

Blue Grass Chemical Activity's mission is to ensure the safe and secure storage of the chemical weapons stockpile until demilitarization is complete. The stockpile at Blue Grass is contained on 250 acres on the Blue Grass Army Depot, located in the rolling hills of central Kentucky. Blue Grass Chemical Activity is a tenant activity on the 15,000-acre Depot.

Blue Grass Chemical Activity is a subordinate unit of CMA. The chemical weapons at Blue Grass were received as far back as 1944. The majority of the nerve agent weapons arrived in the mid-60s. All weapons are stored securely in earth-covered bunkers, called igloos. Designed specifically to protect their contents from external factors such as storms, lightning and other weather-related events. Aside from a 24/7-guard force, there are a number of other physical and electronic safeguards that protect this stockpile.

### Pueblo Chemical Depot, Colorado

The U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot (PCD) located near Pueblo, Colorado, is one of nine Army installations in the U.S. and currently stores chemical weapons. PCD stores a stockpile of chemical weapons comprising seven percent of the Nation's original chemical materiel stockpile.

In operation since 1942, the depot's mission has expanded, and today is to ensure the safe, secure storage of the chemical weapons stockpile. Encompassing approximately 23,000 acres, PCD also reports to CMA.

The Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant Explosive Destruction System (PCAPP EDS) successfully concluded its first campaign at the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot on February 11, 2016. The U.S. Army system destroyed 560 previously overpacked munitions in advance of operations at the main plant. This initial campaign began on March 18, 2015.



*Blue Grass Army Depot, Kentucky*



*Pueblo Chemical Depot, Colorado*

