



U.S. ARMY PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT FACT SHEET

THE HISTORY OF THE PUEBLO DEPOT

The construction of the Pueblo Ordnance Depot (POD) began in February 1942 and by August, the depot was operational. The original 21,000 acres was planned and constructed for storage and supply for the military, and soon the U.S. Army realized the potential for growth and usher in many missions.

Throughout the 1940s and 1950s, facilities were expanded and constructed to continue to support World War II and the Korean War. Maintenance of missiles, artillery, fire control, optical equipment, ammunition renovation and demilitarization, were some of the major missions. The Depot was one of the largest employers in the region, boasting approximately 8,000 employees. In 1952, the first mustard agent filled munitions were shipped for storage at the depot.

In 1962, Pueblo Ordnance Depot became the Pueblo Army Depot (PAD). In this decade and into the 70s, the depot's primary mission was missile systems repair and maintenance. The missile maintenance mission at Pueblo, with the exception of Pershing missile maintenance, was transferred to Letterkenny Army Depot, Pennsylvania, in 1974. The miles of warehouse space stored more than \$75 million of Nazi propaganda war art liberated by Allied troops in World War II, 160,000 Army historic collectibles and American Soldier art from the Republic of South Vietnam. In 1976, Pueblo was given depot "activity" status and assigned to the Tooele Army Depot Complex in Utah.

In December 1987, the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics entered into the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty. Pueblo was assigned the disassembly and elimination task. Pueblo completed its INF and Pershing mission with distinction in May 1991. Pueblo Depot Activity was realigned under the Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) in 1988, which ushered in the eventual single mission of safe, secure storage and eventual demilitarization of the chemical munitions and environmental cleanup.



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THE HISTORY OF THE PUEBLO DEPOT (CONTINUED)

The Pueblo Depot Activity was in the forefront of support to Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, shipping a large portion of the contingency stocks in addition to ammunition and supplies to Southwest Asia.

During 1994, the depot shipped approximately 80,000 tons of ammunition and supplies to other depots to complete its downsizing mission. The next year the depot's name changed to Pueblo Chemical Depot, reflecting its last mission.

In 1997, the U.S. ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), an international treaty prohibiting development and use of chemical weapons and mandating chemical weapon destruction.

The Department of Defense selected neutralization, followed by bio-treatment in 2002, to destroy over 780,000 mustard agent filled munitions stored at the depot. In 2004, a Groundbreaking ceremony was held for the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP). Construction was completed in 2012 followed on by extensive testing of all systems through, to 2015.

In 2014, the Explosive Destruction System (EDS) was determined to be the choice technology to destroy munitions and storage containers containing munitions that once leaked and could not be processed through the PCAPP. On March 18, 2015, Pueblo Chemical Depot Chemical Operations personnel delivered ten Department of Transportation (DOT) bottles to the EDS. The same day, the EDS destroyed one DOT bottle containing mustard agent and this marked the United States' commitment to continue destroying the Nation's chemical stockpile. This collaborative achievement leads the final mission of the depot and the last chapter of dedication and service to our Nation.

For more information, visit the Pueblo Chemical Depot Facebook page or www.cma.army.mil/Pueblo.

