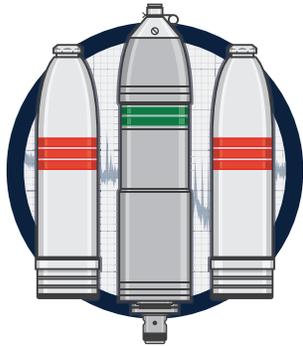




RECOVERED CHEMICAL MATERIEL DIRECTORATE FACT SHEET

MATERIEL ASSESSMENT REVIEW BOARD



MARB

MATERIEL ASSESSMENT REVIEW BOARD

Overview

The U.S. Department of Defense has tested and disposed of chemical warfare materiel at military installations in the United States and its territories since 1918. These sites include active military installations, closed installations, land turned over to other government agencies and land transferred to private ownership. Range clearing operations and environmental remediation activities will often unearth old chemical warfare materiel.

In January 1995, the U.S. Army Materiel Command (AMC) established the Materiel Assessment Review Board, or MARB, to make decisions for the Department of the Army regarding recovered items with unknown liquid fills. Many munitions and containers recovered from old burial sites at these installations lack identifying marks due to age and condition. This makes identification difficult and requires the use of non-destructive and non-intrusive methods to identify the item, its fill and status of its firing abilities. The MARB aids in the Army's effort to accurately assess and treat recovered chemical warfare materiel.

MARB membership

The MARB comprises nine permanent voting members, several non-voting members and several ad-hoc members. Its members hail from various Army organizations including AMC; AMC's U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command (RDECOM) and its Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC); the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Activity (CMA) and its Recovered Chemical Materiel Directorate (RCMD); U.S. Army Forces Command and its 20th CBRNE Command (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High Yield Explosives), CBRNE Analytical and Remediation Activity (CARA), 48th Chemical Brigade, 52nd Ordnance Group and 71st Ordnance Group. The director of CMA appoints all MARB members and a subordinate commander of the 20th CBRNE Command chairs the board.

MARB roles and responsibilities

RCMD maintains written records for and funds MARB activities and required responses. These activities may include providing protective equipment, communications equipment, travel and any equipment necessary to safely and properly perform the mission related to recovered items containing an unknown liquid fill.

20th CBRNE Command maintains the capability to safely perform on-site response by providing the qualified manpower when items with an unknown liquid fill are recovered, and operate RCMD assessment technologies providing the MARB with critical information regarding the item's explosive configuration and chemical fill.

Assessment and review process

When an item with an unknown liquid fill is recovered, a response team deploys to the recovery site. After the response team completes its assessment, it forwards all data to the MARB for further review and secures the item until a destruction plan can be developed.

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U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS ACTIVITY | RECOVERED CHEMICAL MATERIEL DIRECTORATE
E4585 HOADLEY ROAD | ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, MARYLAND 21010
PHONE: 410-436-4292 | WWW.CMA.ARMY.MIL





MATERIEL ASSESSMENT REVIEW BOARD (CONTINUED)

The MARB convenes usually within three days of receipt of assessment data (sooner if the item is deemed unstable or unsafe to move). As a key part of the analytical process, MARB members review data from the response team, along with historical and additional analytical data provided by the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command's Edgewood Chemical Biological Center. After all data has been presented and reviewed, the MARB members vote on the recommended disposition of the item.

The Army is committed to accurately assessing and classifying recovered materiel and providing maximum protection to workers and the public while complying with all applicable environmental rules and regulations.

The six possible board recommendations are:

- 1 Chemical, non-explosive system demilitarization
- 2 Chemical, explosive system demilitarization
- 3 Conventional, disposition to be determined locally
- 4 Armed and Fuzed – Conventional
- 5 Armed and Fuzed – Chemical
- 6 Additional Data Required

Determination	MARB Recommendation
Chemical	Non-explosive system demilitarization
Chemical	Explosive system demilitarization
Conventional	Disposition to be determined locally
Armed and Fuzed – Conventional	Destroy as soon as possible
Armed and Fuzed – Chemical	Destroy as soon as possible
Unknown	Additional data required

