



Donald R. Benton

Director, Recovered Chemical Materiel
U.S. Army Chemical Materials Activity

Mr. Donald R. Benton serves as the Director of Recovered Chemical Materiel, U.S. Army Chemical Materials Activity (CMA), since April 2020. Prior to leading the Recovered Chemical Materiel Directorate (RCMD), Mr. Benton served as Deputy Director of RCMD. He is responsible for the programmatic oversight of the development and use of technology to support RCMD's mission to assess and destroy recovered chemical warfare materiel in a safe, environmentally sound and cost-effective manner.

Mr. Benton is a 38-year employee with the Department of the Army, working for most of the past three decades in the chemical weapons assessment, destruction and decontamination field. His areas of expertise include air filtration technology, thermal decontamination and operational planning for chemical demilitarization. His accomplishments during his career include completion of two large projects. First was the destruction of the Newport Former Production Facility at Newport Chemical Depot, Indiana. Destruction of former chemical weapon production facilities was one of the nation's obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention treaty, an effort that was completed in 2007. This project entailed using an innovative thermal decontamination method for eight Bulk Agent Storage Tanks, each 60 feet long and 12 feet in diameter, followed by disassembly. Thermal decontamination avoided the creation of hundreds of thousands of gallons of hazardous liquid waste that would be generated by rinsing the containers. Mr. Benton also managed the thermal decontamination and recycling of 4,307 empty 1,600-pound steel containers at Pine Bluff Arsenal, Arkansas, using a similar thermal decontamination method.

For both projects, Mr. Benton arranged for the decontaminated containers to be recycled rather than going to landfills, vastly reducing the waste generated by the missions. By recycling a total of 400 tons of steel for the Newport project and more than 3,200 tons of steel for the Pine Bluff mission, Mr. Benton supported the Army's commitment to environmental stewardship.

Mr. Benton is Level 3 acquisition certified in Systems Planning, Research, Development and Engineering. He is a 2004 Federal Executive Board Bronze Award recipient for management and administration, and has received numerous Army civilian awards, including the Commander's Award for Civilian Service.

Born and raised in the small northwestern Pennsylvania town of Saint Marys, Mr. Benton received a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the Pennsylvania State University in 1982. After college, he joined the civilian workforce for the Department of the Army. He lives in Aberdeen, Maryland, with his family.

