



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS ACTIVITY FACT SHEET

CMA OVERVIEW

The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Activity (CMA) manages the stockpile of chemical weapons, assesses and destroys chemical warfare materiel, complies with the chemical weapons treaty, and protects people and the environment. In the past, CMA developed and used technologies to safely store and eliminate chemical weapons at seven stockpile sites while protecting the public, its workers and the environment. Today, CMA continues its mission of storing the chemical stockpiles at the final two sites.

CMA headquarters management team and scientific, communications and support staff is based at Aberdeen Proving Ground-South, Maryland. Dedicated managers and staff fulfill the activity's mission at the remaining chemical weapons stockpile sites at Blue Grass Army Depot, Kentucky, and Pueblo Chemical Depot, Colorado. CMA personnel also assess and destroy recovered chemical warfare materiel at locations across the country.

Store



CMA retains the mission for safe and secure storage of chemical weapons at two locations, Blue Grass Army Depot, Kentucky, and Pueblo Chemical Depot, Colorado. The chemical munitions at

both sites are housed in designated storage areas and specially designed earth-covered magazines, commonly referred to as igloos. Thorough job training and certification of personnel supports safety operations at all times.

Protect



The Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) works closely with the communities around

chemical weapon 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 supported these communities by enhancing emergency plans and providing public information, equipment and warning systems.

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. CWC treaty officials monitor to ensure all the activities comply with treaty requirements.

Assess and Destroy



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 CMA Recovered Chemical Materiel Directorate (RCMD) deploys specially trained personnel and mobile





CMA OVERVIEW (CONTINUED)

assessment and treatment systems to identify and treat RCWM using the best action determined. CMA RCMD provides centralized management and direction to the Department of Defense (DOD) for assessment and destruction of RCWM in a safe, environmentally sound manner in support of the United States' obligation under the CWC.

Stockpile Storage Sites

Blue Grass Army Depot, Kentucky

Blue Grass Chemical Activity (BGCA) ensures the safe and secure storage of the chemical weapons stockpile, delivering munitions to the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant for destruction. The stockpile is contained on 250 acres on the Blue Grass Army Depot in central Kentucky.

The chemical weapons at BGCA 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 igloos. In addition to a 24/7 guard force, physical and electronic safeguards protect the BGCA stockpile.

Pueblo Chemical Depot, Colorado

Pueblo Chemical Depot (PCD) is located on 23,000 acres near Pueblo, Colorado. PCD's stockpile, consisting primarily of mustard-filled munitions, comprised 7% of the Nation's original chemical materiel stockpile.

In operation since 1942, the depot's mission today ensures the safe, secure storage of the chemical weapons stockpile, and delivers munitions to the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant for destruction.



An operator holds an identification placard above chemical munitions set to be destroyed in the Explosive Destruction System, or EDS, in Pueblo.



Blue Grass Army Depot, Kentucky



Pueblo Chemical Depot, Colorado

