



# 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 biotreatment in 2002, to destroy the more than 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.

In 2014, the PCAPP Explosive Destruction System (EDS) was selected to destroy items that could not be easily processed through the PCAPP Main Plant. Between March 18, 2015, and February 11, 2016, PCAPP EDS destroyed 560 previously overpacked munitions prior to the start of main plant operations.

On September 7, 2016, processing began at the PCAPP Main Plant. As of January 30, the plant had destroyed more than 10,000 155mm projectiles during its first campaign. PCAPP EDS will be re-activated to destroy munitions that are determined to be unsuitable for automated processing in the main plant.

For more information, visit the Pueblo Chemical Depot Facebook page or <https://www.cma.army.mil/PCD>.

*Encompassing approximately 23,000 acres, PCD's primary function is the safe, secure storage and protection of 2,611 tons of mustard agent that is part of the national stockpile of chemical munitions. PCD is home to the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant, operated under the Program Executive Office, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives. PCD transfers munitions to PCAPP for destruction; together, operating to safely and efficiently destroy the chemical weapons stockpile while keeping the community, the workforce and the environment safe.*

