



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL  
MATERIALS ACTIVITY

# FACT SHEET

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## Deseret Chemical Depot

### Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System *Gone but not forgotten – CAMDS’ legacy lives on*



*Crews completed demolition of the Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System in May 2012.*

For more information,  
contact the  
**Tooele Chemical Stockpile  
Outreach Office**

54 S. Main St.  
Tooele, UT 84074  
Phone: (435) 882-3773  
Toll Free: (800) 471-1617  
Fax: (435) 882-7904

or contact the  
**Public Affairs Office**  
(435) 833-4295

or the  
**CMA Public Affairs Office**  
(800) 488-0648

The U.S. Army’s first formal chemical weapons destruction efforts began with the Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System (CAMDS) at Deseret Chemical Depot. Designed and built as the primary test and development facility for the Nation’s chemical weapons elimination program, CAMDS served an unparalleled, vital role in the destruction of chemical weapons.

Original plans were for a transportable facility, however the project expanded to a permanent facility and construction of the CAMDS facility took place between 1974 and 1978. Processing of chemical agent-filled munitions began Sept. 10, 1979, with the destruction of the first M55 nerve agent rocket.

CAMDS was a “pilot plant”—a plant that was designed to develop and test chemical weapons destruction methods. The mission encompassed all aspects of chemical demilitarization, from the handling of chemical weapons, to disassembly and disposal, to properly managing the remaining waste. Techniques and equipment were tested over and over again, until the processes were perfected.

Along with neutralization and incineration, CAMDS supported the development of alternative disposal

technologies including cryofracture and hydrolysis. Other processes such as chemical munitions handling and disassembly, pollution abatement systems, personal protective equipment, chemical agent monitoring, lab support and waste treatment were also developed and tested throughout CAMDS’ history in an effort to finding the safest and most environmentally sound practices for destruction.

During CAMDS disposal operations from September 1979 to January 2005, more than 203,000 pounds of chemical agent were neutralized and more than 159,000 pounds of chemical agent were incinerated, resulting in the elimination of more than 39,000 chemical agent-filled munitions.

The facility has been dismantled, decontaminated and demolished, and the property restored to standards set by the facility’s environmental permit.

Although the facility is gone, CAMDS’ legacy as a chemical demilitarization pioneer still thrives today, as its many demonstrated successes continue to be utilized at the two remaining U.S. chemical weapons stockpile sites – Pueblo, Colo. and Blue Grass, Ky.



## Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System

*Gone but not forgotten – CAMDS' legacy lives on* (continued)



### CAMDS Accomplishments:

- CAMDS construction 1974 – 1979
- Disposal operations 1979 – 2005
- Neutralization testing of agent in rockets and projectiles
- Testing and development of reverse assembly, demilitarization, rocket shear, projectile/mortar disassembly and multi-purpose demil machine
- Testing and development of bulk draining station and explosive containment chamber
- Testing and development of liquid incinerator and metal parts furnace
- Testing and development of agent quantification system
- Deep bed carbon filter and mustard thaw container testing
- Rocket separation
- Cryofracture and VX water neutralization testing and development
- Demil protective ensemble technology developed
- Removed explosive components in 40,000 4.2-inch mustard mortars
- Supported the development of Simulation Equipment Test Hardware
- Development of carbon tray filing and certification
- Development and support for chemical agent monitoring
- Alternative technologies tested for the ACWA program, including: *energetic rotary hydrolyser, projectile and mortar washout systems, continuous steam treater, VX and mustard hydrolysate*
- Non-stockpile empty ton container processing
- Sampling of 155mm projectiles' explosive components
- Study of neutralization processes for full-scale destruction of lewisite
- Secondary waste segregation and treatment