



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

# MONTHLY UPDATE

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## DESERET CHEMICAL DEPOT | May 20, 2010

### Wrapping up TOCDF mortar ops

*Workers prepare to process last round of mortars through facility*

Following successful destruction of HT mustard agent-filled 4.2-inch mortars, Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) workers will begin processing Deseret Chemical Depot's (DCD) stockpile of 4.2-inch HD mortars—the last mortars to be processed through TOCDF.

Because some of the mustard agent contained in the HD mortars has solidified over years of storage, disposal of these munitions will be slightly different as the agent will not be drained. Instead, the burster well will be removed in order to clear a path so that the heat of incineration can reach the agent chamber, destroying the agent and thermally decontaminating the metal munition casing. Due to the small amount of HD mortars—less than 900—it will take less than a week to complete these operations.

"As mortars operations wrap up, only bulk containers will remain to be processed and the facility will no longer have to deal with explosively configured munitions," explained TOCDF Site Project Manager Ted Ryba. "This will provide an opportunity for workers to begin early decommissioning activities."

TOCDF officials have already begun planning for these activities, which will include removal of obsolete equipment such as the mortar disassembly and multipurpose demil machines, which are required to disassemble projectiles and mortars. Workers will also be able to isolate and decommission the deactivation furnace system, which (See MORTARS on next page)



*DCD's original stockpile of mustard-agent filled munitions consisted of approximately 63,000 4.2-inch mortars.*

### Teamwork, safety prevail over OSHA obstacle

When it was recently discovered that a piece of equipment was not OSHA compliant, DCD halted related operations and worked together with TOCDF to solve the problem without compromising safety. The issue was a forklift and its connected contraption, a cage-like structure used to raise workers high enough to fasten and unfasten the bolts on an Onsite Container (ONC) while the ONC is sitting on a trailer. The modified forklift was used in (See TEAMWORK on next page)

### DCD takes proactive measures toward transition

*Depot hires new officer, plans to open office*

With the end of its mission in sight, Deseret Chemical Depot is providing its employees with the tools and resources needed to plan for life after DCD. The depot has hired a new workforce transition specialist, Terri Cook.

Before retiring in 1995, Cook worked in personnel at the Tooele Army Depot (TEAD) for nearly 30 years. She was there during TEAD's Reduction in Force and knows first-hand how stressful workplace change can be.

"I'm looking forward to being here to help employees through the transition process," said Terri.

The new workforce transition office, which will be located on site, is in the process of being set up. DCD Deputy Commander Don Campbell says it will be an education/resource center that will serve as a one-stop-shop for employees—whether they plan to find a new job or retire. Campbell says hiring a workforce transition specialist and having a workforce transition office are steps in the right direction, but it will have to be a delicate balancing act.

"While we want to assist employees in securing future employment when the time comes, right now we need to focus on sustaining the manpower we will need to complete our mission," admits Campbell.

Pine Bluff opened its workforce transition office in November. DCD's is expected to be ready early this summer.



*DCD Transition Officer Terri Cook is busy planning for the new transition office, which will be located on the depot.*

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### Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office

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**Outreach Office Hours:**  
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Monday - Friday

*(Additional hours available upon request)*

## Mortars

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is used to destroy the explosive components, and its associated pollution abatement system.

Although TOCDF mortar operations will be complete, approximately 140 overpacked mortars remain in storage and will be destroyed using the DAVINCH™, a controlled detonation system developed for chemical weapons destruction. The DAVINCH™ will be located in DCD's Area 10 and operations are expected to begin in early 2011.



Angela Van Dam, Communications Specialist for the Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office, discusses DCD's chemical weapons disposal efforts at the 2010 Governor's Public Safety Summit.

## Reaching out about chemical weapons disposal

The Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office has been providing the public with a source to obtain information about the chemical weapons disposal program since June 1995.

The Outreach Office offers free and timely information about activities at DCD, including TOCDF operations and closure efforts at the Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System. The office also provides information on the storage of chemical weapons, the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program, the Assembled Chemical Weapons Assessment Program and the Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Program.

The goal of the Outreach Office staff is to educate as many people as possible and help the public stay aware of what is happening across the program. So, stop by and visit the Outreach Office any time Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. or call to arrange for a presentation for your organization, school, club or any other group.

The Outreach Office's three-dimensional displays and presentations highlight the cutting-edge technology used in the incineration process at DCD. The Outreach Office personnel are available to answer your questions about the chemical disposal program and if you would like more information, but can not make it into the office call to request your information packet.

## Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Processing

(as of May 16)

Total number of mustard agent-filled bulk containers destroyed	<b>4,812</b>
Total number of mustard agent-filled 155mm projectiles destroyed	<b>54,453</b>
Total number of mustard agent-filled 4.2-inch mortars destroyed	<b>58,468</b>
Percentage of total mustard agent stockpile destroyed	<b>77%</b>

## Teamwork

*continued from front page*

DCD's Area 10 when chemical agent munitions were taken from their storage igloos and loaded into an ONC to be transported to TOCDF for destruction.

According to a regulation by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), an apparatus on a forklift cannot exceed the wheelbase by more than 10 inches on each side; DCD's exceeded the wheelbase by 36 inches on each side.

"Although we've used this forklift more than 26,000 times without an incident, we are an OSHA-compliant site and safety comes first," said DCD Deputy Commander Don Campbell.

If not solved quickly, the small glitch had the potential to become a big problem—possibly halting the disposal process indefinitely. Instead, teamwork and safety prevailed. TOCDF loaned DCD an articulating arm lift—which is OSHA compliant—and workers were thoroughly trained how to use the new equipment. Disposal operations were only delayed for one day (and secondary waste processing filled the void) and DCD workers positively adapted themselves to the change.

"We have proven once again that when faced with an unfavorable situation—while our mission is vital—we will not compromise safety under any circumstances," said DCD Commander, Col. Gerald L. Gladney.

## Upcoming Events

- **May 25, 6:00 p.m.** - TOCDF RCRA Class 3 Permit Modification public meeting. The meeting will be held at the Tooele County Admin Building, 47 S. Main Street in Tooele.
- **June 10, 1:30 p.m.** - Utah Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste Control Board monthly meeting. The meeting will be held in Room 101 at the old Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) building, 195 N. 1950 W. in Salt Lake City.
- **June 9, 6:00 p.m.** - TOCDF RCRA Class 2 Permit Modification public meeting. The meeting will be held at the Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office, 54 S. Main Street in Tooele.

*The Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office will be closed on May 31 in observance of Memorial Day.*

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