

### Depot honors victims of 1944 igloo explosion



*Sgt. First Class Marvin R. Merillat places a wreath at the site of the 1944 igloo explosion during a memorial ceremony Monday. He then rang the bell six times, in honor of the six workers killed. Several replicas of the bombs stored in the igloo had been placed at the site.*

Several relatives of the victims of the 1944 igloo explosion that killed six depot workers attended a memorial service Monday at the Umatilla Chemical Depot.

The March 24 ceremony coincided with the exact anniversary of the event in 1944. Depot Commander Lt. Col. Kris Perkins honored the "service and sacrifice" of those who died when 264 500-pound bombs in igloo B1014 exploded at 9:29 p.m. He also highlighted their "families' sacrifice."

Don Barclay, former site project manager at Umatilla and deputy director of the U.S. Army Chemical Material Agency (CMA) since 2008, praised the "ultimate sacrifice" made by the workers, who ranged in age from 20 to 40, most with spouses and children at home.

Maj. Gen. Raymond Rees, commander of the Oregon National Guard, promised the audience that the workers who died "will never be forgotten" when the National Guard becomes caretaker of the memorial site after it establishes a training site on depot land. "Their sacrifices are deeply embedded in our hearts and memories," he said, adding that he looks forward to continuing the igloo memorial ceremony "for many years to come."

The explosion, which was heard as far away as Pendleton and broke windows miles away, obliterated the igloo but did not seriously damage those adjacent to it. A specific cause of the explosion was never determined.

### UMCDF Highlights

- It has been 1,720 days, or more than 8 million work hours, since a lost work day accident occurred at the UMCDF (July 7, 2006).

### Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Processing

(March 17 - 23, 2011)

Total number of originally stockpiled HD-filled ton containers destroyed this period	30
Total number of originally stockpiled HD-filled ton containers destroyed to date	1,432
Percentage of originally stockpiled HD-filled ton containers destroyed to date	54.3
Total "recipient" HD ton containers* destroyed this period	26
Total "recipient" HD ton containers* destroyed to date	526
Pounds of HD agent destroyed this period	60,604
Pounds of HD agent destroyed to date	2,550,009
Pounds of total agent destroyed to date <i>Includes GB, VX and HD</i>	5,930,665
Total munitions destroyed to date since start of operations (Sept. 7, 2004) <i>including non-stockpile GB and VX ton containers</i>	219,397
Nominal tons of chemical agent destroyed to date	2,652.86
Percentage of total agent tons destroyed	71.36

*\*Recipient ton containers are byproducts of mustard disposal and were not a part of the original stockpile.*

### UMCD/UMCDF Milestones

- **June 27, 2010:** Completed mustard Agent Trial Burn for Metal Parts Furnace (MPF) and Liquid Incinerators (LICs).
- **June 11, 2009:** Began first HD ton container destruction in the MPF.
- **June 4, 2009:** First HD ton containers transported from depot storage to disposal plant.
- **Nov. 5, 2008:** Completed VX munitions campaign.
- **Oct. 26, 2007:** Began VX munitions campaign.
- **July 8, 2007:** Completed GB munitions campaign.
- **Sept. 7, 2004:** Began GB munitions campaign.

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