



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

# MONTHLY UPDATE

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## DESERET CHEMICAL DEPOT | June 23, 2011

### Employees celebrate accomplishments

After achieving two major milestones last month, workers came together to celebrate their achievements during an employee appreciation ceremony on June 9. The employees were recognized and addressed by not only site leadership, but by a couple of their own co-workers as well.

The first milestone occurred May 11, when DCD made its last On-site Container (ONC) delivery from the storage yard to the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF), representing more than 24,000 safe ONC deliveries since the first ONC move nearly 15 years ago. Then, on May 16, the TOCDF destroyed the last mustard agent-filled ton container, signifying the last scheduled munition to be destroyed at the disposal facility.

"This is a great day—a great day to celebrate our accomplishments," DCD Commander, Col. Mark B. Pomeroy told the workforce during the celebration. "We have become the standard for the rest of the Chemical Materials Agency—they look to us and what we're doing every single day and that's because of everything you do. Thank you and congratulations!" Col. Pomeroy added.

TOCDF Site Project Manager, Ted Ryba, also congratulated and thanked the workforce for their efforts and willingness to safely work toward the elimination of DCD's stockpile of chemical weapons. "What an impact you have made on the local community, the nation and the world—you should be very proud," said Ryba.

URS General Manager and Vice President, Gary McCloskey also talked to the crowd about the outstanding safety record that both DCD and TOCDF have achieved; as of the end of May, TOCDF had worked more than 12.1 million man-hours without a lost workday injury and DCD has racked up more than 1.2 million safe man-hours without a lost day away from work injury. "We have had the longest streaks of safe work days that we've had in our existence and this is an important factor—we've kept the community safe, the workforce safe and we continue to improve," said McCloskey. "That's the real legacy that we'll live with, and that's as good a legacy as you can possibly have," McCloskey added.

Employee speakers, Jeff Loughton and Becky Davis, concluded the ceremony by talking about the collaborative efforts between government and contract workers at DCD. Together, as (See MILESTONE CELEBRATION on page 2)



*It was standing room only during an employee appreciation ceremony on June 9 to celebrate the last ONC delivery to the TOCDF and the safe destruction of the last mustard ton container. These milestones were successful because of the collaborative efforts of the entire workforce.*

### Transition planning in full swing

As chemical weapons destruction operations near completion at DCD, employee transition planning—for government and contractor employees alike—is more important than ever.

Although the first round of layoffs will not happen until 2012, planning efforts have been underway for more than a year. Both government and contractor employers have established transition specialists to provide education and resources to ready the workforce as employees prepare to lose their jobs.

"We have been preparing for the first reduction in force for over a year," stated TOCDF Transition Specialist Mary Chappell, "and the first notifications are quickly approaching."

Providing approximately 90 days notice prior to the first lay off, TOCDF will send out its first notices to roughly 150 employees in October. DCD's notifications will be issued with 120 days notice in April 2012.

In preparation, several TOCDF employees have already taken advantage of tuition assistance programs as they work to further their education, whether in their current field or new area of expertise. The DCD Workforce Transition Center has also offered various classes through workforce services at the Tooele Community Learning Center, focusing on topics such as resume writing, interviewing skills and networking strategies. As a result of DCD employee surveys, financial planning and retirement seminars will also be offered.

(See PLANNING on page 3)

#### PUBLIC AFFAIRS:

**Alaine Grieser**

Phone: (435) 833-4295  
alaine.grieser@us.army.mil

#### OUTREACH OFFICE:

**Amy Blausier**

Phone: (435) 882-3773  
ablausier@qwestoffice.net

#### SYSTEMS CONTRACTOR:

**Mark Mesesan**

Phone: (435) 882-5888  
mmesesan@urs.com

#### Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office

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

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

(Additional hours available upon request)

## Milestone celebration

*(continued from front page)*

a team, the workers have safely processed more than 1.1 million individual munitions and destroyed more than 13.5 thousand tons of chemical agents. "After 15 years as the TOCDF munitions coordinator, I can personally tell the Commander that he has one of the best staffs that I've ever worked with," Laighton said as he wrapped up his speech.

Preparations are underway to destroy the remaining munitions in two separate facilities located within DCD's Area 10 storage yard—the Area 10 Liquid Incinerator and the DAVINCH (Detonation of Ammunition in a Vacuum Integrated Chamber). Upon completion of these operations, a big celebration will be held for elimination of DCD's entire stockpile.



*On behalf of the government and contract workforce, DCD employee, Becky Davis, and TOCDF employee, Jeff Laighton, accept appreciation awards with personal notes of gratitude from site leadership.*

## TOCDF's numbers speak loudly

*Environmental efforts adding up to success*

It has been nearly one year since the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) set some aggressive green goals, and the results are proving TOCDF's environmental commitment.

"While we are destroying the nation's largest stockpile of chemical weapons, we have also looked for other ways to do more as a workforce," said Sheila Vance, URS environmental manager. "One area we have focused on has been our environmental efforts, continuing to protect the environment while reducing our impact."

TOCDF has an Environmental Management System (EMS) in place to help reach its green goals. The EMS is a set of processes and practices that aims to help TOCDF: reduce water, fuel and power use, minimize waste and increase recycling and conservation efforts.

Specific goals range from easier ones like continuing and increasing green purchasing and recycling to more difficult undertakings such as re-thinking disposal operations, including the use of only one Liquid Incinerator (LIC).

"Just by having one LIC up and running instead of two, we saved more than 139,000 decatherms in 2010, which equates to \$1,174,239" said Janet Weyland, URS environmental supervisor.

That conservation, with additional environmental achieve-

ments accomplished this past year (see accompanying chart) will undoubtedly impress external auditors, who are on site through June 30 to assess TOCDF's first-ever efforts to gain independent ISO-14001 certification of its EMS.

"Having our EMS internationally recognized as being up to ISO 14001 standards rewards TOCDF employees for all they have done to help the environment," said Weyland.

TOCDF will know within the next few months whether it is granted an independent ISO 14001 certification. In the meantime, workers are continuing to set lofty green goals.

"We are already looking at what we can do down the road to continue being good environmental stewards," says Craig Hinkel, URS Project Manager for closure.

New goals, says Hinkel, include recycling scrap metal during the planned demolition of the Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System, the nation's former research, test and development facility currently undergoing closure, and recycling the depot's large On-Site containers (ONCs), which were used to safely transport munitions to the TOCDF. The ONCs are made of stainless steel and each one measures approximately 8.5 feet wide, 8.5 feet high and 11 feet long.

"For each ONC we recycle, we keep it from going to a landfill," said Hinkel. "That's another example of doing something we can all feel good about."

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alaine.grieser@us.army.mil

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## TOCDF environmental achievements – 2011 year to date

- 500 wood pallets recycled
- 2,920 pounds of Industrial scrap metal recycled
- 12,680 pounds of white paper recycled
- 229,500 gallons of water reused, saving more than \$48,790
- 11,000 pounds of electronic waste recycled
- Natural gas use has decreases by more than 46,000 decatherms, which equals a savings of \$377,611
- \$118,177 towards green purchases (e.g., recycled and environmentally friendly materials)





*Master Sgt. Eric Ryals is congratulated by Deseret Chemical Depot's commanding officer Col. Mark Pomeroy after the ceremony promoting him to his new rank. Ryals was promoted June 9, 2011 with his wife Rebecca and son Dalton on hand to pin him with his new rank. He has served as the Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of DCD for four different depot commanders and performed two tours of duty overseas in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.*

## Planning

*(continued from front page)*

"We are providing as much information as we can gather to help our employees," said DCD Workforce Transition Officer Terri Cook.

To ensure regular communication to employees, updates have been added to the existing TOCDF and DCD newsletters. Web sites have also been established to provide up-to-date information and to allow employees to submit questions about transition planning. DCD Town Halls and TOCDF Vision and Values meetings also provide a forum for updates and to answer questions from the workforce.

Transition officers are working with other stockpile sites and local Army installations to capitalize on the experience of the DCD and TOCDF employees. Several TOCDF employees have applied for positions at the Pueblo, Colo. and Bluegrass, Ky. destruction facilities, which will need to be filled by 2014. Similarly, DCD employees are encouraged to send their resumes to Civilian Personnel Offices at the Pueblo and Bluegrass depots, as well as Dugway Proving Ground.

"The [DCD] commander and his staff have made a trip to Dugway Proving Ground to talk to them about non-competitively considering our employees for some of their vacancies as these vacancies arise," DCD Workforce Transition Officer Terri Cook explained. "We have already seen this working as job offers have been made to members of our guard force for current vacancies that exist at Dugway."

Through a voluntary early retirement program (VERA), DCD will be able to further reduce the number of involuntary separations. Furthermore, if approved, employees may receive Voluntary Incentive Pay (VSIP) if their voluntary separation will save another employee from being laid off.

"VERA/VSIP always lessens the impact when going through the process of a reduction in force," said Cook.

While it's never easy knowing that your job will soon be ending, much is being done to help prepare the workforce for life after DCD.

## Upcoming Events

- **July 12, 1:00 p.m.** - DCD Restoration and Advisory Board meeting to discuss environmental cleanup activities associated with the depot. The meeting will be held at the Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office, 54 S. Main Street in Tooele.
- **July 21, 6:30 p.m.** - Utah Citizens' Advisory Commission annual social and meeting. The meeting will be held at the Ophir City Park.

*The Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office will be closed July 1-4 for the observance of Independence Day.*

## Ready for shipment

*CAMDS' Explosive Containment Cubicle slated for reuse*

Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System (CAMDS) workers have safely removed the 170,000 pound Explosive Containment Cubicle (ECC) from the facility's ECC building as it is readied for demolition.

With the shackles secured to a hook connected to the crane, workers guided the massive ECC as it was lifted through a hole that was cut from the roof of the building. The ECC was placed on a trailer specially equipped to evenly distribute the weight of the load as it is transported across the country to the Army's Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC) in Maryland.

"The ECC is a piece of CAMDS history as it was used to test equipment developed for chem demil," explained CAMDS Site Project Manager Jerry Linn. "I am glad that we were able to work with ECBC and put this equipment to use once again."

The ECC will be installed at ECBC's engineering test facility where it will be used to support the activities of response teams who are called on to safeguard recovered warfare materials. In addition, the equipment may also be used to test protective equipment and body armor developed for soldiers, law enforcement personnel and emergency responders.



*Workers secure the 24-foot-long, 11-foot-wide Explosive Containment Cubicle to a trailer and prepare it for shipment to the Army's Edgewood Chemical Biological Center.*

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