



### CMA PROGRESS AT A GLANCE

as of December 20, 2011:

**Anniston Chemical Activity, Ala.:** Anniston Chemical Activity (ANCA) hosted the 24<sup>th</sup> and final team of visiting international treaty inspectors. Under the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention, teams of chemical weapons inspectors from the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons visited Anniston Army Depot at least twice each year. A closeout inspection of the munitions storage igloos was conducted on Dec. 7 and 8, 2011. Employees at both the ANCA and the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility are working on closure activities.

**Blue Grass Chemical Activity, Ky.:** Blue Grass Chemical Activity (BGCA) will host an Advanced Incident Command System (ICS) course Jan. 22-26. Key leaders and staff from BGCA and Blue Grass Army Depot will attend. BGCA is mandated to implement emergency management procedures consistent with the National Incident Management System and the Incident Command System, in accordance with Department of Defense directives. BGCA school and community tours begin this month and run through May 2012. The BGCA is involved in a monthly speakers' bureau to educate local communities on safe storage and to build stronger community relationships. *BGCA is now available to view and "like" on Facebook. Please let them hear from you!*

**Deseret Chemical Depot, Utah:** The last two agent campaigns are running neck and neck toward a late January 2012 finish. On Dec. 19, 2011, lewisite destruction operations started at the Area 10 Liquid Incinerator. Deseret Chemical Depot's stockpile of lewisite consists of less than a dozen bulk containers. Meanwhile, workers have destroyed about half of the depot's less than 200 overpacked 155 millimeter mustard projectiles at the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility. As disposal operations near the end, URS workers continue to set a new standard for safety, reaching 13.5 million consecutive man-hours without a lost workday injury on Dec. 14, 2011.

**Pine Bluff Arsenal, Ark.:** Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility completed the mock Unventilated Monitoring Tests (UMT) in the Explosive Containment Rooms (ECR) A and B, as well as the Toxic Cubicle (TOX). This is a significant milestone because the ECRs were used to punch and drain M23 landmines and M55 rockets. The room was also used to chop rockets prior to processing. The TOX was used to store nerve and blister agents in collection tanks before being processed in the liquid incinerator.

**Pueblo Chemical Depot, Colo.:** Pueblo Chemical Depot (PCD) stores mustard-filled munitions: 105 mm projectiles and cartridges, 155 mm projectiles and 4.2-inch mortar cartridges. In December 2011, PCD held a public meeting at the Avondale, Colo., community center to answer the public's questions as PCD prepares to submit a Resource and Conservation Recovery Act permit renewal application with the state of Colorado. The PCD Environmental Management Directorate hosted the event, which included a welcome from Lt. Col. Greenhaw, PCD commander, followed by a briefing and a question and answer session.

**Umatilla Chemical Depot, Ore.:** Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) closure activities continue following the Oct. 25, 2011, destruction of the site's final chemical munition. The results of a Dec. 5 - 6, 2011, inspection by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and completion of all treaty verification activities confirmed that no chemical weapons remain in storage at the Umatilla Chemical Depot and that the stockpile has been destroyed. Demolition and removal of the Brine Reduction Area (BRA) and BRA Pollution Abatement System marked the first major hazardous waste management unit to be decommissioned at the UMCDF. On Dec. 2, 2011, UMCDF met the requirement for Voluntary Protection Program Star Status.

### Col. Megnia, CMA DOSO, Retires after 34 Years of Service



CMA Director Conrad Whyne presents Col. Megnia with an award.

Col. John J. Megnia began and ended his career at Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG)-Edgewood Area. He came to APG as a Chemical Operations Specialist, and now, after 34 years, he retired on Dec. 31, 2011, as the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) Director of Stockpile Operations (DOSO). Col. Megnia was DOSO since June 26, 2010.

He and his wife, Wendy Megnia, and their three children moved 20 times during his years of service. Col. Megnia held various positions, including one as an intern at the Pentagon where he worked on the treaty that ended the Cold War and resulted in the Chemical Weapons Convention. "When we started," Col. Megnia said, "we never thought the treaty would be for all nations." Col. Megnia was also serving at Johnston Island during the first Operational Readiness Inspections.

In a brief ceremony on Dec. 12, 2011, at the Chemical Demilitarization Training Facility, Col. Megnia was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal and a Certificate of Appreciation from President Barak Obama, as well as a Certificate of Retirement from the U.S. Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Odierno.

Part of the Distinguished Service Medal award reads, "He set the conditions for chemical weapons demilitarization, transitioned three locations to mission completion and saw the termination of operations at one location."

Additionally, Mrs. Megnia received Certificates of Appreciation from U.S. Army Materiel Command Commanding Gen. Dunwoody and Gen. Odierno and the Commander's Award for Public Service from Conrad Whyne, Director of CMA.

"Mrs. Megnia exhibits the best traits of an Army spouse and mother. She adapts to the uniqueness of every assignment no matter how remote or difficult," the Commander's Award reads in part.

Col. Megnia thanked his wife for her support while he was in the Army. He also spoke briefly about his career in the Army, noting that he is proud to have met every four-star general currently in office.

### TOCDF Wrapping up Mustard Operations

Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) workers are in the final stages of the mustard agent destruction campaign as they work to destroy the depot's remaining stockpile of 155mm projectiles—the last of the mustard munitions. Although the 4.2-inch mustard mortars followed a similar process, the 155mm projectiles have presented additional processing challenges and have taken creative problem-solving and careful planning to develop viable solutions.

During the many years of storage, the mustard agent fill inside the 155mm projectiles has thickened and solidified, requiring the use of specially designed cutting machines to assist in removing the explosive burster. To further the problem, some projectiles contain agent that has become so hardened that the burster and burster well are stuck in place.

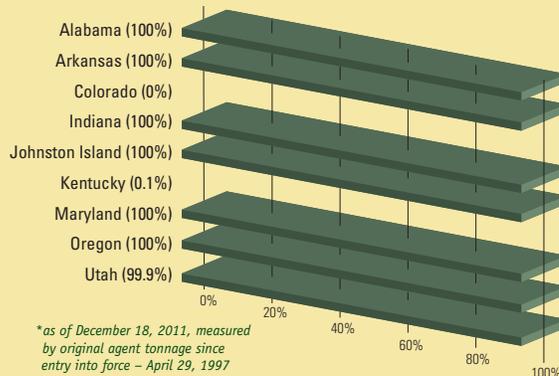
A new torque adapter tool exerts additional force to loosen the burster well. However, if the agent has hardened too much, the burster well can break. In this case, the munition is inverted

and a new washout system sprays warm water into the munition to soften the agent so that the burster well and burster can both be removed.

"Sixty eight projectiles have been processed through the new washout system, and it has performed well," said Rod Chaney, URS Cutter Project Manager. "The spray removes or softens the agent enough that the burster well and burster fall out during washout or slide out after entrants remove the projectile from the cutter. Only one projectile burster well and burster did not come free after multiple washouts, and we were able to successfully dislodge the burster well from the bottom of the projectile using one of our new tools."

Additional solutions to removing the explosives have been tested. However, these options have not been as effective and have proven to be more labor intensive and time consuming for employees.

### CMA - U.S. CHEMICAL AGENT STOCKPILE DESTROYED



**89.5%**  
of U.S. Chemical Agent stockpile destroyed\*



Greg Neilson, of the U.S. Army Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project Explosive Destruction System (EDS) Operations team, educates representatives from the Republic of South Korea on the neutralization chemicals used and the how they are supplied to the EDS vessel throughout the treatment process of recovered chemical warfare materiel.

## NSCMP Hosts Republic of South Korea Tour

On Dec. 6, 2011, the U.S. Army Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project (NSCMP) provided a technology tour, in support of a capabilities briefing and demonstration for 20<sup>th</sup> Support Command Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear and high-yield Explosives (CBRNE), to representatives from the Republic of South Korea. The briefing and demonstration showed the U.S. Army's capabilities, roles and responsibilities in the elimination of weapons of mass destruction.

Larry Gottschalk, NSCMP Project Manager, walked the group through a typical recovery scenario of a suspect recovered chemical warfare materiel (RCWM) item. The group then toured NSCMP's exclusive assessment and

treatment technology for remediation of RCWM, including the Mobile Munitions Assessment System, Mobile Command Post, Single CAIS Access Neutralization System and the Explosive Destruction System (EDS). NSCMP engineers and subject matter experts stationed at each piece of equipment explained in detail how each system works and aids the Army's mission to eliminate RCWM. The South Korean representatives were particularly interested in the EDS, and asked various technical questions.

## ATLIC Begins Final Agent Campaign

*"This is a major accomplishment, with the startup of the lewisite campaign, we are starting the last scheduled new agent campaign for all baseline sites."* - Ted Ryba

December 19, 2011, marked a significant milestone as workers at Desert Chemical Depot's (DCD) Area 10 Liquid Incinerator (ATLIC) began the last agent campaign—destruction of DCD's small stockpile of lewisite blister agent, the only such stockpile in the United States.

"This is a major accomplishment," said Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) Site Project Manager Ted Ryba. "With the startup of the lewisite campaign, we are starting the last scheduled new agent campaign for all baseline sites."

The first lewisite bulk containers were delivered to the ATLIC and placed inside specially designed glove boxes, which were sealed tight. Using the protective gloves secured to the glove box enclosures, workers safely drained the agent from the containers.

Unlike the GA nerve agent, which was fed directly to the liquid incinerator, the lewisite agent is first sent to a holding tank where it can be properly sampled prior to being fed to the liquid incinerator. This added step is required because lewisite is known to contain heavy metals.

Because the lewisite containers will contain metals in the residual heel, nitric acid is used to adequately clean the interior of the empty bulk containers and destroy any remaining lewisite. A water rinse process is then applied to the containers; the rinse is repeated three or more times to ensure the containers meet the decontamination standards set by the facility's operating permit.

The empty, decontaminated containers are then returned to a storage igloo until they are processed through the TOCDF's Metal Parts Furnace and ultimately sent to a permitted, off-site treatment facility for final disposition.

ATLIC lewisite agent operations will gradually ramp up in preparation for emissions testing, which is required by the facility's operating permit. Results from the emissions testing will be provided to both the Utah Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste and Department of Air Quality for final approval.

The ALITC is now neck and neck with the TOCDF as both facilities are in the home stretch to completing destruction operations. Both facilities are expected to wrap up operations in late January 2012.



Exercising and eating healthy foods are key to losing weight.

## Lose Weight, Feel Great!

January is National Lose Weight, Feel Great month. In light of the New Year, many people make the resolution to lose weight, exercise more and improve their overall health and lifestyle. Here are a few tips to help you keep that resolution for the month of January and throughout 2012:

- Know your limits – start out gradually with any new exercise program so you don't burn out
- See a doctor before beginning an exercise program – especially if you have a preexisting condition or are on medications
- Use the right technique – make sure to warm up and cool down before and after each exercise and exercise in the correct position so you don't strain muscles
- Grab a buddy – it is much easier to work out with a friend who can help keep you motivated
- Avoid eating out – making food at home will not only help your wallet but also help you choose your own ingredients and stay away from large portions
- Clean gym equipment before and after each use to prevent the spread of germs, especially during cold and flu season

## EOC Technicians Perform Key Role at BGCA

While all Blue Grass Chemical Activity (BGCA) employees will pass through the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at one time or another, few will have the opportunity to learn what EOC technicians are and their duties and responsibilities.

EOC technicians serve as a key facet of the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP). CSEPP's goal is to protect people who live and work near the depot in the unlikely event of a chemical accident or incident.

Ron Williams, BGCA EOC technician said, "To prepare for chemical events, each EOC technician must successfully complete a comprehensive training course in chemical hazard analysis and prediction. Additional hazard analysis training is conducted and continues until the EOC technician is able to demonstrate the abilities necessary to be appointed as a Protective Action Recommendation (PAR) / Protective Action Decision (PAD) Authority."

This PAR/PAD appointment authorizes the individual to make protective recommendations to the local community and protective decisions for on-post populations in the absence of the commanders or other key leaders.

In the wake of 9/11, the BGCA EOC is required to operate as a 24/7 emergency operation center. The EOC's responsibilities include monitoring, assessing, recording and communicating information. This includes information pertaining to normal operations and unexpected events that might occur.