



# PRESS RELEASE

**U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY**  
**UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT**

**For Immediate Release:**  
February 17, 2005

**For More Information Contact:**  
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## PRESS ADVISORY

UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT, Hermiston, Ore. – Attached is a press release the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) issued today. CMA is the headquarters agency for Umatilla Chemical Depot.

The press release provides a CMA update on the current chemical stockpile alternatives assessment. This assessment is reviewing ways for the weapons disposal program to achieve 100 percent destruction of the nation's chemical weapons stockpile by 2012.

If you have questions pertaining to the assessment, please refer to the points of contact listed in the CMA press release. If you have questions pertaining to Umatilla Chemical Depot and the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility project, please contact Mary Alice Binder, public affairs officer.

**For more information,  
contact the  
Chemical Materials  
Agency Public  
Affairs Office.**

**[www.cma.army.mil](http://www.cma.army.mil)**



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### Media Update #3: Technical Assessment Progress

#### **Army to brief the Department of Defense on evaluation *Further direction on technical assessment path expected***

**WHAT:** On Feb. 22, 2005, the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency technical assessment team will brief Defense officials on the team's progress in assessing alternatives to achieve 100 percent destruction of the nation's chemical weapons stockpile by 2012. This briefing replaces the Feb. 18, 2005, interim reporting date outlined in the original memo to the Army dated Jan. 10, 2005.

The Army will present its progress report in a meeting to the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Chemical Demilitarization and Threat Reduction, who signed the January 10th memo directing the Army to conduct the assessment.

**WHEN:** Originally, the Army received its direction in a memo, signed Jan. 10, 2005, from the Department of Defense. That memo established reporting parameters as progress moves toward a final reporting date of March 21, 2005, to Mr. Michael W. Wynne, Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology & Logistics). At this point, the Army technical assessment team continues progress toward meeting that March deadline.

**WHO:** Mr. Kevin P. Duvall, CMA's acting director of its Cooperative Threat Reduction Support Directorate, remains the lead for the technical assessment.

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**CMA COMMENT:** CMA Technical Lead Kevin P. Duvall said, "We continue to make progress on our technical assessment. The change in briefing date was made to accommodate participants' availability. On Feb. 22, we intend to provide the Defense Department with a status report and details on the options we are reviewing. Our main objective is to receive further guidance from the Defense Department as to what parts of our assessment are viable, what parts are not, and just what direction the assessment should take as we go forward. We want to stress that the safety of our workers, our communities and our environment remains our top priority while conducting this assessment."

**ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS:** Currently, the assessment is broken down into three major categories. These are:

- 1). Improving utilization of existing chemical weapons resources, which could include:
  - relocating selected stockpile(s),
  - redistributing munitions among sites,
  - relocating existing demilitarization equipment, personnel and processes, and
  - replicating proven designs and processes at other sites, such as, accelerated neutralization and selective use of the Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Program's Explosive Destruction System.
  
2. Revised technical approaches, which could include:
  - reconfiguring munitions (removing explosives ),
  - revising secondary treatment processes,
  - revising destruction approaches, such co-processing of munitions, and
  - selectively using enhanced non-stockpile systems.
  
3. Updating and streamlining policies and procedures, which could include:
  - working with state regulatory agencies in order to enhance and improve facility operating parameters while ensuring protection of the health and safety of the worker, the community and the environment, and

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- working with the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to interpret provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention Treaty to more accurately and precisely define the actual point of chemical agent destruction

Duvall emphasized that it is premature to discuss where these options might lead. "Once we have received further direction at the Feb. 22 meeting, we will then refine the assessment and move towards presenting the findings to Mr. Wynne on or about March 21."

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** As of Feb. 16, 2005, chemical weapons disposal operations in Utah, Maryland, Alabama, Oregon, and on Johnston Island have resulted in the safe destruction of 35 percent of the nation's declared chemical weapons stockpile involving 42 percent of originally declared munitions. Disposal operations are set to begin in Arkansas and Indiana in the coming months.

**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT:** Last week, a major milestone was reached as the last 16 mustard agent bulk storage ton containers stored at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., were removed and taken to the nearby Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility for agent destruction. This marked the end of 61 years of bulk mustard agent storage at Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG), and made APG the first of eight U.S. Army stockpile sites in the continental United States to have emptied its stockpile storage area, eliminating the risk the stored agent posed to surrounding communities during the past six decades. With the removal of the last ton container, ABCDF enters the final phase of its mission of completely destroying the APG stockpile.

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*The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency is responsible for safely storing and eliminating the United States' aging chemical weapons and agent stockpiles and for the safe elimination of recovered chemical materiel.*

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