



PRESS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

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U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency achieves another nerve agent disposal milestone

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. - The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) achieved another important milestone as it disposes of the nation's chemical weapons stockpile. On Friday, June 3, workers at the agency's Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) at the Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD) in Utah safely destroyed the last VX nerve agent-filled munition stockpiled at the depot. The final munition to be destroyed was a land mine, one of more than 22,600 VX land mines that were part of the facility's VX disposal campaign.

The safe elimination of the VX nerve agent stockpile means that the storage risk to the general public in and around DCD has been significantly reduced.

"With disposal of the last VX munition at TOCDF, CMA has destroyed 40 percent of the entire VX agent stockpile," said Michael Parker, director of the Chemical Materials Agency. "This achievement is due in large part to the expertise and effort of extraordinary professionals within CMA and at the TOCDF who have safely brought us to this point."

VX is an odorless and colorless or amber-colored liquid nerve agent that inhibits nerve conduction. Nerve agents were designed for use in weapons such as rockets, land mines, projectiles and bombs. VX was also designed for use in aerial spray tanks.

The TOCDF began disposal operations in 1996 and has destroyed more than one million individual munitions containing more than 7,400 tons of chemical nerve agents GB (Sarin) and VX. Overall, CMA has destroyed more than 11,400 tons of GB, VX and mustard agent at its facilities in Alabama, Arkansas, Indiana, Maryland, Oregon, and Utah, plus the former facility at Johnston Island in the equatorial Pacific Ocean, which completed its mission in 2000. This represents more than 36 percent of the nation's original chemical weapons stockpile tonnage that is now destroyed.

**For more information,
contact the
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www.cma.army.mil



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The United States and many other countries have agreed to dispose of chemical weapons according to an international treaty, the Chemical Weapons Convention. No chemical weapons were ever used by the United States in combat, but they served as a deterrent to enemy troops using similar weapons against American soldiers.

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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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