



# PRESS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

## Umatilla Chemical Depot

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Depot and Disposal Facility reach significant milestones

**UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT, Hermiston, Ore.** – Workers at the Umatilla Chemical Depot (UMCD) and its chemical weapons incineration facility recently reached several significant milestones.

- The last GB (sarin) bombs in the depot's stockpile – and in the nation's stockpile – destroyed.
- 3,000 shipments of munitions from the depot's chemical weapons storage area to the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) for processing.
- The final GB (sarin) agent trial burn (ATB) completed for the last of the disposal facility's four furnaces.

The final 750-pound MC-1 bomb, each of which contained 220 pounds of liquid sarin nerve agent, was destroyed Friday morning, June 9. This marked not only the end of more than 2,400 MC-1 bombs originally stored at UMCD, but also the final destruction of the nation's entire bomb stockpile. The United States originally had about 13,500 GB-filled bombs.

The final 18 MC-1 bombs processed last week were leaking munitions that had previously been placed inside "overpack" containers to safely contain nerve agent. Special handling was required by a two-person crew dressed in protective suits as they unpacked each leaking bomb.

No more bombs of any kind are stored at the depot. May 18, the last 27 of the depot's MK-94 500-pound sarin bombs were safely destroyed. The depot continues to securely store rockets, artillery projectiles, land mines, spray tanks and bulk containers awaiting disposal.

Depot chemical operations storage workers delivered the 3000<sup>th</sup> enhanced on-site container (EONC) shipment, which contained four MC-1 bombs, to the UMCDF Thursday, June 1. This represents about 40 percent of the expected 7500 deliveries needed to move the entire depot's stockpile to the UMCDF.

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Each EONC can hold thousands of pounds of munitions and chemical agent. They are designed to safely resist impacts, punctures, crushing and fire. EONCs also prevent release of chemical agent into the atmosphere in the unlikely event a munition should develop a leak during movement.

The final permit-required, GB-agent trial burn was completed for liquid incinerator 2 (LIC-2) Friday, June 2. If approved in the state review process with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, this will mean all GB-agent trial burns are completed – a major effort, covering several years, to prepare and prove the UMCDF's four furnaces for chemical agent disposal.

"Our very capable storage and disposals teams continue to get the job done safely," said Don Barclay, the Army's UMCDF site project manager. "They are fully dedicated to completing the mission of safely eliminating all chemical munitions in the Umatilla stockpile."

"Moving and eliminating the last of the bombs further reduces the risk of stored chemical munitions," said Lt. Col. Donna Rutten, UMCD commander. "Nearby communities and the environment are now just that much safer with the bombs gone."

After completing the MC-1 bomb campaign, the UMCDF resumed processing M55 GB rockets. Nearly 71,000 of the depot's M55 rockets have been destroyed.

"I'm hopeful all GB rockets will be gone in less than three months," Barclay added.

Disposal operations began at the UMCDF in September of 2004.

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*The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) is a dedicated team whose expertise and oversight sets the standards of excellence and leadership in safely storing the nation's aging chemical weapons and developing programs aimed at effectively recovering, treating and ultimately eliminating the nation's chemical warfare materiel. CMA personnel also enhance national security by providing specialized products and capabilities to our nation's Warfighters, and homeland defense and response capabilities. CMA encourages public participation and is committed to worker and public safety, and environmental stewardship. For more information about CMA and its programs, visit [www.cma.army.mil](http://www.cma.army.mil).*

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