



# NEWS RELEASE

George Mercer  
Contact

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410-278-1147/1153  
Phone

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **APG proposes testing munition**

*Public meeting set at Edgewood Senior Center Dec. 15*

**ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md.** – APG and the Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project (NSCMP) have proposed moving a World War I-era 75 mm mustard-filled munition, recovered Oct. 20 from a clamshell processing plant in Delaware, to APG to further evaluate and test recovered chemical warfare materiel.

Following coordination with the states of Maryland and Delaware and outreach to the community surrounding APG, the proposal recommends Army experts from the 22d Chemical Battalion (Technical Escort) escort the munition from its temporary secured storage at Dover Air Force Base, Del., to secured storage at APG.

An open house to discuss this proposal will be held at the Edgewood Senior Center Dec. 15, 7-9 p.m. If you have questions about the proposal or can't attend the meeting, please contact the APG Public Affairs Office, 410-278-1147, or NSCMP Public Affairs Office, 410-436-3445/7491.

Post officials said the round presents a unique opportunity to conduct treatability studies, providing valuable information on accessing and neutralizing this type of barnacle-encrusted munition. Testing the item before destruction enables NSCMP to look at the impact of a marine environment on the metal casing, and obtain data on chemical agent degradation after decades at sea.

NSCMP, which is part of the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, safely and effectively destroyed two 75 mm mustard-filled munitions at Dover Air Force Base in October 2004 and August 2005, using the Explosive Destruction System (EDS). However, these items were not barnacle encrusted.

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Several systems will be used during the testing and destruction of the item. First, the Munitions Assessment and Processing System, a facility located in a secured area of APG, will be used to drill into the munition and extract the chemical agent. The chemical agent will be analyzed in a secure laboratory on post to determine agent degradation after decades at sea, then will be neutralized. The remaining munition body will be processed through the EDS, which will open the munition with an explosive cutting charge.

For more information about NSCMP, call 410-436-3445/7491 or visit the CMA Web site at <http://www.cma.army.mil/nscmp.aspx>.