



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

MEDIA RELEASE



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Chemical agent-filled munitions recovered in Delaware

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. – Army personnel confirmed Wednesday that four 75 mm munitions recovered from a clam processing plant in Milford, Del., contain the chemical agent mustard. One munition was recovered at the plant on Feb. 24; the other three were recovered Feb. 28.

A team from the Army's 22d Chemical Battalion (Technical Escort) packed the first item in an airtight sealed container on Feb. 24, in accordance with Department of Transportation regulations, and safely transported it to Dover Air Force Base, Del., the closest military installation in the state to the plant. There, a detailed assessment took place. The team returned to the plant on Feb. 28 to pack and transport the additional three munitions discovered. The items will remain safely stored in a secured area of Dover Air Force Base, Del., until the items are destroyed.

Three similar rounds have been destroyed at the base using the Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project's Explosive Destruction System (EDS). This transportable treatment technology provides on-site destruction of chemical warfare materiel. EDS protects workers and the environment by containing all blast, vapor and fragments during the treatment process within its stainless steel containment chamber. The most recent mission took place in Delaware on Feb. 15.

The EDS has proven successful during missions at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., Camp Sibert, Ala., Dugway Proving Ground, Utah, Spring Valley, Washington, D.C., and most recently at Dover Air Force Base, Del.

The Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project leads the nation in the development and use of advanced technology to safely eliminate America's non-stockpile chemical materiel in an environmentally sound and cost-effective manner. A division of the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, NSCMP researches and develops treatment options and destruction plans that comply with all federal, state and local regulations. Public involvement is a part of NSCMP's philosophy, and we are committed to open communication. Visit the CMA Web site at <http://www.cma.army.mil/nscmp.aspx> for additional information.

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