



PRESS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

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CMA realigns stockpile elimination program

Program realignment focuses on additional cost effective operations

Edgewood, Md. - Col. Jesse L. Barber became the first project manager for the U.S. Army's Chemical Materials Agency's (CMA) newly formed Chemical Stockpile Elimination Program (CSE) during a May 30th ceremony at the Chemical Demilitarization Training Facility in Edgewood, Md.

The CSE is the result of merging two CMA programs, the Chemical Stockpile Disposal Project (CSDP) and the Alternatives and Approaches Project (ATAP), into one program. In his new position, Barber is chartered with using additional cost-effective methods to research, adapt and apply state-of-the-art technology. The merger will enhance CMA's responsibility for the continued safe elimination of the nation's chemical weapons stockpile by combining CSDP and ATAP resources, which will allow for the more effective use and control of program monies and those resources.

"This event signifies the maturity of our demilitarization program," said Michael Parker, Director of the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency before a crowd of nearly 150 people who attended the ceremony. "We have set the foundation for the program, but we must continue to look for efficiencies within the program. Col. Barber will play an important role reaching those efficiencies, and, by doing so, we will eliminate the stockpiled weapons sooner," he added.

"It is truly an honor to be selected for this new position," Barber said. He added, "I look forward to this new challenge, and I know I can count on the CMA team to keep the program going. Today we bring together, under one umbrella, the professionalism, expertise and dedication to our mission of safely eliminating the chemical weapons stockpile. With this realignment, we will continue to focus on exceeding our agency goals and objectives while continuing to provide for the safety our workers, the public and the environment."

Barber may be new to the CSE position, but not to CMA. Since July 2003, Barber was the project manager for ATAP where he was responsible for the development and implementation of neutralization technology to eliminate the nerve and mustard agents stored in bulk form at the Aberdeen, Md., and Newport, Ind., chemical disposal facilities. He successfully oversaw the safe destruction of the mustard agent stockpile at Aberdeen and the start-up of operations at the Newport destruction facility.

For more information,
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Chemical Materials
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Attending the ceremony were Dale Ormond, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Elimination of Chemical Weapons, Larry Gottschalk, Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project Program Manager, and Col. Joseph Pecoraro, the outgoing CSDP Project Manager.

"I want to thank all the people who keep the program going every day," said Pecoraro. "The leadership will help lay the course for the program, but it's the employees who make things happens on a day-to-day basis," added Pecoraro who, in his role as the program manager for CSDP, was responsible for chemical weapons destruction operations at four active incineration sites.

He was also responsible for the closure of the first chemical weapons disposal facility in 2003 at Johnston Atoll in the North Pacific Ocean. Pecoraro will retire from the Army in June 2006 after 27 years of dedicated service.

Kevin Flamm, project manager for CMA's Elimination of Chemical Weapons, recognized the current and former CMA employees and thanked them for their commitment to the safe storage and destruction of the nation's chemical weapons. "Your commitment is a testament to the program's success and ongoing safety and environmental compliance record," he said, noting that there has never been a serious injury during chemical destruction operations since the program's beginning in 1985. CMA personnel handle some of the most lethal chemicals ever developed.

CMA has safely destroyed more than 12,000 tons of chemical agent, representing 39 percent of the original stockpile, and nearly 1.7 million munitions and chemical storage containers, representing 48 percent of the original stockpile. CMA substantially reduces public risk as a result of storing and destroying the obsolete and aging chemical weapons.

"These accomplishments will only be exceeded with the destruction of the remaining portions for the United State's chemical weapons stockpile," said Flamm.

CMA safely operates chemical disposal facilities in Alabama, Arkansas, Oregon, Utah and Indiana.

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www.cma.army.mil

The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) with headquarters at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., stores the nation's aging chemical weapons and develops programs aimed at effectively treating and ultimately eliminating chemical warfare materiel. For more information about CMA and its programs, visit www.cma.army.mil.