



NEWS RELEASE

U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency

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U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency destroys half of total number of munitions in national stockpile

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md.— The U.S. Army announced today the destruction of 50 percent of the number of munitions in its declared chemical stockpile.

This achievement demonstrates the United States' commitment to its international obligations as a signatory to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). When the United States ratified the CWC in 1997, they agreed to stop producing, stockpiling or transferring chemical weapons.

Since beginning chemical weapons destruction, the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) has destroyed more than 1.7 million munitions of the total original stockpile. The stockpile includes bombs, rockets, mortars, projectiles, land mines and spray tanks filled with nerve agents GB (sarin) and VX, plus blister agents H, HD and HT (mustard).

CMA has been disposing of chemical munitions since 1990 when it began munitions destruction at Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System (JACADS), located 825 miles southwest of Honolulu, Hawaii. The JACADS disposal mission was completed in 2000, and the site remains a wildlife refuge. Aberdeen, Md. was the first facility within the continental United States to destroy its stockpile; an important milestone achieved in 2006. Other disposal missions began at each site as follows: Utah in 1996, Alabama in 2003, Oregon in 2004, and Indiana plus Arkansas in 2005. The munitions destroyed to date contained more than 39 percent of the total amount of agent, by weight, in the original stockpile.

CMA maintains high safety standards for its workers, the public and the environment. In achieving this 50 percent milestone, CMA successfully overcame operational challenges in the chemical weapons disposal project, including permitting delays and facility work stoppages. In particular, delays resulted from the challenges associated with obtaining, modifying and/or closing environmental permits. In addition, unexpected facility work stoppages were necessary to evaluate and correct problems.

CMA will safely lower the public risk associated with these aging munitions by ultimately eliminating all of the United States' stockpile of chemical weapons.

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