



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL
MATERIALS AGENCY

PRESS RELEASE

Deseret Chemical Depot

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DEPOT'S FORMER RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FACILITY GETS NEW FOCUS

DESERET CHEMICAL DEPOT, STOCKTON, Utah -- Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD) officials today announced the mission of the Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System (CAMDS) has been revised, a decision that establishes a three year planning date for CAMDS closure.

Col. Raymond T. Van Pelt, commander, DCD, addressed depot workers at a town hall meeting on the depot and identified segregation and re-packaging of secondary waste; and facility closure as the new primary focus of work at CAMDS.

"We will continue to adhere to the strict and closely regulated standards of national and state agencies to treat and dispose of secondary waste in a manner that protects the health and safety of our workers, the public and the environment," said Col. Van Pelt. "At the same time we will develop a plan to safely close the facility and prepare our workers for future employment options."

Secondary wastes are routinely generated as a normal part of storage and disposal of chemical weapons. Some of these wastes are classified as hazardous because they are contaminated with low levels of agent-residue. Typical secondary waste includes items such as personal protective equipment (PPE), insulation, cleaning materials, tools, steel containers and munitions casings.

Workers at the plant will open a variety of sealed hazardous waste containers, identify and separate contents, then re-package the contents for continued storage for destruction at a later date. Depot officials will work closely with the Chemical Materials Agency and the State of Utah to develop disposal options.

Since 1970, the CAMDS facility has developed personal protective ensembles, monitoring systems, processing equipment and procedures currently in use by other chemical agent destruction facilities across the United States. The facility employs approximately 130 Army civilians and is located approximately 1.5 miles south of the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF).

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The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency is responsible for safely storing and eliminating the United States' aging chemical weapons and agent stockpiles and for the safe elimination of recovered chemical materiel.

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