



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

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Binary Destruction Facility begins operations

PINE BLUFF ARSENAL, Ark. – The Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project (NSCMP) began operations of the Binary Destruction Facility today. The facility is neutralizing the binary chemical precursors DF and QL. These chemicals were designed to mix with other chemicals in flight to a target to create chemical nerve agents.

The facility is starting with DF neutralization operations, which will run for about three months. Once complete, the facility will transition to QL operations, which will run from May to June, said Larry Friedman, NSMCP binary project manager. About 70 operations and maintenance personnel are running the facility in around-the-clock shifts, enabling the United States to meet chemical demilitarization milestones for the Chemical Weapons Convention's 1997 treaty.

A 1991 treaty with Russia halted production of the binary items, and the DF and QL have been safely stored here since. The structure housing the BDF is the final part of the original Integrated Binary Production Facilities. NSCMP, part of the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, began converting the building for binary destruction operations in June 2003. Once operations are complete, this building also will be demolished, completing destruction of the former production facility at Pine Bluff Arsenal.

NSCMP 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. NSCMP encourages public involvement in its activities. Visit the CMA Web site at <http://www.cma.army.mil/nscmp.aspx> for additional information.

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