

# U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency continues researching

The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency continues to progress to meeting an interim report date due to the Department of Defense on Feb. 18. The purpose of the interim report is to meet the Department of Defense directive to CMA to provide an assessment of options that will allow the Army to meet an April 2012 deadline for destroying the remaining U.S. stockpile of chemical agent and munitions.

The Army received its direction in a memo, signed Jan. 10, 2005, from the Department of Defense on Friday, Jan. 14, 2005. That memo established reporting parameters as progress moves toward a final reporting date to Mr. Michael W. Wynne, Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology & Logistics) of March 21, 2005.

WHO: Mr. Kevin P. Duvall, CMA's acting director of its Cooperative Reduction Support Directorate, remains the lead for the technical assessment.

CMA COMMENT: CMA Technical Lead Kevin P. Duvall said, "The technical assessment continues to make progress. We are investigating various areas, looking at a wide variety of possibilities. Some of those possibilities include but are not limited to transportation, re-configuration, Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel systems applications, co-processing and other technical alternatives. It would be premature to discuss where those options might lead at this time. We expect further refined guidance from DoD as a result of this interim report. Safety of our workers, our communities and our environment will not be compromised."

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: As of Feb. 3, 2005, chemical weapons disposal operations in Utah, Maryland, Alabama, Oregon, and on Johnston Island have resulted in the safe destruction of 35 percent of the nation's declared chemical weapons stockpile involving 42 percent of originally declared munitions. Last week, a major milestone was reached as the last 16 mustard agent bulk storage ton containers stored at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., were removed and taken to the nearby Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility for agent destruction. This marked the end of 61 years of bulk mustard agent storage at Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG), and made APG the first of eight

U.S. Army stockpile sites in the continental United States to have emptied its stockpile storage area, eliminating the risk the stored agent posed to surrounding communities during the past six decades. With the removal of the last ton container, ABCDF enters the final phase of its mission of completely destroying the APG stockpile. Disposal operations are set to begin in Arkansas and Indiana in the coming months.

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.