



PRESS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

Umatilla Chemical Depot

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Umatilla depot reaches another weapons disposal milestone

Umatilla Chemical Depot, Hermiston, Ore. – Tuesday afternoon the depot reached another milestone in its chemical weapons disposal project – emptying the first igloo (storage structure) that had stored GB (sarin)-filled M55 rockets since the 1960s. The depot currently uses more than 100 igloos to store nerve and mustard agent-filled ammunition and containers.

Specially trained depot chemical operations crews started moving pallets, with 15 rockets each, from the igloo to the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility on Sept 7. Workers use tractor/trailers and specially designed steel containers to move the pallets to the disposal facility. Today, crews started moving pallets from a second igloo.

“Emptying an igloo is another step toward ridding this community of weapons of mass destruction and meeting our international treaty requirements,” said Umatilla Depot Commander Lt. Col. David “Doc” Holliday. “I have been extremely pleased with the movement operations. The workers are well-trained, confident and professional. Moving ammunition is what they’re trained to do, and they are doing it very well,” Holliday said.

Processing continues at the disposal facility. As of 9 a.m. today, 1,232 rockets and 5,098 pounds of liquid agent have been destroyed.

The depot will continue to provide the public with regular updates on disposal operations. A toll-free number, 1-888-866-5928, is updated Mondays – Fridays. The Umatilla Chemical Disposal Outreach Office, 190 E. Main Street, Hermiston, Ore., is another source for ongoing information. Operating hours are Mondays – Fridays, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Phone number is: 541-564-9339.

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