



PRESS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

Umatilla Chemical Depot

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: April 8, 2006
TIME: 11:30 a.m.

CONTACT: Public Affairs Office
Jim Hackett
PHONE: (509) 522-1124

Depot detects trace amount of agent vapors

UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT, Hermiston, Ore. – A depot chemical operations monitoring crew detected a trace amount of GB Sarin chemical agent vapors today inside a chemical storage structure storing 155 mm projectiles.

The trace of chemical agent was detected during routine monitoring.

The structure housing the chemical agent has a “passive” filter system, which prevents chemical agent vapor from escaping outside the structure. However, as a further protective measure, a powered filter system was installed.

Although the readings are so low they are not harmful to the public or the environment, depot officials notify the public when such incidents occur. They also notify off-post emergency operations centers in Umatilla and Morrow counties, Ore., Benton County, Wash., those in Oregon and Washington states, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality.

###

The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) is a dedicated team whose expertise and oversight sets the standards of excellence and leadership in safely storing the nation's aging chemical weapons and developing programs aimed at effectively recovering, treating and ultimately eliminating the nation's chemical warfare materiel. CMA personnel also enhance national security by providing specialized products and capabilities to our nation's Warfighters, and homeland defense and response capabilities. CMA encourages public participation and is committed to worker and public safety, and environmental stewardship. For more information about CMA and its programs, visit www.cma.army.mil.

###

www.cma.army.mil