



# PRESS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

## Umatilla Chemical Depot

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oct. 26, 2007  
2:30 p.m.

For more information contact:

Public Affairs Office

Bruce Henrickson

(541) 564-7081 – Cell (541) 379-8810

### First VX agent munitions moved to Umatilla chemical weapons disposal plant

**UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT, Hermiston, Ore.** – Storage workers at the Umatilla Chemical Depot (UMCD) safely moved the first load of M55 VX nerve agent rockets to the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) today. The first load was shipped to the disposal plant just before 2 p.m. today. VX rocket deliveries mark the start of the second nerve agent campaign at the depot. Rocket disposal processing is expected to begin next week.

“We’ll remain vigilant as we continue the vital mission of chemical weapons disposal,” said Lt. Col. Bob Stein, depot commander. “Safety still comes first as we begin our second nerve agent campaign.”

The rockets were moved in hardened containers called “enhanced on-site containers” (EONCs). These specially designed containers protect rockets from fire and impact during movement to the disposal facility. They also contain agent leaks if any occur.

During the previous GB (sarin) agent disposal campaign from September 7, 2004 to July 8, 2007, depot workers successfully completed 4,815 EONC shipments to the UMCDF without accident or incident. More than 155,000 munitions and 1,000 tons of GB agent were destroyed during the GB campaign, including more than 91,000 M55 GB rockets.

Storage workers will deliver VX rockets, aircraft spray tanks, artillery projectiles, and land mines to the disposal plant in a campaign planned to last about a year and a half. During the past several weeks, depot storage workers rehearsed chemical weapons movements using simulated munitions, double-checking safety and security requirements.

###

[www.cma.army.mil](http://www.cma.army.mil)