



# PRESS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

## Umatilla Chemical Depot

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 28, 2008  
9:30 a.m.

For more information contact:  
**Bruce Henrickson - Public Affairs Office**  
Cell (541) 379-8810

**Hal McCune – Washington Defense Group**  
(541) 564-7304 or Cell (541) 571-1779

### Umatilla completes 155mm VX artillery projectile disposal campaign

**UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT, Hermiston, Ore.** – The Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) safely completed its 155mm diameter VX nerve agent artillery projectile campaign late last night. The last of 32,313 VX artillery projectiles was destroyed at about 11 p.m. in the plant's Metal Parts Furnace (MPF). The campaign started with the first movement of munitions on March 20, and it was completed ahead of schedule.

"We're pleased to complete another individual munitions disposal campaign in our mission to eliminate all chemical weapons stored at the depot," said Mike Strong, the Army's site project manager at Umatilla. "As we move forward, safety will continue to drive our program, and we're dedicated to remaining compliant with all environmental requirements."

The UMCDF will now reconfigure or "change over" from 155mm to 8-inch diameter projectiles processing. It should take about a month to reconfigure portions of the plant to begin processing this different size projectile. Workers at the plant previously disposed of a GB (sarin)-filled 8-inch diameter artillery projectiles or "shells" during a campaign last year.

"Our priority is the safety of our employees, the community and the environment, whether we are processing munitions or in changeover," said Doug Hamrick, project general manager for Washington Defense Group of URS Corporation's EG&G Division. Washington Defense Group built and operates the disposal plant for the Army. "We are pleased with the progress and will continue our careful and deliberate work to finish the job."

Three individual types of munitions remain in the Oregon stockpile awaiting destruction. When the last of the 8-inch VX projectiles are destroyed, the plant will prepare for processing VX land mines, which are the final VX munitions in the depot stockpile. The entire VX agent disposal campaign is planned to be completed by early 2009 if there are no significant delays.

The plant will then change over to process HD mustard blister agent stored in bulk containers, also known as "ton containers." HD mustard will be the third and final type of agent disposal campaign at Umatilla, and its eventual elimination will mark the end of the Oregon chemical weapons stockpile.

-more-

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



# PRESS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

## Umatilla Chemical Depot

The first stockpiled chemical munitions disposal campaign in Oregon began on Sept. 7, 2004, when GB rockets were moved from depot storage to the disposal facility. The first GB rockets were destroyed the next day. Since that time, the following munitions disposal campaigns have been successfully and safely completed:

- 4 GB (sarin-filled) bulk containers or “ton containers” completed Jan. 5, 2006.
- 27 GB 500-pound bombs completed May 18, 2006.
- 2,418 GB 750-pound bombs completed June 9, 2006.
- 91,442 GB rockets and warheads completed Aug. 9, 2006.
- 3,752 GB 8-inch diameter artillery projectiles completed Jan. 3, 2007.
- 47,406 GB 155mm diameter artillery projectiles completed July 8, 2007.
- One VX bulk container or “ton container” completed Nov. 26, 2007.
- 156 VX aircraft-mounted spray tanks completed Dec. 24, 2007.
- 14,519 VX rockets and warheads completed Jan. 23, 2008.

When the Umatilla chemical munitions destruction mission is complete, the disposal plant will be thoroughly cleaned and disassembled according to environmental permits. The Umatilla Chemical Depot is slated for closure per the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) law. Chemical munitions have been stored at the depot since the 1960s.

###

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

C R E A T I N G   A   S A F E R   T O M O R R O W