



# PRESS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

## Umatilla Chemical Depot

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nov. 5, 2008  
3:30 p.m.

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

**Adam Russell – Washington Defense Group**  
(541) 564-7227 or Cell (541) 571-1779

### **Army destroys last nerve agent munition in Oregon chemical weapons stockpile Only mustard blister agent remains**

**UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT, Hermiston, Ore.** – The last chemical munition containing nerve agent in the Oregon stockpile was safely destroyed at 2:58 p.m. PST today when Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) workers completed destruction of the last VX-filled land mine. The only chemical munitions now remaining at the Umatilla Chemical Depot (UMCD) are HD mustard blister agent bulk containers or “ton containers.”

“The Army said we’d do it. We did it. And we did it safely,” said Mike Strong, the Army’s site project manager at UMCDF, commenting on the disposal of GB sarin and VX nerve agent that began in September of 2004. “We’ll remain fully committed to safety as we prepare to dispose of the mustard ton containers.”

“This was a tremendous team effort by the Army and the community,” said Lt. Col. Bob Stein, depot commander. “We thank our dedicated workers for a safe job well done, and we thank the community for years of emergency preparedness effort and support.”

The last container of VX mines was safely moved by depot storage workers to the disposal plant yesterday. Disposal of 11,685 VX land mines was the 12<sup>th</sup> individual chemical munitions disposal campaign for the depot and disposal plant. It was the sixth individual VX munitions campaign, and it started on Sept. 25 with the first movement of land mines to the disposal plant.

“Environmental compliance was the hallmark of both the GB and VX campaigns,” 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’re pleased to consistently meet the high standards of state oversight officials.”

Final destruction of VX land mines also marks the end of chemical munitions in the Oregon stockpile containing explosive components. HD mustard ton containers hold no explosives or “energetic” components.

-more-

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



# PRESS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

## Umatilla Chemical Depot

The UMCDF will now perform a “changeover” process to prepare the plant, procedures and workers for processing HD mustard blister agent. That changeover is planned to take about five months. Mustard agent destruction is expected to take one to two years to complete if there are no significant delays.

The first chemical munitions disposal campaign in Oregon began on Sept. 7, 2004, with the first movement of GB-filled M55 rockets to the disposal plant. Since that time, the following 12 chemical munitions disposal campaigns have been successfully and safely completed:

- 4 GB (sarin-filled) bulk containers or “ton containers” completed Jan. 5, 2006. This was a Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project (NSCMP) mission.
- 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.
- 14,246 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. This was a Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project (NSCMP) mission.
- 156 VX aircraft-mounted spray tanks completed Dec. 24, 2007.
- 14,519 VX rockets and warheads completed Jan. 23, 2008.
- 32,313 VX 155mm projectiles completed June 27, 2008.
- 3,752 VX 8-inch projectiles completed August 6, 2008.
- 11,685 VX land mines completed today.

Some of the disposal campaigns ran simultaneously. The disposal plant has multiple processing lines and is capable of safely disposing of different types of munitions at the same time.

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 safely and securely stored at the depot since the 1960s. The depot opened in 1941.

###

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