



# Chemical Demilitarization

Program Manager 256-895-1371

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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## Background

The Department of Defense was directed by Congress through Public Law 99-145 to be the government agency responsible for destruction of the chemical weapons stockpile. To comply with treaty agreements and congressional mandate, destruction of these weapons was to be completed by 2007.

An additional five-year extension was exercised so the program is planning to meet the 2012 deadline. The Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) was created in February 2003 and combines the demilitarization and storage functions under a single organization. The program manager for Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (PM ACWA) is responsible for the disposal of the chemical weapons stockpile at Pueblo, Colo. and Blue Grass, Ky., and has a congressional deadline of 2017.

Huntsville Center is the Corps of Engineers' agent for facility design and facility construction of chemical demilitarization facilities. The U.S. Army Field Support Command, Rock Island, Ill., is the contracting agency.

## Active Construction Programs

### ***Pueblo Chemical Depot, Colo. and Blue Grass Chemical Activity, Ky.***

Public Law 104-208 established the Assembled Chemical Weapons Assessment (ACWA) program to study alternative technologies. In July 2002 the Department of Defense approved neutralization followed by biotreatment as the technology for the Pueblo facility. A systems contract was awarded in September 2002 to Bechtel National, Inc. Neutralization followed by supercritical water oxidation (SCWO) was selected as the technology for the Blue Grass facility. A systems contract was awarded in June 2003 to the Bechtel-Parsons team. Also in June 2003, the ACWA program formally changed its name to Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (again ACWA) to better reflect its newly expanded role: overseeing the full-scale pilot testing of neutralization technologies to destroy the chemical weapons stockpiles in Colorado and Kentucky.



**The Pueblo Chemical Agent Pilot Destruction Plant.**



**Placed concrete for the MDB Transfer Area concrete roof slab, the first of six elevated slabs at the Blue Grass Chemical Activity, Ky.**

Design and construction activities are ongoing at Pueblo and Blue Grass while permitting activities continue development with Colorado and Kentucky Environmental agencies. A law was passed requiring ACWA to complete destruction by 2017. The program is proposing alternatives to the Office of the Secretary of Defense in 2010 to speed up the current schedules to meet the law however funding availability will determine if 2017 completion is possible. The program is evaluating the feasibility to meet the deadline based on funding availability.

#### ***Shchuch'ye Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility, Russia***

Together with other countries, the U.S. government (USG) has committed to assist the Russian Federation (RF) in the destruction of its chemical weapons. In December 1996, the Huntsville Center awarded a contract to manage, conduct research and development, design and construct facilities to assist Russia in executing its chemical weapons destruction program. In 2007, the USG and RF agreed to a "Trilateral Approach" with the RF awarding and managing the construction contracts and the USG verifying progress and paying for work originally budgeted to be performed by U.S. subcontractors. The Russian government will perform quality control of the remainder of the construction. The U.S. government will provide technical support and continue to provide oversight. Construction is nearly 100 percent complete on the U.S.-funded destruction plant with a completion date planned for December 2010. The Russian-funded destruction plant is 100 percent construction complete and chemical weapons destruction is underway since March 2009.

#### ***Bio-Threat Reduction Program – Azerbaijan***

The Defense Threat Reduction Office – Biological (DTRO-B) is assisting the Azerbaijan government in designing and building a Central Reference Laboratory, in Baku, Azerbaijan -- a state of the art medical facility similar to our Centers for Disease Control in the U.S. The government of Azerbaijan has a system of laboratories spread throughout the Rayons (i.e., counties), and they are ready to tie all of the information back into one central facility in Baku. They will be studying and verifying issues such as Avian Bird Flu, Swine Fever, Plague, etc. The U.S. has an interest in this effort through the Defense Threat Reduction Agency in regards to foreign aid as well as stopping severe outbreaks before they spread to our local and distant interests. The U.S. paid for the design. Huntsville Center is supporting DTRA by providing design and construction management oversight. Construction was funded and awarded by the Azerbaijan government in 2009 and is scheduled for completion in September 2012. DTRA is also pursuing Huntsville Center support for other bio-threat programs in Asia and Africa.