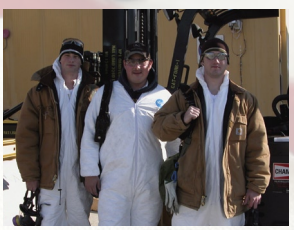


We made *History.* We made a *Difference.*

2008

NEWPORT CHEMICAL DEPOT: STOCKPILE ELIMINATION

We made History. We made a Difference.

U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

On behalf of the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA), I offer my personal thanks and sincere congratulations for the successful storage, delivery, draining and neutralization of the Newport Chemical Depot's (NECD) last steel ton container. This milestone is a success story of global significance.

The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) is an international agreement that prohibits the development, production, stockpiling, transfer and use of chemical weapons. It also calls for the destruction of all chemical weapons stockpiles. The United States became a part of the CWC in 1997. The accomplishments of the Newport team will forever be known as a contribution to the fulfillment of the CWC to make our country and the world a safer place. Throughout Newport's successes, the workers have made history. They made a difference.

CMA is responsible for the safe storage and elimination of the nation's aging chemical weapons. At CMA, we know that the success of the chemical weapons disposal program depends largely on the expertise and dedication of our work force. CMA would like to thank everyone involved for their dedication, professionalism and focus to the Newport mission despite the challenges faced. The chemical weapons disposal program has and will continue to face challenges. Yet, Newport employees stayed the course to fulfill their mission.

For more than 40 years, the Newport team stored approximately four percent of the nation's original chemical agent stockpile at the NECD. Throughout the completion of the Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility construction in June 2003 and the start of agent destruction operations in May 2005, I'm proud to say they held the safety of their fellow workers, the community and the environment in the highest regard. The lessons learned and shared by Newport will help the six remaining declared U.S. storage sites, as well as others around the world, safely and successfully destroy their stockpiles for years to come.

Congratulations to all on a job well done!

Conrad F. Whyne
Director of the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency

Message

Table of Contents

Messages From Fo

Please convey my congratulations and appreciation to all involved in the successful completion of this project in a safe manner. Job Well Done! Good Luck and God Speed!

Colonel Homer S. Hilleary – Retired
U.S. Army Ordnance Corps

Newport Army Ammunition Plant
Sept. 1963-Oct. 1966, Oct. 1967-Jan. 1968

I want to congratulate the employees of Newport Chemical Depot and the emergency management personnel of the surrounding counties, particularly those of Fountain, Parke and Vermillion counties in Indiana, and those of the state emergency management agencies of Indiana and Illinois, on the completion of nerve agent destruction operations. Since the 1960s, individuals working in these organizations have dedicated themselves to ensuring the safety and security of the VX stored at the depot and the protection of the public living in the area. You and your predecessors have done your jobs well. As the Commander of Newport Army Ammunition Plant from 1993-1995, I am proud to be associated with the history and the people of Newport. It was indeed an honor and a pleasure to work with a group of professionals who were so dedicated to such an important mission. Congratulations to everyone, past and present, who contributed to this outstanding accomplishment.

Colonel Gary R. Wallace, Chief of Staff
U.S. Army Maneuver Support Center and Fort Leonard Wood

Newport Army Ammunition Plant Commander | Aug. 1993-March 1995

My tenure at Newport was clearly a highlight of my 30 years of service. The dedication, work ethic and values of those who worked and lived in the area are unequaled in all my travels. I would like to thank each and everyone in the area for what you have done for the defense of the country from heavy water production to elimination of the chemical stockpile. The community has exceeded all expectations in the name of national defense from Ernie Pyle to the last Newport Chemical Depot employee. When I came to the area, someone once told me that I would never be accepted, as I was not born in the area. I can clearly say that that was not true and the individual did not understand the Hoosier heart, or the will of rural America. Collectively you are the best with which I have served. Once again, thank you for what you have done!

Colonel William S. Schaff Jr.,
Chemical Corps Director, Strategic Sustainment and Support (Ammunitionand Chemical Defense) ***U.S. Army Materiel Command***

NECD Commander | June 1996-July 1998

To the current and past depot work force,

Let me offer hearty congratulations to all the personnel of Newport Chemical Depot. Many people have been working toward this day for many years. Job well done!

My wife Kathleen and I came to Newport in the summer of 2000. Little did we know what lay in store for us just over a year later. The events of 9/11 changed everything – for our nation, and for life at the plant. All the dedicated professionals at the depot whose job it was to store/safeguard the agent, construct the demil facility and ultimately destroy the chemical agent, threw themselves into their jobs with renewed vigor, while at the same time, making on-site adjustments to ensure the improved storage of the agent. Today that mission is complete. Although it is a bittersweet accomplishment, I am proud of you and humbled by your efforts and sacrifices both on the plant and in the community. Like others before me and since, I consider my years at Newport among the happiest and most rewarding of my career. Thank you for your hard work and devotion. It was a pleasure and an honor to serve with you. Many congratulations!

Lieutenant Colonel Christopher J. Issacson
Headquarters - Department of the Army

NECD Commander | Aug. 2000-May 2002

1958-61

The VX facility is built. In 1961, VX production begins.

1961-68

Chemical agent VX is manufactured. The facility produces 4,400 tons of VX. The Army ships munitions by rail to Newport and fills them with VX before shipping to U.S. defense stockpiles. Newport was the only U.S. site to manufacture VX. In 1968, President Richard Nixon ceases chemical weapons production.

1969

A moratorium is placed on the transportation of VX shipments—The final inventory of VX lots are "trapped" on site. Newport safely stores approximately four percent of the U.S. chemical weapons stockpile.

1969-2008

The VX stockpile is safely stored during this time.

rmer Commanders

Dear Employees of NECD/NECDF,

Congratulations to all of you on this momentous occasion!

Your contributions to the safe storage, maintenance and ultimate elimination of the chemical weapons stockpile at Newport over more than four decades have been invaluable.

I remained particularly impressed by the actions you and your colleagues undertook to ensure the safety of one another on the project, the protection of the local residents and the environment. Your activities to date have been most impressive.

I wish you continued success in your clean up and remediation phase, and in the imminent culmination of this operation. Thank you once again; you are all great Americans, and I'm honored to have served with you!

Colonel Joseph F. Marquart
Director, *Chemical Demilitarization Programs*

NECD Commander | May 2002-June 2004

As we continue to fight the "long war" against terrorism at home and abroad, success is achieved along the way that goes without notice. Whether it is the Soldier in Iraq or Afghanistan fighting terrorism to ensure freedom and democracy continue to grow or the security agent on an unknown border protecting our homeland, success can be found. Regardless of the mission, each one does their duty to protect our freedom and way of life because it is the right thing to do.

The right thing to do, a simple term that means so much, personifies the tremendous work force at the Newport Chemical Depot. A work force composed primarily of ordinary people from America's heartland doing extraordinary things. For over 60 years, the work force at the plant has dedicated their lives to ensuring the safety of the community, the environment and the safety of each other. It was my honor to serve for a short period as your Commander, and it is with great pride that I say "mission complete" Newport. Your neighbors, your state and your country owe you a tremendous debt of gratitude ... job well done.

Lieutenant Colonel Scott D. Kimmell, Chief of Operations
Energy Fusion Cell, STRATOPS, MNF-I

NECD Commander | June 2004-July 2006

It has been a great honor and privilege to serve as the Commander of the Newport Chemical Depot for the last two years. I appreciate the great support and assistance that I have received from the local communities, the elected officials and the outstanding employees at the depot. As the most recent former Commander of Newport, I continue to be proud of my association with the history and the people of Newport. It was indeed a pleasure to work with a group of professionals who were so dedicated to such an important mission.

I would like to thank each and everyone in the local area for what you have done for the defense of the country and in support of our mission to safely eliminate our chemical stockpile — you have exceeded all expectations in the name of national defense. I want to personally thank the employees of the depot, as well as the emergency management personnel of the surrounding counties and those with the state emergency management agencies. The individuals working in these organizations and the employees at the depot have dedicated themselves to ensuring the safety and security of the VX and the protection of the public living in the area. You and your predecessors have done your jobs well. As we have conquered the completion of nerve agent destruction, I would like to say congratulations to all who contributed to this great achievement. A job well done!

Lieutenant Colonel Brian M. Lynch
Chief of the Chemical Branch, *United States Army Human Resources Command*

NECD Commander | July 2006-June 2008

1992

To address growing public concern over the use of incineration, Congress directs the Army to evaluate alternative disposal approaches that might be "significantly safer" and more cost effective than the baseline system and that could be used to complete disposal operations to meet the Congressionally—mandated deadline of Dec. 31, 2004. The Army was directed to report their findings by Dec. 31, 1993.

1996

JAN. 27, 1996: The Army hosts a public meeting at South Vermillion High School to discuss each alternative treatment technology under consideration for destruction of the VX stockpile housed at the Newport Chemical Depot.

1997

The CWC Treaty is ratified. The decision is made to use neutralization technology at Newport and Aberdeen, Md.

"I am proud and honored to be a part of the work force that eliminated the Newport stockpile safely and successfully."

Although I have not been the commander at the Newport Chemical Depot for long, I have already witnessed the greatness of the Newport team in action. Teamwork and dedication shine in each person at the depot. Our site is comprised of the finest caliber of competent, skilled and reliable employees, and it is with pleasure that we say "mission complete." I am proud and honored to be a part of the work force that eliminated the Newport stockpile safely and successfully.

Back in the late 1960s, the depot went into a storage mission of the utmost importance. Culminating with our successful stockpile elimination efforts, the Newport site safely stored 1,269 tons of liquid nerve agent VX — all without an agent-related injury or death. We have workers who have been at Newport more than 40 years and they were a tremendous asset in planning and supporting the mission.

The community should feel proud of their part in aiding Newport towards our ultimate goal. You have lived with the chemical stockpile in your area. You supported us through production and storage, and then worked with us in our endeavor to select a technology to destroy the VX. Without your help, we couldn't be standing here today at 100-percent stockpile elimination.

As the depot commander, I feel lucky and blessed at work everyday. I would like to thank you, everyone, for your many accomplishments leading to this milestone. It has indeed been an honor and a pleasure to work with a group of professionals so dedicated to such an important mission. The work at Newport isn't finished yet, and we will strive to maintain our high level of safety throughout all remaining operations — safety for the work force, the community and the environment. Together we can continue building Newport's legacy of making a difference.

Lt. Col. William D. Hibner
Newport Chemical Depot Commander

1997

JUNE 1997: The Newport Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office opens in Newport, Ind.

1999

FEB. 18, 1999: The Army awards contract to Parsons Corporation of Pasadena, Cal., to design, build, systemize, operate and close the NECDF in Newport, Ind.

2000

APRIL 8, 2000: Ground is broken to signify the start of construction for the NECDF.

"I commend you for your professionalism and dedication to achieve this objective of national and international importance."

As we reach the conclusion of agent destruction, I wish to thank each employee that has helped achieve this significant accomplishment. I commend you for your professionalism and dedication to achieve this objective of national and international importance. Completing agent destruction in a little over three years while establishing and maintaining solid safety performance and environmental compliance is an accomplishment we can all be proud of.

Over my five plus years as the Site Project Manager, I look back at our major accomplishments. I am most proud of two accomplishments. First, was receiving the initial ton containers delivered to the NECDF on May 5, 2005, to initiate destruction of the agent stockpile. Attainment of this milestone was made possible by the efforts of employees who prepared the facility design, constructed the facility and conducted a set of rigorous pre-operational demonstrations which met requirements established to declare readiness to begin operations. Second, was receipt of the last ton container from NECD storage and the subsequent processing of this VX in the reactors to complete the last of agent destruction. This milestone was accomplished by our employees who were responsive to challenges and strived to better operations performance while maintaining the highest standards of safety. With our combined efforts each employee can be proud of accomplishing the destruction of more than 2.5 million pounds of chemical agent.

I also want to thank our partners in the completion of agent destruction for without their support and contributions we could not claim success. The employees of NECD ensured safe delivery of the agent, maintenance and cleaning of our protective clothing and keeping the site physically secure. Without such support, we could not have completed our mission. I am very proud of the partnering between NECDF and NECD which enabled our mission success.

To NECDF employees, it has been a great honor and privilege for me to serve as your Site Project Manager. In recognition of completing destruction of the agent stockpile, I salute each employee and extend my sincere thanks to all employees for a job well done. Together we made history. We made a difference.

Jeffrey L. Brubaker
Site Project Manager

2000

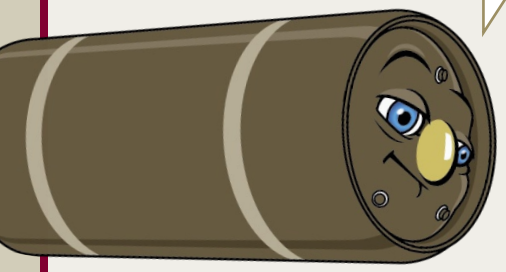
SEPT. 20, 2000: The Army announces proposed cost-saving design change for NECDF. Original NECDF design called for agent destruction using neutralization followed by supercritical water oxidation (SCWO), which produces non-toxic salt water. The original design included an evaporator/crystallizer that separated the water from the salt. The original plan was to discharge the water to the depot's wastewater treatment facility and send the salts to an off-site disposal facility. The proposed design change removes the evaporator/crystallizer from the treatment process and calls for the off-site transport and treatment of the salt water from the SCWO system.

2002

MAY 21,2002: The Army holds public information meeting at the Newport Lions Club to announce plans for accelerating destruction of the chemical agent housed at NECD.

A Day in the *Life* of the Last Ton Container

Hi! You might not know me, but I feel compelled to tell you about my life at the Newport Chemical Depot (NECD).

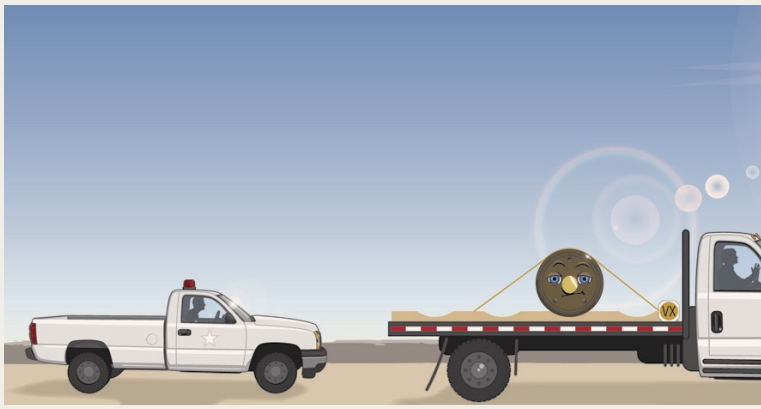


To be honest, I never really saw myself as being anything special. I looked a lot like my other friends. We were all very strong, stable and dedicated to our job. Little did I know that I was about to become history - literally. I was the last VX-filled ton container (TC) in the Newport chemical agent stockpile.

I guess you could say my "born on date" is Sept. 23, 1969. That's when I was filled with VX. When I arrived at the depot, I recall hearing stories about the Newport mission during the 1960s. Workers at Newport made all of the VX for our U.S. defense forces. Back then, workers filled land mines, rockets and projectiles and shipped them to U.S. defense sites. Then in 1968, a presidential order was issued to halt the production of chemical agents. In 1969, President Nixon signed a moratorium that halted existing chemical weapons from being transported, which meant that 1,269 tons of VX was "trapped" on site. That's when I was called to duty.

I have a hard time remembering back that far, but I knew there were a lot of us TCs. Throughout my time here at the depot, I've been moved three times. My short journeys never left the depot, and my total travel was less than one mile. My first home was in a fenced parking lot. Then I was moved into a metal warehouse out of the weather. For the past five years, my home has been in a temperature-controlled igloo with bright red doors. My friends and I had fulfilled our responsibility to hold our precious cargo at the depot for nearly 40 years.

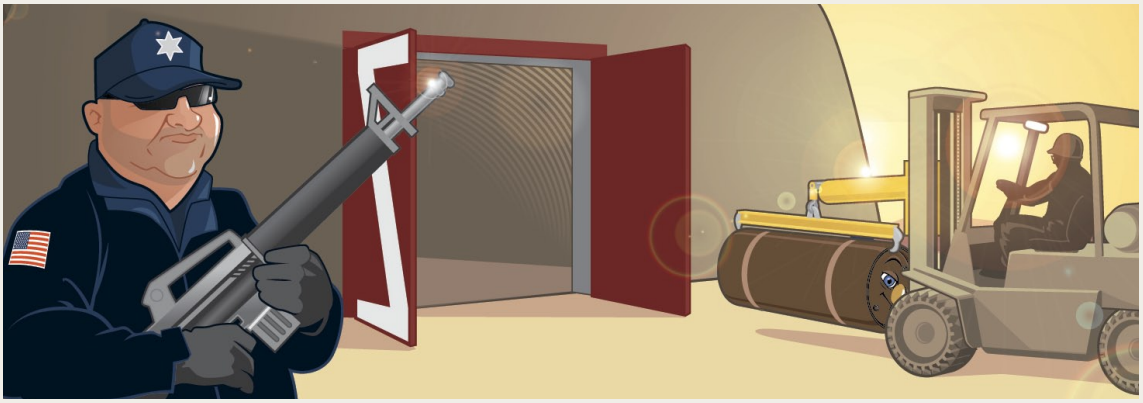
Before I reminisce of yesteryear, let's shift focus to recent, and just as exciting, events. Not too long ago, I made my fourth and final move at Newport. This day started like most other days. I was hard at work, holding my important cargo, when I noticed a lot of activity around the storage igloo.



We TCs are familiar with activities going on outside our workplace. Usually it's security officers on duty guarding our storage area. These security folks make sure that no one bothers us while we're performing our duties. The environmental folks also come in frequently to check the air inside the igloo to make sure that no TCs have allowed our contents to leak.

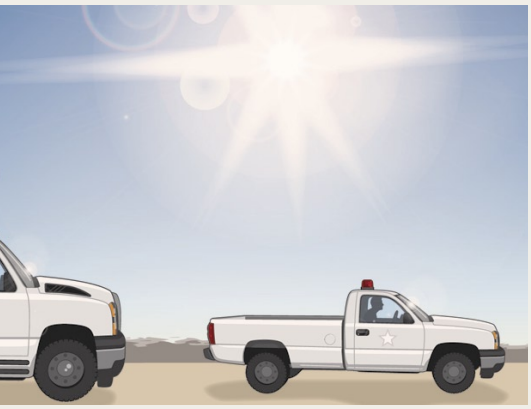
However, on this particular day I could sense excitement from visitors' activity. I recall hearing the guards outside of the igloo conducting a sweep of the perimeter. As I look back now, I probably should have noticed that my fellow TCs had been leaving the storage igloo and not returning for the past few months. I guess I was just too busy focusing on my important assignment to notice.

What I didn't know at that time was that a call had been made earlier in the day by the Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (NECDF) workers to the depot's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) indicating they were ready to receive the last TC. The EOC relayed this request to the depot commander, who then granted permission to move me, the last TC, into the chemical agent disposal facility.



The next thing I recall is a worker driving a forklift into my storage igloo. He carefully picked me up using

a special forklift truck. He placed me on a flatbed truck where I was "buckled up for safety." We were then on our way to the NECDF. I felt like a celebrity! There was a convoy of two security vehicles, a safety van and my transportation truck. Cameras have been placed all over the depot so that my short journey could be viewed and recorded. Copies of the recording would even be delivered to television stations, where my short journey could be broadcast to the entire world! We slowly travelled to the NECDF Entry Control Facility. Once my convoy passed through this security checkpoint, we proceeded towards our destination, the Utility Building. I soon learned that this is where all the action takes place. I was met by an entourage of workers. There were more security officers, international treaty inspectors and chemical operators all present to ensure



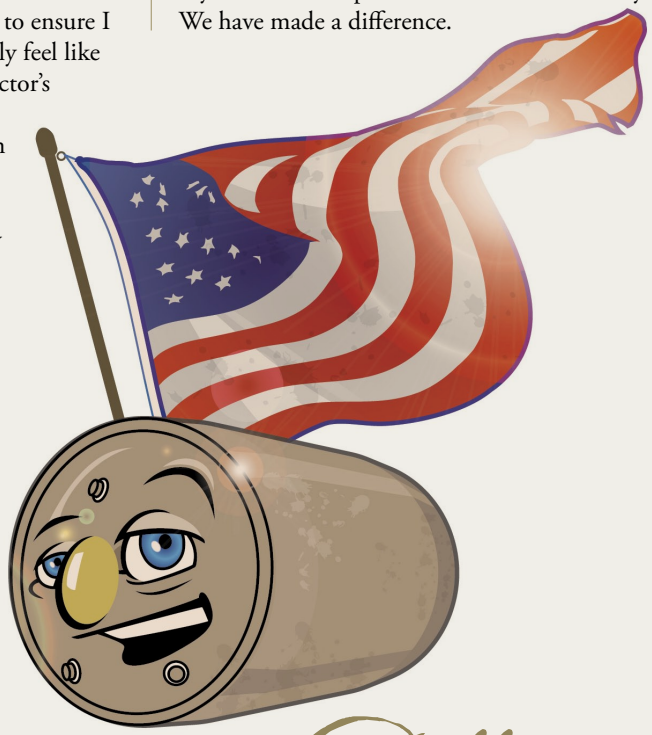
my safe journey. Once again, a forklift operator carefully lifted me from the truck and carried me. This time I'm taken inside the Utility Building. Little do I know that I'm getting ready to go through the most exciting experience of my life!

Once inside, I was placed into a cradle designed to carefully hold a TC. I soon learned that this cradle is part of a piece of equipment the operators call a chemical agent transfer system, which the workers called CHATS. The CHATS includes a glove box, which is very important for what they have planned for me next. An operator turns a large wheel that pushed one end of me into this glove box. An operator used the gloves inside this box to attach drain hoses

to my valves. I'm slowly being drained of my contents. Let me say, it's a little awkward for me, but I know I need to do my part to get rid of the agent. After draining operations are complete and while still cradled inside the glove box, I am rinsed three times with a hot solution. Then hot air is circulated through my interior to evaporate any remaining water. Before leaving the glove box, my interior is examined with an instrument called a "boroscope" to ensure I am clean and dry. Now I officially feel like I've been to the car wash and doctor's office all in one day! I'm moved out of the CHATS, and now I'm ready for a little rest. It's been a very busy day. As I rest, workers from the laboratory monitor my external surface to make sure the operators have removed all chemical agent from my body. These folks are really thorough!

After some short rest and relaxation, the operators take me for treatment by a piece of equipment they call the Ton Container Line or TCL. This is essentially an extremely hot dry sauna for me. I'm heated to 1350ºF for 65-90 minutes.

From there, I am moved to a storage area. I am empty, and this is my last home at the depot. I feel like I have served my duty to my country. Now that my mission at NECD is complete, plans have already been made for my next assignment. I soon learn that I will be deployed to a commercial recycling center. I will be reformed to take on a new assignment. As a member of the Newport team, I am proud to say "mission complete." We have made history. We have made a difference.



We made *History.* We made a *Difference.*

History of NECD

(Portions of this article were contributed by Kathleen M. Isaacson from her work "Manhattan's Reach: Newport, Indiana, the Wabash River Ordnance Works, and the Atomic Bomb")

As the Manhattan Project, America's secret effort to build an atomic bomb, began to gain momentum in the 1940s, the government acquired tracts of land across the country to build the necessary facilities. The larger sites are familiar to most Americans — Oak Ridge, Tenn.; Hanford, Wash.; and Los Alamos, N.M., — but dozens of smaller locations, which were also critical to the ultimate success of the project, are often overlooked. As the sites themselves are frequently neglected, so too are the stories of the people and the communities affected by the project. The Hoosiers of Newport, Ind., were also touched by Manhattan's reach.

The Newport Chemical Depot that occupies the site today manufactured heavy water in the 1940s and 1950s for shipment to Argonne National Laboratory near Chicago for nuclear experiments and eventually to Oak Ridge for use in the nuclear reactor.

A full month before the attack on Pearl Harbor, the War Department approved Project #8447. The project, an effort to prepare for war and assist Great Britain, encompassed an explosives plant to be constructed near Newport. The plant would manufacture RDX — Royal Demolition Explosive — or, as it was known scientifically, cyclonite, an explosive with a British patent. By mid-December, the E. I. DuPont Nemours and Company, a chemical company from Wilmington, Del., was awarded the contract to build an Army Ordnance facility that could manufacture 50 tons of RDX daily.

In December 1941, when the government came to Vermillion County in the form of the Wabash River Ordnance Works, it was largely a welcome addition to the community. Initially the plant employed up to 10,000 construction workers who used buses from nearby communities or a train system from Terre Haute to get to work because car parts were scarce during the war effort. By January 1943, the Manhattan Engineer District directed three plants already operated by DuPont — Morgantown Ordnance Works of Morgantown, W. Va.; Alabama Ordnance Works of Childersburg, Ala.; and the Wabash River Ordnance Works — to expand their operations to produce heavy water in support of the larger atomic project. At its peak of production, the Wabash River Ordnance Works employed over 3,000 people.

At Los Alamos, Hanford and Oak Ridge, the government constructed towns and a community in conjunction with the work facilities. In contrast, Newport and the nearby towns were already a tightly bound community in their own right. The close community that farmed together, went to church together and weathered the Great Depression together, also endured the arrival of the Wabash River Ordnance Works together. Not only did they welcome the economic boon of a new industrial plant that promised jobs, but they were also patriotic participants in a nationwide effort to win the war in Europe and to build a bomb to reach that end.

This same dedication to supporting our nation's defense needs was demonstrated by the work force of the 1960s. These men and women were responsible for producing the entire U.S. stockpile of chemical agent VX.

The Newport community has supported the needs of our nation's defense for nearly 70 years. Workers, past and present, have shared in part of a wonderful history throughout the various projects around Newport since 1941. Employees through the years helped to make a difference for the safety of their country. They also made a difference in each other's lives, by providing lasting friendships and family ties that have endured and will endure long after Newport's mission is complete.

1999-2003

Design and construction of Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility takes place.

2003-2005

Pre-Operational Testing at NECDF occurs.

2005

MAY 5, 2005: NECDF safely begins agent neutralization operations.

2007

APRIL 5, 2007: The Army issues a contract with Veolia Environmental Services in Port Arthur, Texas, to treat hydrolysate created from the VX neutralization process. The first trucks leave Newport April 16.

Hollingsworth: A Great Neighbor

Keith Hollingsworth was born and raised in rural Vermillion County, Ind., and has fond memories growing up in Newport.

Hollingsworth lived the first decade of his life in a farm house located on properties that are now part of the Newport Chemical Depot (NECD). He remembers how life changed for his family in 1941. That was the year the Army developed the Wabash River Ordnance Works on property that was primarily residential and agricultural. Because of the war in Europe, the Army purchased the properties and developed plans for a military munitions factory in Newport, Ind. Hollingsworth recalls in 1940 when Newport was the location of the Indiana State Corn Husking Competition. For the quiet farming community, hosting a state competition was a memorable event.

The quiet community soon became home to more than 10,000 transient workers. After Pearl Harbor, development at the plant proceeded quickly. The influx of workers to the area resulted in many changes to everyday life in Newport. Hollingsworth recalls as a child that his school classroom suddenly was filled with new students. "It seemed like the number of students in my class doubled overnight," said Hollingsworth. "Because of the Army's quick need for buildings, many of our neighbors' homes purchased by the Army were being used as office buildings. The barns were being used as tool sheds." Hollingsworth recalls several of his uncles working on the project. "These were good paying jobs, following the hard times of the Great Depression."

Since the 1940s, Hollingsworth has seen many changes occur at the Army installation. He and his wife are life-long residents of Newport, where Keith continues his family's farming legacy. Over the years, he has remained interested in Army projects at the Newport installation. He was a frequent attendee at public meetings to keep abreast of the Army's plans to neutralize the chemical agent VX stockpile. Additionally, Hollingsworth is a charter member of the depot's Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). The RAB is a consulting team designed to act as a focal point for the exchange of information between the Army and the local community regarding depot environmental restoration activities. Depot Commander William Hibner expressed his gratitude to Hollingsworth, "As the Army's mission at the depot comes full circle, we are very fortunate to have Mr. Hollingsworth as a member of our restoration team. It only seems fitting that he represent his community in aiding the Army's efforts to restore the installation. He has been a great neighbor and friend to the depot for all of these years."

Hollingsworth, shown here in a 2003 photo, awaits demolition of the flare tower, which was part of the former chemical agent VX production facility. The flare tower was a local landmark. During production, local residents state the flame at the top could be seen for more than 30 miles. The tower was successfully taken down with explosives on Aug. 5, 2003.

2007

APRIL 26, 2007: NECDF workers achieve the 50-percent VX destruction milestone.

2008

JAN. 8, 2008: NECDF workers achieve the 75-percent VX destruction milestone.

2008

JULY 28, 2008: The last TC of the Newport stockpile is moved from storage igloos into the NECDF.

2008

AUG. 8, 2008: The Newport work force achieves 100 percent chemical stockpile elimination.

Production and Storage Days

Pat Pastore: A Look Back

Clinton resident Pat Pastore knows thousands of stories. Pastore worked as a journalist for the Terre Haute Tribune Star for over 20 years. She wrote over 400 stories pertaining to activities at the Newport Chemical Depot. The writer covered the hot topic because it was "what the people wanted to know," Pastore said. Initially everyone, especially within 100 miles of the depot, felt it was important to find out what was happening with the most deadly agent in the world.

Pastore has deep roots within Newport history. Her father owned a lumberyard in Clinton, which received a contract with the Army plant in Newport. Her parents befriended the commander at that time, Major James Hall, and would eat dinner with him and his wife. Pastore said, "Basically everyone around knew someone that worked up there at some point and still does."

Security was not as tight during production days as it is presently. When Pastore was younger, she saw men carrying five-gallon buckets of VX from the VX production facility to bench chemists for testing. Workers wore rubber gloves and boots as their only means of extra protection. Every 200 feet or so, there would be bottles of bleach to be used for decontamination in case of VX exposure. Although workers knew what to do and took the VX risk seriously, they grew accustomed to the risk and were not afraid. "They never had a problem out there, during all this time, and I don't think they ever will," Pastore said.

Clinton is rich in cultural history. Pat Pastore is truly proud of her heritage, and the heritage of her hometown. Representatives from over 35 different nationalities were living in the area around the time of VX production at Newport. "Where else could that many different ethnic groups live together in peace and harmony?" Pastore asked.

Immigrants were proud to be free, and they were proud to be Americans. To be able to celebrate their beliefs and be home and business owners made them extremely patriotic. They had no problems welcoming project workers from the site. "Immigrants had high respect for the Army," Pastore said.

Pastore has remained confident that the Army will do a good job, no matter what project is happening at the depot. She believes most community members share her reaction to VX — since the VX was made locally and kept in storage locally, why not destroy it in the same place? The nation now knows that members of the Newport team have completed that mission safely and successfully.

"Our communities will suffer when the depot leaves," Pastore said. "Not only will the jobs leave, but renters and their families in the community will leave too." It will certainly be hard for those leaving the area, and even for the locals that will remain. However, there can't be much more rewarding than knowing they made history and a true difference in making the world a safer place.

Family Ties: Griffin / Guglielmetti / Persinger

(This section was submitted by Marlene K. Persinger, Mason & Hanger NECDF Program Management Secretary)

During the summer of 1966, I met a most handsome young man, just out of the Army. When he returned to Vermillion County after serving in Europe, he found employment at the then Newport Army Ammunition Plant. Having a good, secure job was just as important then as it is now in deciding about a future, marriage and starting a family. We wed and our first and only child was born while my husband was employed at Newport in 1967.

My husband worked in VX production. In 1968, we were devastated by the announcement and presidential order that halted VX production. Being one of the youngest employees, my husband was laid off. He found new employment in the local community. Since we were born and raised in Vermillion County, we did not desire to relocate.

My husband is retired now. We have been blessed with almost 42 years of marriage. Our child has passed on, and we are now raising our grandchildren.

My grandfather and father-in-law also worked at the Newport site for many years. Three years ago, I too became part of the Newport Chemical Depot family.

My family has been blessed with jobs throughout the history of the Newport Chemical Depot. These jobs have supported and influenced four generations of my family.

We were here in the beginning and will be here until the end. My family played a part in the Newport success story! We did our part to keep America safe right here in the heartland of America.

Barbara Stewart: Four Contractors, Nearly Five Decades at NECD

(This section was submitted by Barbara Stewart, Mason & Hanger, Administrative Assistant to Vice President/General Manager)

My life changed in Sept. 1959, when the Industrial Relations plant I worked at in Danville, Ill., closed. Around that same time, FMC Corporation announced their operating contract for the manufacture of VX at the Newport Army Ammunition Plant (NAAP). John Hirt, the Industrial Relations Supervisor I worked with in Danville, was offered the position of Industrial Relations Manager at this new plant. He asked that I join him in setting up the Industrial Relations Department.

With much hesitancy, my husband and I drove from Danville to Newport, Ind., merely to check the distance and timing. In 1959, we surely should have packed our lunch, since Route 63 was a two-lane country road and Interstate 74 did not exist. Our drive offered the challenges of winding, dirt roads and covered bridges. Once home, we said "No!" to the employment offer, since we were concerned about the travel distance and the unknowns of VX. But for two weeks, John Hirt persisted, and we finally agreed, for only six months.

In Sept. 1959, I began employment at the NAAP in Industrial Relations. At that time, we started from literally nothing to set up the department in an old office building, which had obviously been in layaway for a long time. We shared the office with the Corps of Engineers and the construction contractor. We were overwhelmed with employment applications and worked many late hours to establish files, as we interviewed, tested and hired local workers. We had barely settled into the old building when a fire broke out, and the offices (with charred papers stashed in wastebaskets) were moved to another old building. Yes, we literally "picked up the pieces" and continued with our tasks. Within a short time – the flood came! The old pipes burst, and we had water on top of the charred files. We kept our commitment to FMC as we typed new procedures, on the manual typewriter, with numerous sheets of carbon paper and no copier machine. The six months quickly came and went, and I adjusted to the long drive – with the Flare Tower always a welcome landmark. Yes, we even named our plant newspaper "*The Flare*", which I edited.

As I look back, I realize that I was working in a world of secrecy. I knew very little about the manufacture of VX, but I did know that the medical department was taking a lot of my blood and safety was always the word of the day.

In Jan. 1966, I was promoted to the General Manager's office, where I remain today as Administrative Assistant to the Vice President/ General Manager of Mason & Hanger Corporation. I feel so honored to have worked for four outstanding operating contractors - FMC Corporation, E. I. DuPont de Nemours & Co., Uniroyal, Inc. and Mason & Hanger Corporation. Certainly, with each operating contractor, I have been privileged to work under the direction of dedicated managers whose top priority has always been the safety and welfare of the employees.

Yes, I have seen so many changes over the past 49 years — as we moved from the manual typewriter in the old buildings, to an electric typewriter in our new Administration Building 7700, and more recently to the electronic era of the computer and e-mail, as well as more openness with the public. But two things remain unchanged: our strong work force family ties and commitment to safety.

Indeed, for me, it has been a memorable journey of faith and commitment for which I give thanks to God.

Storage Snippets

(This section was submitted by Tammy Haug, Mason & Hanger Environmentalist)

For 14 years, there was a small group of employees that made up the "Escort Team" for the VX storage facility and VX production plant. They were known for their government-issued blue coveralls; often times called "Smurf" suits. The dedicated team was always on call for all multinational inspections. The inspection week was long, mostly a hurry and wait situation determining what the inspectors wanted to see and treaty tag. It was very educational to go through the process of pre-briefing for the event and FBI debriefing after the inspection. Escorting the inspectors and trying to keep them together as we wondered through the towers of old piping and tanks and up through the dark "clean" side of Step III in the VX chemical plant kept everyone on their toes. It was a privilege to serve on the inspection team, and it is fun looking at the team photos from past years.

I always enjoyed listing to Ron Baumann's stories about the history of the plant. Several times I asked him about the RDX plant, and he always reminded me that he was not that old. He has been a wealth of knowledge for completing environmental documentation and when SAIC, TLI and other contractors have been on site to collect historical data for Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC). He was very generous with his time and knowledge of the plant and would always sit down for a visit. My favorite story is when he was hired in for VX production. FMC Corporation was just putting the fill lines in Building 144. He was hired in for only three months with a potential to be longer. After 40 some years, it was his decision to retire.

STORAGE

More than 1,000 tons of VX agent were safely stored at the depot. Depot workers oversaw the safe and secure storage of the VX in steel containers for approximately 40 years. Mason & Hanger has been the operating contractor at NECD since 1986.

Security Humor

(This section was submitted by Joe Burdick, Mason & Hanger Security Division, Security Operations Technician)

Although the storage and security mission at Newport has been a serious task, there is a lighter side to the job, too. Two legendary figures stand out as I look into the past, and though they left this world years ago, they are revered by all those who knew them. Tom Mack and Frank Jordan carpooled together and worked the Front Gates on the day shift. This provided continuity of operations Monday through Friday. They were the original "grumpy old men."

My favorite story involves a sub-contractor who showed up at the wrong gate. Frank explained that the correct gate to use was Gate 6 – the Contractor Gate, manned by Tom, and gave directions to the lost visitor. As the visitor was on his way out of the Gate House, Frank added, "Talk loud – that guy's pretty old and he's stone deaf."

When the visitor arrived at Gate 6 and entered the Gate House, he spoke very loud. A little surprised, but never one to be unaccommodating, Tom yelled right back. The two shouted at each other on a daily basis until the day that the sub-contractor arrived in the presence of another visitor, who was conversing in a normal tone of voice with Tom. Tom looked at the sub-contractor as he entered the Gate House and bellowed "Good Morning!"

The sub-contractor looked puzzled and asked, "You can hear me?" Tom replied, "Of course I can hear you – I'm not deaf."

The sub-contractor related the events of his first visit and the instructions he received from Frank. Tom didn't miss the chance to return the fire and was very serious when he informed the sub-contractor that the guards had to take Frank out in a straight jacket last week because he quit taking his medication, and that he was nuttier than a fruitcake without it.

Ron Henton
Living the Dream

Ron Henton is the current Vice President/General Manager of Mason & Hanger at the Newport Chemical Depot. He has worked at the depot for 26 years. He was hired as a Facilities Inspector with Uniroyal, Inc., then switched to Roads and Grounds Supervisor, TNT Maintenance Supervisor, Mechanical and Structural Supervisor, Engineering Assistant, Project Coordinator, Project Manager and Division Program Manager before his latest position. The following is a small part of his path in making history at Newport.

"The depot sure has changed through the years. When I was with Roads and Grounds, there was a lot of pomp and circumstance when VIPs visited. There were times we worked for two or three weeks in preparation for a visiting General. There seemed to be more activity then because there were more employees. We had two TNT maintenance crews (10-12 people per crew), a shops area maintenance crew and a service department with a taxi service that transported depot personnel from one part of the plant to the other. Roads and Grounds maintained the grounds, but they also maintained the 26 miles of plant railroad tracks by hand!

The position I'm in now was one of my greatest goals to achieve, and I thought if I ever got this opportunity, it would probably be at another site. It was a dream to be offered this position, and my dream came true. I remember about two years before I got this position, I began taking classes/industrial courses. Then my predecessor surprised everyone by announcing his immediate retirement. Fear came over me because I wondered if the opportunity of a lifetime was upon me. Long story short….it was, and it did happen.

Believe it or not, I tried to leave for other opportunities a couple of times. After awhile, I decided this is where I'm meant to be. I have met amazing people here. I've become good friends with coworkers, their families and children, and I have formed some very special bonds.

My son currently works on site for another contractor. When he was a summer hire, he carpooled with me. It was great because we had the opportunity to go to and from work together. Even though there were others in our carpool, we still had some quality father and son time. This plant has been very good to my family and me over the years.

I hope to see this mission to the end and be a part of its great history and legacy. I want to be able to say, not only did I work at the Newport Chemical Depot, but I truly contributed to the successful conclusion of the VX storage mission."

Construction Days: Parsons' Role

Design

At the time of the 2000 groundbreaking ceremony for the Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (NECDF), located on the Newport Chemical Depot (NECD), countless hours of planning were well underway on the facility. Parsons' engineers, working out of the corporate office in Pasadena, Calif., had been busy designing the facility. At the peak of the design phase in Jan. 2002, 135 design engineers were assigned to the Newport project.

"Parsons Infrastructure and Technologies Chemical Demilitarization Division supports the U. S. government with knowledge and expertise to safely destroy stockpiles of chemical weapons while protecting the work force, the public and the environment," said Lou Jackson, Parsons' senior vice president and Chemical Demilitarization Division manager. Parsons, the prime contractor for NECDF, is a key team member in the Army's chemical demilitarization program. "Our team is very proud of the significant contributions that we have made to these very important projects," said Jackson.

The property where the facility is located is abundant with wildlife, including wild turkey, deer and the federally-endangered Indiana bat. Workers were cautious not to disturb the habitats of the bats. Trees were tagged, and those tagged areas were avoided during the construction phase. Scott Rowden, Parsons' environmental manager was one of the first personnel to locate to the Newport site. He began working in 1999 with NECD and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) to prepare environmental permits and permit modifications in compliance with the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and other environmental regulatory requirements. IDEM representatives have met routinely with NECDF personnel since the beginning of construction. "The result is a working relationship that the environmental department can be proud of," said Rowden. "The NECDF work force has neutralized the VX stockpile, removing the threat to citizens of Indiana and the world while protecting the environment."

Workers place the first concrete at the Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility.

Construction

Groundbreaking took place in April 2000 and construction soon followed with enormous quantities of materials being used. Construction was completed in 2003. "Over 342,245 linear feet (64 miles) of power and control, lighting, instrumentation and telecommunication cables were used during construction of the NECDF," said Parsons' Electrical Engineer George Anibarro. "In three short years the facility went from a design on paper to a neutralization facility where workers would destroy the entire chemical agent VX stockpile stored on the depot." George recently met his 40-year milestone with Parsons Corporation. "I have worked in several countries on many different projects," said Anibarro. "I am proud to have been a part of the Newport project; we made the world a safer place."

"Approximately 4,000 tons of concrete and over 497 tons of structural steel were utilized during construction of the neutralization facility," shared Parsons' Construction Manager Karl Drobny. "Our focus on safety during construction resulted in several departmental safety awards. Local construction companies and craftsmen from the iron-workers, pipe-fitters, electrician and labor unions were instrumental to our success," said Drobny. "The focus on safety was carried on through the operation phase and will continue through closure."

Operations

After extensive research, design, construction and equipment installation, Parsons successfully launched a demonstration of safe operations in mid-2004, which led to the issuance of a Notice of Operational Readiness on Sept. 24, 2004. Full operations of this one-of-a-kind, state-of-the-art neutralization facility began in May 2005.

The first truck carrying VX ton containers travels to NECDF.

As the truck, loaded with the first ton container (TC) of chemical agent, entered the gates of the facility, workers were prepared to put their extensive training and knowledge to the test. Parsons' Vice President and NECDF Deputy Project Manager Rick Goetz unveiled the VX sign located on the gate of the entry control facility at NECDF. This action acknowledged the facility as a controlled and secured area. "This day marked the beginning of a safe and successful project," said Goetz. "I am very proud of the accomplishments of each and every worker who played a role in this important mission."

Construction Days: Parsons' Role *(continued)*

Maintenance

Routine maintenance helped keep the facility running smoothly. Constant surveillance and communication with operators from the control room, as well as the use of a mandatory buddy system during entries in the neutralization bay, gave the maintenance crews a sense of security. Six days after the first TC was processed, Maintenance Technicians Dennis Strickland and Billy Gros made the first maintenance entry into the neutralization bay, an area workers refer to as the toxic cubicle. Each entry into the toxic cubicle required the workers to be sealed into their demilitarization protective ensembles complete with a self-contained breathing apparatus escape pack and life support air. Strickland has made over 500 entries during his career at chemical demilitarization sites. "We verified the system was leak free, performed instrument checks and made repairs," said Strickland, "We are honored to be a part of the NECDF team."

Maintenance Technicians Dennis Strickland and Billy Gros make the first maintenance entry into the neutralization bay.

Safety

Working safely is Parsons' number one value. This is evident by the strong safety culture established on the NECDF project. Safety during construction and operations was strengthened by specialized training and the implementation of an Employee Based Safety Program, as well as other safety initiatives like the Program Manager Accident Council.

Parsons employees proudly hold their 50 percent safe neutralization milestone shirts.

Parsons' Safety Manager Pat Guy and the rest of the safety department staff reinforced the safety message with the work force. "Our safety record speaks for itself," said Guy, who added, "continuous focus and watching out for your coworker is what it takes."

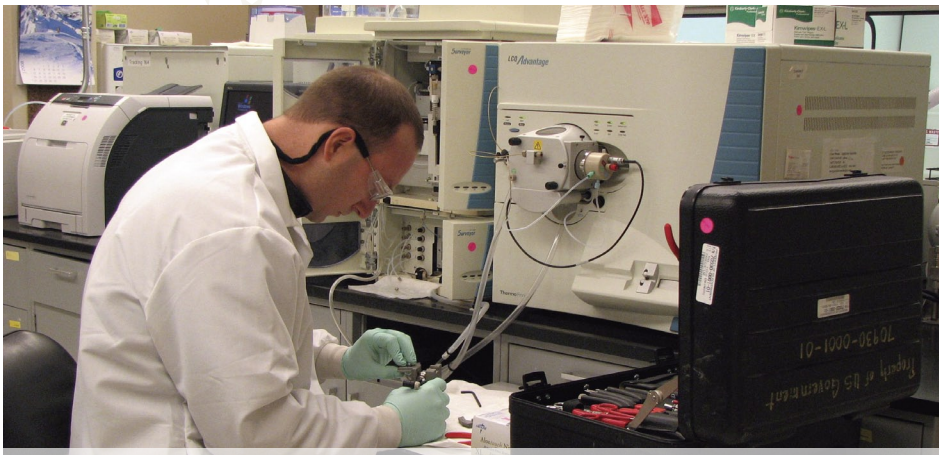
Support

Successful completion of the NECDF neutralization project required support from all departments. Each played an important part in mission success. Rhonda Day, Parsons' administrative lead, scheduled and coordinated hundreds of meetings through the course of the project. "Communication and coordination between departments are essential to a smooth running organization," said Day. "Our management team worked closely with each department. Daily activities were shared with the work force to keep them informed as well. Each department supported the other."

Community Involvement

Parsons and their workers have contributed time and financial support to the local community, civic organizations and area schools. "Vermillion County owes Parsons and the Newport work force a sincere thank you for their continued support," said Donna Thomas, Children and Family Services representative. "Thousands of dollars worth of toys and winter apparel have been donated and distributed to area children. Our agency has provided approximately 100 children's coats, hats and gloves each year for the past eight years thanks to the generosity of Parsons and the Newport team."

Working with the Indiana Blood Center, Parsons organized blood drives for Newport employees. The blood mobile traveled to Newport every other month and collected much needed blood from the depot work force. Employees from the entire depot scheduled times to donate throughout the day. "Thanks to Parsons' and Mason and Hanger's efforts, over 4,000 patients have been helped from the 1,365 units or 341 gallons of blood donated," said Cathy Beemer, Indiana Blood Center coordinator.



NECDF Chemist Brad Brown works inside a site laboratory.

Parsons Vice President Doug Reehl presents representatives of South Vermillion High School with a charitable contribution to support academic programs.

Employees provide donations to support local Toys for Tots efforts.

Closure

"Parsons designed, constructed and safely completed our mission — the safe neutralization of 1,690 containers of chemical agent VX. It is now time to move on and close the facility in the same safe manner," said Doug Reehl, Parsons vice president and project manager for the NECDF.

"Closure of the facility will be in four phases with established milestones distinguishing the timelines for each phase," said Bob Warther, Parsons vice president and closure manager for the NECDF. "Closure of the NECDF is estimated to take 18 to 24 months to complete. All IDEM and RCRA requirements will continue to be followed during the closure of the facility," Warther said.

Secondary waste will continue to be processed and disposed of in the same safe manner as during operations. As Newport progresses through closure, liquid-filled components will be removed, and then all agent-contacted systems and the neutralization bay will be decontaminated and removed. The buildings containing process systems will be demolished to achieve physical completion. As a final step in the closure process, administrative requirements will be completed.

NECDF will then join the Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System and the Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility as one more successfully closed chemical demilitarization site.

An intermodal container filled with hydrolysate is safely stored in the intermodal container storage area.

End of an Era

A look back at the destruction of the Newport former VX production facility

In April 1961, the U.S. Army converted the former Dana Heavy Water Production Plant in Newport, Ind., to produce the nerve agent VX as a deterrent to other countries using chemical weapons against American soldiers and their allies. The VX plant situated at Newport Chemical Depot (NECD) produced approximately 4,400 tons of VX during operations between 1961 and 1968.

VX, an amber colored, odorless oily liquid, is a fast-acting nerve agent that attacks an organism's nervous system. Chemists in the United Kingdom searching for new insecticides originally developed VX in the early 1950s. As it is the most potent nerve agent, the U.S. Army designated it VX — for "venomous."

VX was produced using a four-step process. Steps 0, I and II produced "precursor" chemicals and Step III combined the ingredients to produce VX. The Army shipped munitions such as land mines, spray tanks and rockets to Newport by rail and filled them with VX before shipping them to U.S. defense sites worldwide. However, the United States unilaterally halted production of chemical weapons in 1969.

In 1997, the U.S. Congress ratified a treaty, commonly known as the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), requiring destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles and non-stockpile chemical materiel, including former production facilities like the one located at NECD. The Department of Defense tasked the U.S. Army Chemical Material Agency Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project (NSCMP) with this responsibility.

NSCMP proved ready for the task and demolished the Step 0, I and II facilities, known as Phase 1, in advance of the Step III facilities, or Phase 2, for training and safety reasons. Phase I began in August 1998 and officially completed in March 2003. Phase II, which saw preliminary work begin in August 2002, completed decontamination and demolition of the four buildings and related equipment that once housed Step III operations in March 2006. The project enabled thousands of tons of recyclable metal from the former facilities to be reclaimed for later use.

The Army's primary focus remained the safety of the people on the job site, workers involved in other depot jobs and the public living near the depot. Redundant testing, verification, monitoring and containment procedures and technologies were incorporated into each phase of the demolition project to ensure the highest level of safety and accountability. This resulted in zero days lost due to accidents in the entire span of the project.

The supreme teamwork, technology and dedication of the NSCMP work force allowed the United States to not only fulfill its obligation to destroy its former production facilities by April 2007, but exceed expectations by completing destruction 13 months ahead of the CWC scheduled deadline.

CSEPP

CSEPP

Thanks to the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP), communities surrounding the Newport Chemical Depot (NECD) in Newport, Ind., are well informed and prepared in the unlikely event of an emergency incident. The CSEP Program began in 1988 with the combined efforts of federal, state and local emergency agencies with volunteers to provide emergency support to the neighboring communities of United States chemical weapons stockpile sites.

The Newport CSEPP team consists of the Department of the Army, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Indiana Department of Homeland Security along with state and county emergency management agencies. The Newport CSEPP community involves emergency management agencies located in Vermillion, Parke and Fountain Counties in Indiana and Vermilion and Edgar Counties in Illinois. The team has personnel trained in chemical awareness, medical treatment and decontamination.

The CSEP Program has funded millions of dollars to the state of Indiana and the counties around NECD to boost emergency response and emergency alert systems. With the completion of VX agent neutralization, the Newport CSEPP team has fulfilled their obligation to ensure public safety until the time that the last steel container of chemical agent in the Newport stockpile is destroyed. These men and women have contributed to making chemical weapons history.

Public Preparedness

The Newport CSEPP team has educated citizens on emergency notification procedures and proper response protective actions. Public Information Officers have worked with schools and attended community events to distribute shelter-in-place kits and evacuation information.

Newspaper inserts and radio ads were used to inform the public of alert and notification procedures and what to do in the event of an incident. Emergency Preparedness artwork from Vermillion, Parke and Fountain County elementary schools were used in a yearly preparedness calendar. The calendar provided citizens with additional information about the Newport community, warning systems in place and instructions on how to protect their families in the event of an incident.

Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) at NECD and in Vermillion, Parke and Fountain Counties stood ready to coordinate emergency response activities should there have been a chemical incident at the depot. If an incident would have occurred, the community would have been notified through emergency sirens located throughout the adjoining counties. Citizens of the local area were instructed to listen for the siren tone and a voice message for instructions on necessary actions. Sirens were tested twice daily.

Fortunately, sirens also can be used for several different types of emergencies. Even though the neutralization is complete, the sirens remain in the counties as warnings for other likely dangers, such as tornados. Another alert system provided to the public by EOCs is the Indoor Alert System (IAS) radio. The IAS radio is designed to wake residents and notifies them to tune to local radio and television stations, which will provide additional information through the Emergency Alert System (EAS). CSEPP had special chips put into the radios to warn local citizens within a five-mile radius of NECD should an incident have occurred.

Now that the agent has been destroyed, the Newport CSEPP team has successfully completed their mission and will begin the closeout process. The efforts of the local, state and federal emergency preparedness agencies to prepare and educate the local communities on response to a potential incident due to stockpile storage have created a community prepared for numerous emergencies. The local community will continue to benefit from this partnership.

The Indiana Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission

INDIANA CAC MEMBERS

- Mr. Tom Linson
- Mrs. Pamela J. Ferguson
- Mr. Richard Setliff (Co-Chair)
- Mr. Ramon Colombo
- Dr. Fred S. Martin (deceased)
- Mr. Rodney Bosley
- Mr. Richard Card (Co-Chair)
- Mr. Larry Bemis

Public involvement is key to the success of the Army's chemical demilitarization program. The Army encourages the public to participate in all phases of the program's decision-making process.

In 1993, as part of the National Defense Act, Congress directed the Army to create Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commissions (CACs) where chemical weapons stockpiles existed. The local CAC provided a vital information link between state agencies, the community and the Army.

The Indiana commission was required to meet with a representative from the Secretary of the Army at least twice per year. At these meetings, members discussed issues surrounding the chemical demilitarization program and its impact on Newport, neighboring communities and the state of Indiana. The CAC provided the Army with valuable input regarding the selection of specific alternative technologies for pilot testing.

In a presentation before the Department of the Army and the Defense Integrated Process Team, a former Indiana CAC co-chairman emphasized the commission's support for neutralization pilot testing. This level of participation is indicative of the partnership between the Army and the CAC.

U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

Thank you
for making Newport a success!

For many local residents, the presence of the Newport Chemical Depot and the mission to safely store the nation's largest stockpile of bulk chemical agent VX became a simple fact of life. Yet today, this fact is a piece of our community's history. We should all take a moment to reflect upon the significant contributions made to our nation's defense by thousands of hard-working Hoosiers. Each and every one of us should be proud of the mission accomplished at the depot. This momentous feat will become a proud part of our local heritage.

Employees, past and present, made a commitment to safety for each other and for the community. Through their perseverance and expertise, that commitment was fulfilled. Their dedication to this project is the cornerstone of the success we are celebrating. The resolute support of friends and family members of these employees have especially helped our project along its path to successful completion.

Let us also thank local community groups who have supported our path forward. With citizen involvement in our Indiana Citizens' Advisory Commission, Local Redevelopment Authority and Restoration Advisory Board, a strong community presence was felt on this project. We value the relationships established with groups such as the Greater Clinton Chamber of Commerce, Vermillion County Community Foundation, Vermillion County Optimist Clubs and Veterans service organizations. The encouragement provided by your members is greatly appreciated.

The efforts of the local, state and federal emergency preparedness agencies to prepare and educate the local communities on response to a potential incident due to stockpile storage have created a community prepared for numerous emergencies. The local community will continue to benefit from this partnership.

The Newport Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office will remain open to visitors who would like to learn more about the Newport project and the site's path forward. The office is a comprehensive source of information and has a variety of items available to the public. The staff can arrange for speakers or briefings at group presentations. They can be reached at **866-300-9034** or visit **306 South Main Street in Clinton, Ind.** View additional information about Newport at ***www.cma.army.mil***.

We made *History*. We made a *Difference*.