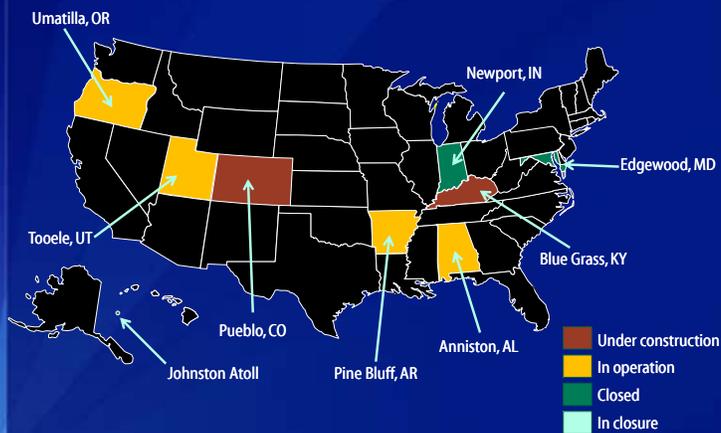


History of U.S. Chemical Weapons Elimination

Locations and Status of Stockpile Sites



From World War I to 1968, the United States produced chemical weapons as a deterrent against use of similar weapons by other countries. Though never used in battle, these U.S. weapons are now obsolete and deteriorating with age. The U.S. national stockpile of lethal chemical warfare agents primarily involves six chemicals:

- GA—Tabun or ethyl N,N-dimethyl phosphoramidocyanidate, CAS 77-81-6
- GB—Sarin or isopropyl methylphosphonofluoridate, CAS 107-44-8
- H, HD, HT—Sulfur mustard, bis-(2-chloroethyl)sulfide, or di-2-chloroethyl sulfide (HD), CAS 505-60-2; bis(2-chloroethylthioethyl) ether (HT), CAS 63918-89-8
- L—Lewisite or dichloro 2-chlorovinylarsine, CAS 541-25-3
- VX—O-ethyl-S-(2-diisopropylaminoethyl)-methyl phosphonothiolate, CAS 50782-69-9

Congress Mandates Destruction of Outdated Chemical Weapons

In 1985, the U.S. Congress mandated that the Department of Defense be responsible for establishing a Chemical and Biological Defense (CDB) program, U.S. Code Title 50, Sections 1521 through 1523, provided the legal foundation for chemical weapons disposal activities.

The Department of Defense was also responsible for ensuring maximum protection of the environment and the general public, as well as workers involved in chemical weapons destruction (Public Law 99-145, 1985 and U.S. Code 50, Section 1521):

- Chapter 32, Chemical and Biological Warfare Program
 - › Section 1521, Destruction of existing stockpile of lethal chemical agents and munitions
 - › Section 1522, Conduct of chemical and biological defense program
 - › Section 1523, Annual report on chemical and biological warfare defense



(Continued on back)

U.S. Signs International Chemical Weapons Convention Treaty

In 1997, the United States ratified the United Nations International Chemical Weapons Convention treaty. By participating in the treaty, the United States agreed to destroy its stockpile of aging chemical weapons—principally mustard agent and nerve agents—by April 29, 2007. However, the final destruction deadline was extended to April 29, 2012, at the Eleventh Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention at The Hague on December 8, 2006.

The CDC chemical weapons elimination team's mission is to protect public health and safety by providing oversight and guidance to the U.S. Army's chemical warfare materiel demilitarization program by reviewing, advising, and making recommendations on the Army's plans to destroy stockpile and nonstockpile chemical weapons. This mission is mandated by Public Laws 91-121, 91-441, and 99-145.

Today, the U.S. Army is recognized as a world leader in international chemical weapons elimination efforts. Over a decade of experience has demonstrated that these weapons can be destroyed safely, without harm to employees, to the community, or to the environment.

Disposal of Stockpile and Nonstockpile Chemical Warfare Agents

Years ago, the Department of Defense stored chemical warfare agents, either in bulk containers or as assembled munitions, at locations within the continental United States. The remainder of the stockpile was transferred to Johnston Atoll, a small remote island in the Pacific Ocean (Southwest of the Hawaiian Islands). Note that all chemical warfare agent materials previously stored on Johnston Atoll now have been destroyed.

Nonstockpile chemical warfare materiel includes former chemical weapons production facilities; recovered chemical weapons, chemical samples, and binary chemical weapons; and miscellaneous equipment, such as empty aerial spray tanks.



For more information
about CDC's role in chemical
weapons elimination, visit
<http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/demil>

E-mail: cdcinfo@cdc.gov Web: www.cdc.gov