



Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant

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ACWA Test Equipment (ATE)

The Program Executive Office, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives, or PEO ACWA, is responsible for the safe and environmentally sound destruction of the chemical munitions stockpiles stored at the Blue Grass Army Depot, Kentucky, and the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot (PCD), Colorado. Critical to preparing the workforce that will destroy those munitions is the use of simulated munitions known as ACWA Test Equipment, or ATE.

ATE munitions are described as both dummy and inert. The term “dummy,” as part of ATE terminology, refers to equipment that resembles the shape of a munition component without moving or internal parts and can be either solid or hollow. The term “inert,” means the pieces contain no energetic or explosive materials.

ATE is used to test processing systems and train workers before actual chemical agent munitions are processed by the plant. These simulated munitions look, weigh and handle like real chemical rounds; however, they do not contain explosives or chemical agent. These simulated munitions are handled with the same care as real munitions and help make for safer working conditions. During the course of training, some ATE munitions may be destroyed in the process, while others are refurbished for repeated use.

All ATE munitions used at the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) are painted a military-specified bronze color for training and testing purposes.

While the ATE munitions destined for use at PCAPP arrive at the facility empty, some will later be filled with water for training purposes to simulate liquid mustard agent.

The ATE munitions came to PCD from a central storage facility located at Deseret Chemical Depot in Tooele, Utah. PCD will store them until needed by PCAPP for training purposes.

Side-by-side comparisons show the standard 155mm projectile (left) currently stockpiled at the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot and the mock, or inert, ATE version (right) being used to train workers at the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant. The bronze color specifies that the projectile is intended only for training or testing purposes. ATE munitions representing both the 105mm projectiles and 4.2-inch mortars stockpiled at the depot are also painted in bronze to distinguish them from the real munitions.



155mm projectile



ATE simulated 155mm projectile



A Partnership for Safe Chemical Weapons Destruction



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