



Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant

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A Partnership for Safe Chemical Weapons Destruction



www.peoacwa.army.mil



Munitions Washout System

The Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant will safely and efficiently destroy 2,611 tons of chemical agent stored at the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot. Technology known as neutralization followed by biotreatment will be used to destroy the mustard agent contained in the projectiles.

First-of-a-kind equipment will assist with this process, including the Munitions Washout System (MWS). The entire process is safely monitored and controlled by operators in a remote station. The diagram below illustrates the process.



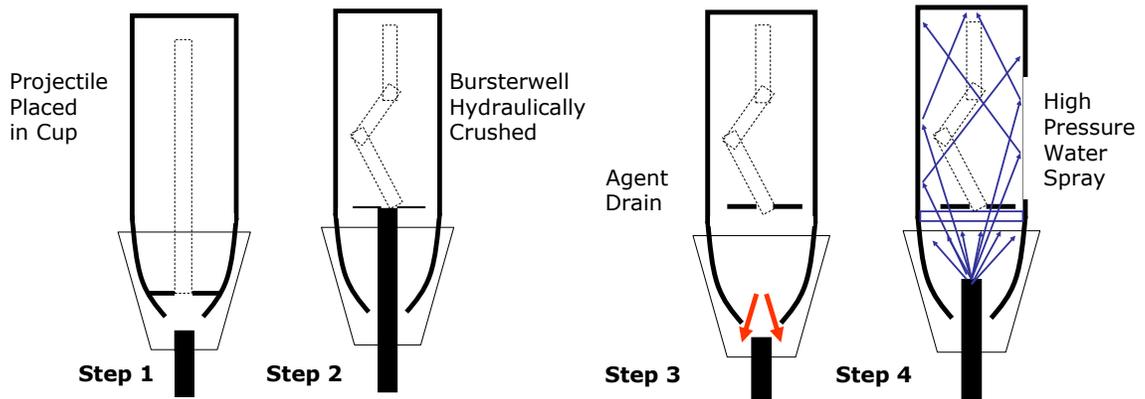
Projectiles and mortars entering the Agent Processing Building will first visit a station called the Munitions Washout System, which consists of two Cavity Access Machine arrays that have four lines each.

- Step 1: the MWS robotic arm will place the projectile upside-down in a device known as a Cavity Access Machine (CAM).
- Step 2: (for 105mm and 155mm projectiles), the CAM operates by hydraulically pushing the burster well (a tube in the middle of the projectile) into the munition.
- Step 3: the collapsed burster will create an opening for the agent to drain from the munition.
- Step 4: in this final step, hot, high-pressure water will be sprayed into each munition to assist in cleaning out any agent residue. The chemical agent and rinse water from the MWS is piped to another area for subsequent neutralization processing.

To accommodate the two of the three types of projectiles in the stockpile, the MWS consists of two operating lines, each designed to process 50 105mm projectiles or 32 155mm projectiles per hour. To process the 4.2 inch mortar rounds, the base will be cut from the munition body. Hot, high-pressure water will aid in the draining of agent. The design calls for processing 48 rounds per hour on each MWS line. All drained material will be collected and pumped directly into the neutralization bay.

To ensure safety, motion sensors on the floor and perimeter of the safety fence that surrounds the MWS will immediately shut down operations if motion is detected.

Munitions Washout System Process Overview



To learn more, view the Munitions Washout System video at <http://www.youtube.com/usaeacwa>.