



Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant

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Collins Receives Meritorious Civilian Service Award

Blue Grass Chemical Weapons Retiring Deputy Project Manager Receives Top Army Award

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RICHMOND, Ky., - Ralph Collins, of Lexington, Ky., was recognized with one of the Army's most prestigious honors, the Meritorious Civilian Service Award, on March 30, during a retirement ceremony that honored his 31 years of combined civilian and military service to the United States. Collins was assigned to the U.S. Army Element, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives Program (ACWA) as the Deputy Site Project Manager for the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) from November 2005 to March 31, 2011.

"Collins successfully led the redesign effort of the Blue Grass facility blast containment area, resulting in reaching an agreement that avoided increased costs on the order of \$10 million per month," said Jeffrey Brubaker, BGCAPP site project manager. "Collins has provided insightful leadership to the BGCAPP project during his five plus years of tenure with the ACWA program."

Brubaker added that Collins has been an integral part in the creation of state-of-the-art chemical destruction facility and has served as a role model for his coworkers.

In addition to receiving the Meritorious Civilian Service Award, a United States flag is being flown over the U.S. Capitol today to honor his service as part of the Capitol Flag Program, which began in 1937.

Collins is a certified hazardous materials manager with more than 40 years of experience in the public and private sectors as an environmental, energy and materials manager. For 26 years, he served on active duty in the U.S. Navy in a variety of assignments involving petroleum management, facility operations and maintenance, government procurement and general logistics. Following his military service, he was appointed deputy commissioner for the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection, where he served from 1996 to 2004 before joining the BGCAPP team in 2005.

Collins and his wife, Judi, have two children, Christopher, of Virginia Beach, Va., and Kari Picklesimer (and son-in-law Jason), of Lexington, Ky., and two grandchildren.

The Blue Grass chemical weapons destruction plant will destroy a stockpile of chemical weapons containing 523 tons of nerve and mustard agents. During Collins tenure as Deputy Site Project Manager for BGCAPP, the project achieved design completion, construction surpassed 30 percent complete and all Blue Grass Specific process equipment has either been fabricated and received on site or is currently being fabricated.

For more information on the project, please visit the ACWA Web site at www.pmacwa.army.mil.



Jeffrey Brubaker, Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) site project manager, left, presents Ralph Collins, retiring BGCAPP deputy site project manager, with the Department of the Army Certificate of Appreciation and Certificate of Retirement for his 31 years of combined civilian and military service. Collins was also the recipient of the Meritorious Civilian Service Award, one of the Army's most prestigious honors.