

# Pueblo *exchange*

A Partnership for Safe Chemical Weapons Destruction



Winter 2008

## IN THIS ISSUE

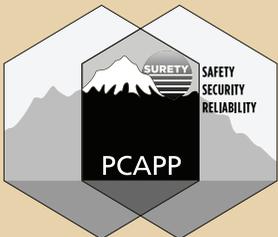
**Pueblo Project Expects Great Progress in 2008**  
page 2

**U.S. Army Element, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives Activated**  
page 3

**The Year in Review 2007**  
page 4

**Community Weighs In on Weapons Destruction Project**  
page 6

**Employee Corner**  
page 7



**Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant**

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**Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) Site Project Manager Gary Anderson (second from right) chats with staff from Colorado's congressional delegation at a recent tour of the PCAPP construction site. From left are Doris Morgan, regional director for U.S. Sen. Wayne Allard; Ezra Wantland, caseworker, and Loretta Kennedy, regional director for U.S. Rep. John Salazar; Angela Joslyn, director for U.S. Sen. Ken Salazar's Colorado Springs office; Jason Cordova, regional representative for Sen. Salazar's Pueblo office; and John Van Auken, board member for the Pueblo West Metropolitan District. Also touring the site were Pueblo City Council members Mike Occhiato, Barbara Vidmar and Randy Thurston (not pictured).**

Photo by Sandy Romero

## *Message From the Site Project Manager*

### **Pueblo Project Expects Great Progress in 2008**

By GARY ANDERSON  
PCAPP Site Project Manager



We begin the new year with excellent news for the community and the chemical weapons destruction project. Under a Temporary Authorization (see related article below) issued in late December from the Colorado

Department of Public Health and Environment, we have been able to begin limited Stage 3 construction, the final construction stage of the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant facility. Foundation construction for the agent processing building will begin under this authorization.

In February, we expect to award Bechtel, the systems contractor, a contract award for the remaining balance of the pilot plant construction. Also in February, Noblis will provide the government with the results of its technical analysis of off-site shipment of hydrolysate, which will incorporate community feedback collected this past December. Additionally, the National Research Council (NRC) will be visiting Colorado in mid-February to collect data that will support its analysis

of treatment options for secondary waste. Looking ahead to the spring, we anticipate the citizens of Pueblo County will be able to review the draft Stage III Class 3 Permit Modification to the existing Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Research, Development and Demonstration Permit. We anticipate another milestone to be achieved in the fall when the state completes the Stage 3 construction permit modification process.

Much progress was made in 2007 to bring us to this point. I expect 2008 to be a great one for the program. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support of this important national project. Here's wishing the entire Pueblo community a happy New Year.

#### *News Brief*

### **Bechtel Begins Limited Stage 3 Construction**

A Temporary Authorization (TA) was granted by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) in late December to allow Bechtel, the systems contractor, to begin limited Stage 3 construction of the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant.

The TA was issued to Bechtel in an effort to keep construction moving at a smooth pace while the Stage 3 construction permit is being drafted. That permit is expected to be drafted this spring and issued in the fall, according to CDPHE's Doug Knappe at the Nov. 14 Permitting Working Group meeting in Pueblo.

Under the authorization, construction of the concrete foundation to the agent processing building will begin. "We've been hiring at an exceptional rate," said Bechtel Program Manager Paul Henry. "We're ready to go with construction."

Stage 3 construction is the final stage of construction for the pilot plant and involves building the actual demilitarization facilities. It will run simultaneously with Stage 2 construction, which includes a laboratory, change rooms and aboveground utilities.

## U.S. Army Element, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives Activated

*Kevin J. Flamm chartered as program manager in dual ceremony*

By KATHY DeWEESE  
ACWA Public Affairs Officer

The U.S. Army Element, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA) was formally activated in a ceremony at the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland on Nov. 28 by Gen. Benjamin S. Griffin, commanding general of the U.S. Army Materiel Command.

The new organization, structured as an AMC Separate Reporting Activity, will contribute to the national chemical weapons demilitarization imperative through its mission to destroy the chemical weapons stockpiles at Pueblo Chemical Depot and Blue Grass Army Depot, Ky.

Congress created the ACWA program in 1996 to research and develop alternatives to the baseline incineration destruction technology. Since that time, the program's focus has shifted from the successful demonstration of alternatives to managing the design and construction of neutralization pilot plants at the Colorado and Kentucky sites. Its new designation as an Army "element," the designation for an Army organization assigned to a non-Army program, signifies the official change from the program's former alignment with the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency.

As part of the ceremony, Dr. Arthur T. Hopkins, acting assistant to the secretary of defense (nuclear and chemical and biological defense programs), officially presented ACWA Program Manager Kevin J. Flamm his

management charter. Flamm, a member of the Senior Executive Service, will report directly to the Department of Defense, as mandated by public law.

Hopkins stated that Flamm is "ideally suited to meet the challenges ahead," noting his decades of experience in similar chemical programs. He added that the new program manager has the Office of the Secretary of Defense's strongest confidence and support.

"It is the men and women of the U.S. Army who have made the United States the world's leader in the safe and environmentally sound destruction of chemical weapons," Flamm said. Commenting on the ACWA government and contractor team, he added, "They, like I, do not view this program as a job, but as a duty to our country."



U.S. Army Photo

**"Chemical demilitarization is unlike any other mission in our Army," said Gen. Benjamin S. Griffin, commanding general of the U.S. Army Materiel Command, as he addressed Kevin Flamm, ACWA program manager (seated), as well as an audience full of ACWA team members, both past and present, at the activation ceremony for the U.S. Army Element, ACWA.**

### News Brief

#### Acceleration Assessment Under Way

ACWA has initiated an assessment of potential opportunities for accelerating the destruction of the Colorado and Kentucky chemical weapons stockpiles. This assessment is in response to requirements included in Public Law 110-116, which mandates completing the destruction of the chemical weapons stockpiles in accordance with the deadline established by the Chemical Weapons Convention (April 27, 2012), but in no circumstances later than Dec. 31, 2017. Defense Department officials will meet with Congress by next summer to discuss the acceleration options and come to an agreement on the path forward.

# PCAPP THE YEAR IN REVIEW 2007



Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant



Photo by John Schlatter

**Bechtel Pueblo Team seeks bids for major construction contracts.**

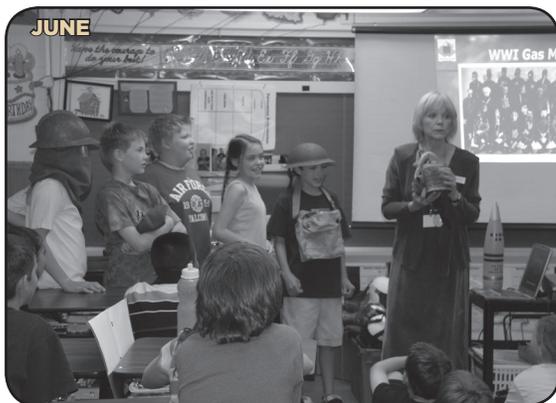


Photo by Sandy Romero

**Nearly 5,000 students participated in the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant education program last year.**



Photo by Sandy Romero

**Irene Kornelly is named Citizens' Advisory Commission chair.**



Photo by Bob Kennemer

**Pueblo City Council members Vera Ortegon and Barbara Vidmar (right) receive a depot overview from the former depot commander, Lt. Col. John Riley.**

JAN

FEB

MAR

APR

MAY

JUN

- Results of a study conducted by Mitretek regarding off-site shipment of hydrolysate and the U.S. government's Lean Six Sigma study are shared with the public at the Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC) meeting.
- Congress recertifies the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) project under the Nunn-McCurdy amendment.
- The CAC provides a recommendation to ACWA opposing off-site shipment of hydrolysate.
- Pueblo County Public Works seeks, and is granted, additional funds for increased costs associated with the new Defense Access Road (DAR). The DAR will be used to access the PCAPP site, located on the north end of the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot.
- Kevin Flamm is named interim program manager for the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA) program.
- Bechtel Pueblo Team announces major contracts seeking bids for a natural gas pipeline, construction trailers, substation upgrades, prefab buildings, etc.
- CAC members tour the PCAPP site and depot.
- The Department of Defense develops and approves an updated Acquisition Program Baseline, or cost and schedule estimates, for the ACWA program.
- John Klomp steps down from his position as CAC chair.
- Final design of the PCAPP facility is accepted by the Department of Defense.
- Representatives for U.S. Sen. Wayne Allard, U.S. Sen. Ken Salazar and U.S. Rep. John Salazar tour the PCAPP site.
- Terry Hart and Jeff Chostner are appointed to the CAC by Gov. Bill Ritter.
- U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) announces closure of the Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Maryland. Office and maintenance equipment from that site is shipped for use at PCAPP, saving approximately \$10 million.
- Pueblo County Commissioners visit the depot to view construction progress.
- PCAPP education program reaches 4,881 students in 2006-07 school year.



Photo by Ben D'Andrea

**Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant employees pose for a photo commemorating final acceptance of the facility by the Department of Defense.**



Photo by Sandy Romero

**John Klomp (left) accepts community service award.**



Photo by Rosemary Patterson

**Lt. Col. Christopher Chesney (pictured with wife, Darcy) takes command of U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot.**



Photo by Rosemary Patterson

**Work begins on the Defense Access Road.**



Photo by Bob Kennemer

**Kevin Flamm (right) takes the helm of the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives program.**

JUL

AUG

SEP

OCT

NOV

DEC

- Irene Kornely is elected CAC chair. Terry Hart is elected vice-chair.
- Pueblo City Council members tour the pilot plant site.
- Lt. Col. Christopher K. Chesney takes command of the depot.

- Pueblo County awards first DAR contracts to begin the first phase of work on the extension of William White Boulevard. The boulevard will allow northwest access to the depot and the chemical weapons construction area.

- Department of Defense orders additional technical analyses of hydrolysate and secondary waste that will be conducted by Noblis (formerly Mitretek Systems) and the National Research Council respectively.
- Members of the Boone Town Board tour the PCAPP facility.
- Kevin Flamm is named permanent ACWA program manager.
- Pueblo County begins work on the DAR.

- As of Oct. 31, Bechtel Pueblo Team reaches 2.7 million hours without a lost-time work injury.
- The U.S. Army Element, ACWA is formally activated in a ceremony at the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland. This new designation as an Army "element," an Army organization assigned to a non-Army program, signifies the official change from ACWA's former alignment with CMA.

- Public Law 110-116 is added to the 2008 Defense Appropriations Bill, which includes a new deadline for the destruction of the Colorado stockpile.

- Elected officials, including Colorado congressional delegation representatives, tour the PCAPP construction site.

## Community Weighs In on Weapons Destruction Project

By SANDY ROMERO  
Pueblo Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office

Community feedback is an integral part of the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA) program, the government agency responsible for chemical weapons destruction in Colorado and Kentucky.

“We have a long history of involving citizens in important decisions,” said Kathy DeWeese, public affairs officer for the ACWA program. “We value the open door policy and welcome feedback regarding the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) project.”

To provide feedback, you can complete feedback forms distributed at community events by Pueblo Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office

staff. Comment cards are placed in the Pueblo *Exchange* newsletter and other information products mailed to your home or you can submit feedback online at <http://www.pmacwa.army.mil/> by clicking on the “Feedback” link. You can also visit the outreach office at 104 West B Street in downtown Pueblo and meet with outreach staff to discuss your questions and comments.

More than 700 comment cards were collected from the Pueblo community in fiscal year 2007. More than 80 percent of respondents indicated that all their questions regarding the program were being addressed, that the project’s outreach activities increase understanding and awareness about chemical weapons destruction



Photo by Sandy Romero

**The outreach office staff seeks feedback from Pueblo County community members at events around the city and in Boone and Avondale.**

in Colorado and that the public involvement program offers genuine opportunities for involvement. Some of the specific comments we’ve received through comment cards follow below.

### Here’s what your neighbors are saying:

“This is a very important project and I like the way you are keeping us informed. Thank you.” William, Avondale

*Thank you for your support, William. The outreach office, located at 104 West B Street in Pueblo, has displays, projectile models and an information repository. Staff is also available to do slide show presentations regarding the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant project. We tailor some publications to meet certain needs, such as a bilingual brochure for Spanish-speaking citizens and an education brochure for fifth- through eighth-grade students.*

“Get this all over with. It has gone on for too many years.” Rica, Pueblo

*Over the years, the community has expressed several priorities to Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA) program leadership. The top priority is the safe destruction of the stockpile. As a result, ACWA has carefully designed a pilot plant that meets and exceeds safety standards. ACWA consistently works to balance safety with the shared goal of completing its mission in a cost- and time-efficient manner. As a result, we are taking responsibility for investigating options for saving time and money through initiatives regarding hydrolysate and secondary waste. Further, ACWA has initiated an internal assessment of options for accelerating the program.*

“Would like more coverage of legislature and [Department of Defense] funding with potential impacts on clean-up efforts.”  
Paula, Denver

*Funding has always been a topic of discussion when it comes to the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant. The outreach team consistently provides funding updates during presentations, at community meetings and within information products. Outreach regarding funding increased considerably last April when the program’s updated cost and schedule estimate, known as an Acquisition Program Baseline, was approved. There is also a legislative update included in the News Brief on page 3 of this edition of the Exchange.*

If you would like to write a letter to the editor for possible publication in the *Exchange*, e-mail it to [PuebloOutreach@bah.com](mailto:PuebloOutreach@bah.com), or send it to the Pueblo Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office, Attn: Sandy Romero, 104 West B Street, Pueblo, CO 81003.

## Employee Corner

By SANDY ROMERO Pueblo Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office

### Corps Takes Employee on World Travels

Back in Pueblo from a recent tour of duty in Amman, Jordan, Army Corps of Engineers employee David Greenwood just might be ready to retire...maybe.

"I'm eligible now," Greenwood said as he reflected on his travels during his 38-year career with the Corps. "I'm just wondering if I'm really ready."

Greenwood spent a year in Jordan working on a \$100 million construction project to build an anti-terrorist training facility for King Abdullah II.

In 2000, Greenwood took a job in Tokyo, Japan for three years. Egypt, Liberia, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are among the countries he has worked in during his career.

Greenwood graduated from Wahpeton State School of Science in North Dakota as a civil engineer technician.

Today, he keeps busy on the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant project where he is the construction inspection technician.

If and when he decides to retire, his Pueblo West, Colo., home will serve as his retreat. In his spare time, he designed, built and landscaped the house himself, which sits on two acres with over 120 trees and shrubs. Greenwood shares his home with his wife and son. His daughter lives nearby, and another son lives in Woodland Park, Colo.

Time will tell if retirement is in his future. "I like an adventure," he said.

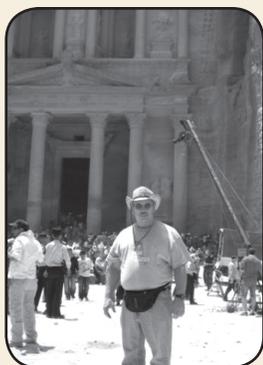


Photo courtesy David Greenwood

**Greenwood stands in front of Petra, one of the Seven Wonders of the World in Jordan. His work has taken him to several countries in his 38-year career.**

### Fitness Not a Challenge for Bechtel Employee

For the second year in a row, Nate Hathaway competed in a grueling team event that challenges both the mind and body to help raise money for children's cancer research.

The US Challenge – a three-day, two-night event involving mountain biking, trail running, orienteering, white water rafting and strategy held in October in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania – brings together corporate teams of five who compete against each other for fundraising and physical agility.



Photo courtesy Nate Hathaway

**Nate Hathaway competed in the 2006 and 2007 US Challenge, a three-day, two-night event to benefit St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.**

Funds raised from the event go to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, which has raised the childhood cancer survival rate from less than 20 percent to more than 70 percent. At St. Jude's, families don't pay for treatment.

"Bechtel's team placed first in fundraising, collecting over \$56,000," said Hathaway, 27, who works for the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant project on financial and funds management. "In the physical competition, we placed third in the mixed (both male and female competitors) and sixth overall out of 50 teams."

Participating in the race, alongside the corporate teams, are former St. Jude's patients. "It's quite emotional to see childhood cancer survivors competing and living full lives."

Keeping in shape for the challenge is easy enough for Hathaway, who moved here from Baltimore last April. "I jumped at the opportunity to come to Colorado," said Hathaway, who lives in Colorado Springs, and enjoys mountain biking, rock climbing and snow boarding.

"It is an unbelievable and very rewarding experience," he said.

## Information | Exchange

The Pueblo *Exchange* is designed to keep you up to date on the chemical weapons destruction project. The *Exchange* newsletter welcomes feedback and story ideas. Contact the editor, Sandy Romero, by phone at (719) 546-0400 or e-mail at [romero\\_sandra@bah.com](mailto:romero_sandra@bah.com).

## Virtual Information | Exchange

Find out more about ACWA's mission to safely destroy the chemical weapons stockpiles located at Pueblo Chemical Depot, Colo., and Blue Grass Army Depot, Ky., by visiting [www.pmacwa.army.mil](http://www.pmacwa.army.mil).

Current and past editions of the Pueblo *Exchange* can also be found online. To locate the newsletters, click on the Information Products link and then on the word "Newsletters."

**Pueblo Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office**  
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Pueblo Chemical Agent-  
Destruction Pilot Plant

