

# Pueblo *exchange*

A Partnership for Safe Chemical Weapons Destruction



Fall 2008

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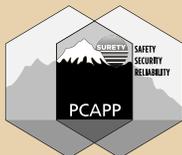
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Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant

### **Pueblo Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office**

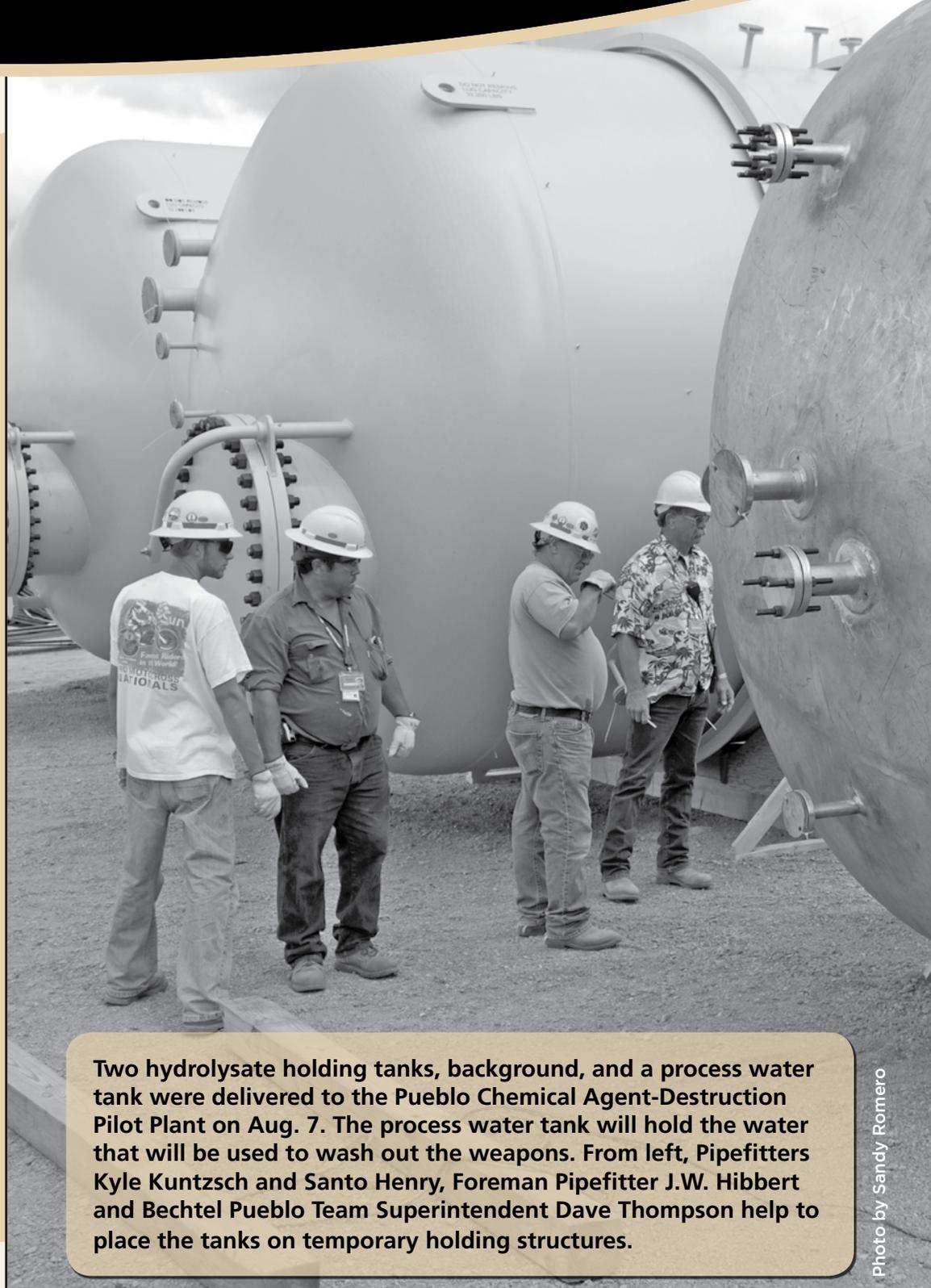
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Two hydrolysate holding tanks, background, and a process water tank were delivered to the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant on Aug. 7. The process water tank will hold the water that will be used to wash out the weapons. From left, Pipefitters Kyle Kuntzsch and Santo Henry, Foreman Pipefitter J.W. Hibbert and Bechtel Pueblo Team Superintendent Dave Thompson help to place the tanks on temporary holding structures.

Photo by Sandy Romero

## Message From the Site Project Manager

# Two Key Staff Say Farewell to Pueblo

By GARY ANDERSON  
PCAPP Site Project Manager

From the very beginning, the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) has attracted a team of top quality professionals. Bechtel, the project's systems contractor, assembled a genuine "A" team as they hired staff for the PCAPP facility. Of course, to grow their careers, these talented people sometimes move on to new challenges. This is the case as PCAPP bids farewell and extends a big thanks to Valerie McCain and Fawzy Makar.

Valerie McCain worked as Bechtel's PCAPP deputy project manager for the past five years, since the beginning of the project. Recently, she began a new position in Brisbane, Australia. In Brisbane, McCain is the business manager of Bechtel's Guinea Alumina Project in the Mining and Metals

Division. The Guinea Alumina project is a greenfield refinery consisting of a 3 million tonne-per-annum refinery, a 9 million tonne-per-annum bauxite mine, and transportation infrastructure and port facilities, all to be constructed in an undeveloped region of Guinea in West Africa.

Fawzy Makar has been my right hand man for the past two years. Working for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, he served as the resident engineer for



Photo by Sandy Romero

**Fawzy Makar has resigned his post at the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant to take a promotion in Huntsville, Ala.**



Photo by Sandy Romero

**Valerie McCain, seated, former Bechtel deputy project manager, is honored by Doug Omichinski, Bechtel deputy project manager, at her July 31 farewell.**

the PCAPP project. Makar has been promoted to supervisory civil engineer/ chief of construction in Huntsville, Ala., where he will manage the Construction and Contract Administrative Branch. Makar's new duties include managing the Russian chemical demilitarization program and the Defense Threat Reduction Agency Program.

## Citizens Provide Input on Draft Permit

By BOB KENNEMER  
PCAPP Community Outreach Manager

Staff members from the Bechtel Pueblo Team and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (the state health department) went on the road this summer to talk to the Boone, Avondale and Pueblo communities about the PCAPP Resource Conservation and Recovery Act permit.

Three public availability sessions were held in July as part of a formal process to issue PCAPP's Phase III permit, which when granted by the state health department, will allow for the construction of the chemical demilitarization portion of the facility.

"These sessions provided an opportunity for community members to get more information about the



Photo by Bob Kenemer

**U.S. Rep. Buffie McFadyen, left, chats with Avondale resident Richard Zerr and Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Public Information Officer Jeannine Natterman during a public availability session held in Avondale in July.**

latest phase in permitting PCAPP," said Jeannine Natterman, public information officer for the state health department. At the meetings, community members discussed the project and the permit with staff from the state health department and the Bechtel Pueblo Team. Additionally, citizens were

allowed to submit comments by mail or e-mail. The public comment period ended on Aug. 11, and the state health department is now developing responses to the input.

The state health department granted several temporary authorizations during the past year. These allowed for limited foundation work to begin on the enhanced reconfiguration building, where propellants and explosives will be removed from the munitions, and the agent processing building, where the mustard agent will be removed from the munitions. Work on these buildings cannot begin until the Phase III permit is issued. It is anticipated that it will be issued this fall. Additional permits will be needed in the future to allow for pilot testing and plant operations.

## U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Provides Project Oversight and More

By BOB KENNEMER  
PCAPP Community Outreach Manager

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, known as the Corps, is a federal agency that provides oversight and project support, as well as construction and engineering expertise on a variety of governmental projects within the United States, as well as abroad.

The Corps staff plays a pivotal role at the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) in the construction and design of the plant. In accordance with Occupational Safety and Health Administration guidelines, the Corps conducts daily inspections of the construction site to verify that the plant is being built according to design. Any deviation from the design must be reviewed and approved by the Corps.

The Corps also works to ensure the safety of all staff by conducting daily reviews of project safety guidelines and practices. Should Corps inspectors discover an unsafe situation, they work with Bechtel, the systems contractor, to rectify the problem. All of these inspections are logged and filed in reports, creating a comprehensive safety record for the project.

Additionally, the Corps provides project support in the following areas:

- **Contract Administration** - The Corps makes sure that the work follows the design packages, including any modifications. These packages are reviewed and approved by the federal government and allow contractors to bid on the work.
- **Managing Project Funds** - The Corps manages 100 percent of the project's military construction funds, which may be used only for actual construction of PCAPP.



Photo by Bob Kenemer

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers staff conduct a variety of field inspections at the construction site. Here, they discuss the quality of the welds on the pipe rack, which will be used to carry utilities to the agent processing building. Pictured from left to right, Paul Dudek, mechanical engineer; Jim Bongers, quality assurance branch chief; and Bill Summerville, quality oversight representative with Spectratech, a subcontractor to the Science Applications International Corporation.**

- **Effective Communication** - The Corps takes the lead to ensure that all parties associated with PCAPP are communicating openly and effectively with the appropriate people or agencies. This includes daily safety meetings, project scheduling and regular quality assurance meetings to make sure that the work is completed correctly the first time.
- **Acquisitions** - All major construction-related acquisitions are supervised by the Corps. This ensures that equipment is compatible with the various project designs and can be fully utilized by the staff.

With 11 people as part of their local field staff, each member averages 30 years of experience in construction. This group comprises mechanical, electrical and civil engineers, and most of them have previous experience at other chemical

demilitarization sites. The local field team receives additional support from the headquarters office in Huntsville, Ala., where an even larger pool of experts is available.

“The Corps’ current focus is on what is called ‘just in time delivery,’” said Steven Light, chief of alternative technologies, Chemical Demilitarization Directorate, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. “This is a process that helps to save time by making sure that needed manufactured goods are delivered on a timely basis, thus alleviating project down time.”

“Everything the Corps does must ultimately support the critical path,” said the outgoing Corps’ resident engineer at PCAPP, Fawzy Makar. “The critical path relates to the demilitarization parts of the plant such as the agent processing building. Constructing this part of the plant is first and foremost in our minds.”

## Construction Site Sees Increased Activity

By SANDY ROMERO  
Bechtel Communications Manager

With an average of 20 craft workers being hired each week, the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant construction site is filled with activity in nearly every corner of the 85-acre project. "It's a busy site," said Site Superintendent Steve Thieme. "We're making progress with every major building of the plant."

Here's an overview of what's taking place:

### Enhanced Reconfiguration Building

In July, work began on the enhanced reconfiguration building (ERB), one of two main processing buildings for the project. Under a temporary authorization from the Colorado Department of Public Health and

Environment, excavation for the foundation is taking place and the foundation footers are being installed. Munitions will enter the ERB to begin the destruction process before proceeding to the agent processing building (APB).

### Agent Processing Building

Summer saw the arrival of the first large vessels for the APB – a breathing air receiver tank that will be used in toxic area entries, a hot process water tank and two hydrolysate holding tanks. Workers unloaded the tanks, each hydrolysate tank weighs 32,000 pounds, using a crane to place them on temporary holding units. Installation of structural steel for the APB is scheduled to begin in September.

### Support Structures

Concrete has been placed for the utility building and air handling unit, several tank foundations, the cooling tower and the pipe rack. So far, workers have placed more than 6,800 cubic yards of concrete for support structures.

### Automated Guided Vehicle Corridor

In early summer, the first structural concrete was placed for the automated guided vehicle (AGV). When the plant is complete, the AGV will act as a transfer unit for the munitions, moving them from the ERB to the APB.

Approximately 215 craftsmen will be hired by the end of the year to keep construction progressing. An anticipated peak of 375 craftsmen will complete construction, currently slated for 2013.



Tom Moore, operator foreman, uses a remote control to guide a vibratory compactor to pack down soil along the foundation for the agent processing building.



Photo by Bob Kenemer

Iron Workers Jimmy Vargas, left, and Wade Hollingsworth secure a steel girder to a crane, which will then hoist the girder onto the pipe rack, in the background. The pipe rack will support utilities and piping to the chemical demilitarization portion of the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant.



Photo by Bob Kenemer

Chuck Gonzales, a cement mason with Local 577, puts the finishing touches on a cement placement for the agent processing building. Gonzales and other cement workers began this day at 2 a.m. The early start provides cooler early morning temperatures, which are more conducive to allowing the cement to set up and cure properly.

## High-Performance Concrete Is a First for Bechtel

By SANDY ROMERO  
Bechtel Communications Manager

A new, high-performance concrete is being tested on a structural wall placement at the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP), making it a first for both the project and Bechtel in their 110-year history.

Self-consolidating concrete, or SCC, was placed in the 10-foot tall containment walls for the process water tank this summer. Its durability is being tested and demonstrated for eventual use in the walls of the explosive containment room (ECR) of the enhanced reconfiguration building, where energetics (bursters and fuzes) are removed from the weapons.

Special high-performance ingredients make it possible for the concrete to flow easily through tight, congested areas. Since the walls of the ECR are highly congested with reinforced and embedded steel, this new concrete is a natural fit, according to Steve Thieme, PCAPP site superintendent. To demonstrate this, a mock wall duplicating the reinforced and embedded steel will be assembled and SCC will be used.

"SCC and its ability to flatten by its own weight, instead of requiring vibration [vibration is used to flatten concrete mounds when they are poured], is a great way to save the project time and money," said Thieme. "We're currently testing it on the process water tank walls to see how it performs." Additional benefits of SCC include reduced labor costs, better use of manpower and visually superior concrete surfaces.

SCC is widely used in Europe and is making its way to construction projects around the United States. Once Bechtel has completed testing and determined its usage of SCC, the results will be available to future Bechtel projects that might benefit from the technologically advanced concrete.



Photo by Sandy Romero

**Steve Thieme, Bechtel Pueblo Team site superintendent, discusses Bechtel's first use of self-consolidating concrete, which was poured in containment walls for the process water tank.**

## PCAPP Team Thinks Green

By RENEE MARTINEZ  
PCAPP Community Outreach Specialist

Bechtel Project Manager Paul Henry is determined to get the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) thinking green when it comes to the environment.

Henry was inspired after attending a sustainable development conference during the winter of 2006. "The conference made me wonder how the PCAPP project could improve general awareness of environmental protection and conservation," Henry said.

As a result, Henry asked Bechtel Waste Management Manager Kevin Rankin to take on this challenge, and the Think Green Team was born.

Since holding its first meeting in March of 2007, the team has grown to nearly 20 members. This voluntary group meets biweekly and consists of both Bechtel and government employees, all working towards the mission of identifying, evaluating and promoting cost-effective sustainable development initiatives. Some of these initiatives include recycling, product substitution, car pooling, energy efficient lighting and efficient resource usage. "Cost-effective alternatives are key," said Rankin. "Our goal is to stay within funding restraints while reducing our environmental footprint."

The PCAPP site currently recycles paper, aluminum cans, plastic bottles, batteries and scrap metal. As construction progresses, the team is targeting scrap lumber, concrete and cardboard for recycling. Bechtel's Safety, Environmental and Waste Management team approves all products for use on the site and preference is always given to nontoxic, less-toxic, recycled content and recyclable products.

The Think Green Team has also instituted a carpool matching program. Currently, 58 percent of PCAPP employees participate in a carpool. Windows at the personnel support building and the construction office trailer have also been tinted, ultimately reducing air conditioning costs. "Our initiatives will provide a return on the investment the project has made," said Rankin.

This fall, the team will be piloting a Sustainable Development Grant program for Boone and Avondale schools. Three \$500 awards will be given to teachers who apply for the grants and have a creative activity that promotes student-centered learning to enhance school and community sustainability. This grant program will be available to Pueblo schools in the fall of 2009. "The team is really excited about working with the community," Rankin said.

## Bechtel Craft Worker Builds Homes for Soldiers

By SANDY ROMERO  
Bechtel Communications Manager

Volunteerism is a way of life for Salvador Lopez, a Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) craft worker.

In fact, this past summer, Lopez helped build a house in Golden, Colo., for U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Travis Strong, a soldier who recently served in the Iraq war. Lopez joined nearly 100 volunteers from across the state for three days in June to construct a frame, shingle a roof and install siding, windows and doors for a new home for Strong and his family. The effort was coordinated through Homes for Our Troops, a nonprofit group that provides housing for disabled soldiers.

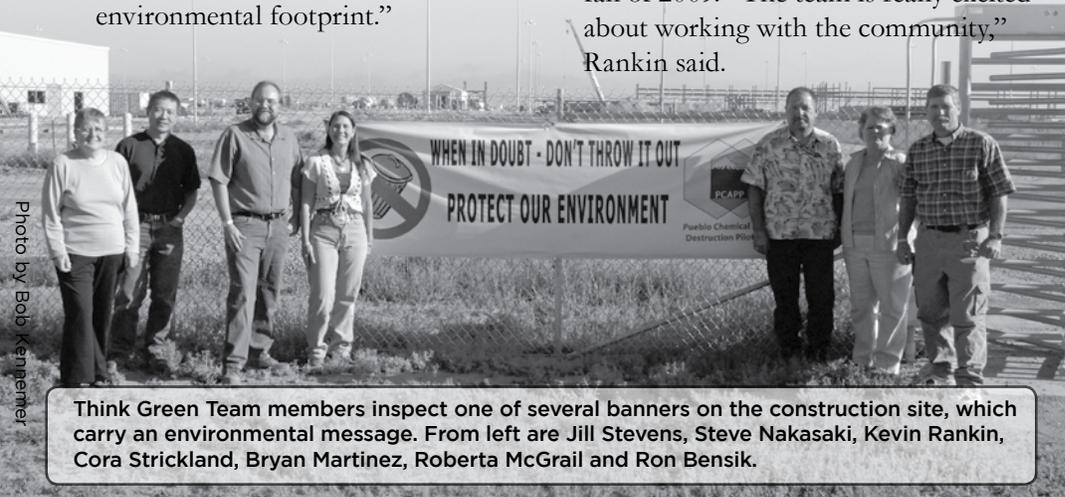
When Bechtel Project Manager Paul Henry heard about Lopez' recent volunteer project, he commended Lopez' giving spirit and presented him with a \$500 contribution from Bechtel for Homes for Our Troops. "I'm proud of what Salvador has done for Sgt. Strong," said Henry. "I'm even more proud to have him as a member of our team."

A journeyman carpenter for more than 40 years, Lopez has made volunteering his passion. He is an official for his union, and helps with the maintenance of his union hall, Local 515, out of Colorado Springs. His carpentry skills have come in handy, especially when working on projects with Homes for Our Troops or the Boy Scouts, for whom he once helped construct a first-aid station in Rye, Colo.



Photo by Sandy Romero

**Salvador Lopez, Bechtel craft worker, shows his appreciation for wounded American servicemen and women by volunteering to help build them homes.**



Think Green Team members inspect one of several banners on the construction site, which carry an environmental message. From left are Jill Stevens, Steve Nakasaki, Kevin Rankin, Cora Strickland, Bryan Martinez, Roberta McGrail and Ron Bensik.

## Employee Corner

### Bechtel Employee Takes Pride in Team

By ROSEMARY PATTERSON  
PCAPP Community Outreach Specialist

Patrick "Pat" Timm, Bechtel Pueblo Team's environmental manager, may be new to Pueblo, having arrived in 2007, but not to environmental protection work or chemical demilitarization.

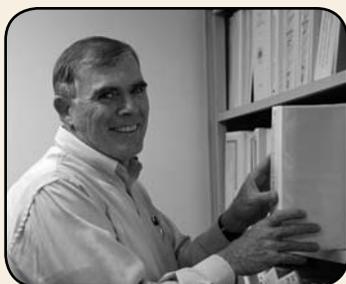


Photo by Rosemary Patterson

**An avid outdoorsman, Bechtel Environmental Manager Pat Timm enjoys fly fishing, fly tying, hiking and bicycle rides.**

Timm's professional career includes more than 20 years on active duty as an Army engineer officer with the 101st Airborne Division. His Army experience included combat engineering, facilities and construction management, as well as environmental management and cleanup work. Most recently, Timm served as the environmental manager for the Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Maryland for seven years.

At the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP), Timm leads the project's environmental permitting, compliance and technical support efforts. His responsibilities include close coordination and effective communication with the staff of the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives program and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. "Maintaining an open, honest and straightforward dialogue with our client, regulators and stakeholders is always a top priority," Timm said.

Timm takes pride in the Bechtel Pueblo Team's environmental program. "We are developing a strong environmental culture requiring the involvement of everyone on the project." Timm believes that a strong environmental team is key to the success of the PCAPP program. "They are exceptional, with lots of experience in chemical demilitarization. It would be hard to put together a better team," Timm said.

### Engineer's Projects Are First of a Kind

By RENEE MARTINEZ  
PCAPP Community Outreach Specialist

Even as a child, Stan Wharry's fate was sealed.

"I always liked making things and was intrigued by design," said Wharry, who is the son of a chemistry teacher and frequented science fairs as a kid. It was no surprise when Wharry left his Rocky Ford, Colo., home to pursue a chemical engineering degree from Colorado School of Mines, in Golden.



Photo by Bob Kenemer

**When not on the job as a Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant environmental engineer, Stan Wharry spends his time serving as the Children's Youth Minister at his church and coaching youth football.**

Today, Wharry is an environmental engineer for the Assembled Chemical Weapons

Alternatives program at the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP). At PCAPP, Wharry is a member of a team responsible for the development of first-of-a-kind (FOAK) equipment such as the munitions washout system, the munitions treatment unit and the single munition burster-well monitoring system. His current primary responsibility is for the projectile mortar disassembly machine, which is a robot that disassembles the chemical weapons.

Each FOAK is subject to stringent testing through the Technical Risk Reduction Program. The purpose of the FOAK program is to fabricate plant ready equipment. "I am part a great team," said Wharry. "A team committed to doing things as safely and efficiently as possible."

Wharry is also involved in systemization planning. His current focus is on supporting the contracting side of systemization. This includes government cost estimating, proposal evaluation and follow-on negotiations. "It is exciting to be part of a process from the ground up," Wharry said. "It is very rewarding to be part of such a large project."

## Information | Exchange

The Pueblo Exchange is designed to keep you up to date on the chemical weapons destruction project. Submit your feedback and potential story ideas by contracting the editor, Renee Martinez, by phone at (719) 546-0400 or e-mail at [martinez\\_renee@bah.com](mailto:martinez_renee@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."

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Pueblo Chemical Agent-  
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