



Pueblo Chemical Agent-  
Destruction Pilot Plant

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Chemical Weapons  
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# Pueblo Chemical Depot Marks Final Delivery of Mock Munitions for Destruction Pilot Plant

## ACWA Test Equipment to Aid in Training Plant Operators

June 2, 2011

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**PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT, Colo.** -- The U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot (PCD) marked the successful completion of a month-long effort to deliver more than 8,200 inert munitions and support parts from the Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD) in Utah following the arrival of the final truckload this morning.

The munitions, which contain no chemical agents or explosive materials, are vital to the successful operation of the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant, or PCAPP, currently under construction at PCD for the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives Program (ACWA). Officially designated as ACWA Test Equipment, or ATE, they will be used to check systems and safely train site personnel before actual destruction of chemical munitions begins in January 2015.

ATE looks, weighs, and handles like the more than 780,000 mustard agent-filled munitions (4.2-inch mortars, 105 mm and 155 mm projectiles) currently stockpiled at PCD. Its benign characteristics however, will make it perfect for training purposes. ATE will be treated with the same care as real munitions in order to familiarize employees and make for safer working conditions. During the course of training, some ATE munitions will be destroyed, while others will be refurbished for repeated use.

"The ability of employees to work with inert training munitions before handling real chemical rounds will enhance their proficiency and help us verify our procedures during the systemization phase for PCAPP," said Walton Levi, acting site project manager. "This training will help ensure our capability to meet our mission of safely and responsibly destroying the chemical agent stored at PCD when we begin operations."

While the operation was executed just four weeks, the delivery of the last load of palletized training rounds into storage igloos at PCD marked the end of a planning effort reaching back to October 2009. That effort saw trucks arriving from DCD at the rate of three per day, three days per week; with a final tally of 32 truckloads (48' flatbeds) transporting more than 2,049 ATE munitions pallets and component boxes (miscellaneous parts) with an estimated value of \$9 million.

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*EDITOR'S NOTE: Please refer to the fact sheet that accompanies this press release for more details.*