



Program Executive Office
Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives

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Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives Program Mission Halfway Complete

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. -- The [Program Executive Office, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives](#) (PEO ACWA) mission is halfway complete, with a combined 1,568 U.S. tons of safely destroyed chemical agents in Colorado and Kentucky as of June 20, 2020.

"We are at the halfway point in accomplishing the overall ACWA mission," said Program Executive Officer [Michael S. Abaie](#), PEO ACWA. "Reaching this milestone while successfully protecting workers, communities and the environment is a major accomplishment for the program. With each munition destroyed, the risk of continued storage is reduced."

More than 2.5 million chemical munitions have been destroyed overall with approximately 615,000 munitions remaining.

"The safe and environmentally sound destruction of approximately 95% of the original U.S. chemical weapons stockpile is an outstanding achievement for the U.S. Chemical Demilitarization Program," said [Dr. Charles J. Ball](#), Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Threat Reduction and Arms Control. "With each milestone we achieve, we are one step closer towards the goal of eliminating an entire class of weapons of mass destruction and fully meeting our [Chemical Weapons Convention](#) commitment."

The U.S. Army [Chemical Materials Activity \(CMA\)](#) destroyed nearly 90% of the original U.S. chemical weapons stockpile by 2012, which was stored at six U.S. Army installations across the U.S. and on Johnston Atoll in the Pacific. PEO ACWA is responsible for destroying what was the remaining 10% of the stockpile located in Colorado and Kentucky.

"Each time we empty a storage igloo in Colorado and Kentucky is a testament to the dedication of the entire workforces and our partners to destroy these obsolete weapons," said [Col. Kelso C. Horne III](#), director, CMA."

While PEO ACWA and CMA are separate organizations, they share the goal of destroying the nation's chemical weapons. CMA maintains the safe and secure storage of the U.S. chemical weapons stockpile at the [Blue Grass Army Depot](#) near Richmond, Kentucky, and the [U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot](#) in Pueblo, Colorado.

"Our highly trained workforce's implementation of strict safety procedures has resulted in meeting the ACWA mission halfway complete milestone," said [Walton Levi](#), site project manager, Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant.

Abaie said that the combined efforts within the U.S. Chemical Demilitarization Program enabled the program to reach this milestone, with lessons learned from other chemical weapons subject matter experts and previous facility experiences. PEO ACWA oversees contracts led by [Bechtel National, Inc.](#) at the Colorado site and a [Bechtel-Parsons Joint Venture](#) at the Kentucky site.

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"The expertise of the Blue Grass workforce is responsible for the program's success in meeting this momentous halfway milestone," said Site Project Manager [Dr. Candace Coyle](#), Blue Grass Chemical-Agent Destruction Pilot Plant. "I am proud of the focused dedication from this team as we work to safely destroy these obsolete weapons and make the world a better place."

Chemical stockpile destruction operations began in Colorado in March 2015 and in Kentucky in June 2019. Both facilities are on target to complete operations by 2023.

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Caption: This empty igloo at the Blue Grass Army Depot housed the last of the 8-inch GB projectiles and signifies progress the Program Executive Office, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives is making toward complete destruction of the remaining U.S. chemical weapons stockpile.

U.S Army photo.



Caption: Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant ordnance technicians pose for a photo within the plant. They support various aspects of agent round processing, from receiving to neutralization.