



Program Manager Assembled
Chemical Weapons Alternatives

A Partnership for Safe Chemical Weapons Destruction

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Alabama, Maryland and Ohio Teams Support Testing for Kentucky Chemical Weapons Destruction

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND (APG), Md. – Scientists and engineers here working to develop alternative methods of destroying chemical weapons expect to learn more about nerve agents as the result of cooperation from a multi-state team.

In Alabama, a team of Army and Westinghouse Anniston employees will take small samples of nerve agent GB from several M55 rockets currently being processed at Anniston Army Depot, Ala., as part of the on-going chemical weapons stockpile disposal operations there. While the rockets themselves will be destroyed at the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, samples of nerve agent will be packaged and escorted to Army laboratories at APG and contractor laboratories in Ohio. The samples will undergo testing to support the neutralization of similar weapons stored at Kentucky's Blue Grass Army Depot.

Nerve agent GB, known as sarin, is a colorless liquid that was designed to impair the nervous system. Specially trained Westinghouse Anniston employees will extract samples of gelled, crystallized, and liquid nerve agent from the rockets. Since starting GB-filled rocket disposal last August, the Anniston work force has safely destroyed more than 15,000 rockets.

To ensure safe transport, the samples will be packaged and escorted in strict compliance with all federal, state and Army regulations.

"Testing these samples is critical to ensuring that we are prepared to safely destroy the Blue Grass stockpile," said Michael A. Parker, who serves as both Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives program manager and as Chemical Materials Agency director. "Chemical stockpile destruction projects in Oregon and Arkansas could also benefit from the testing as well."

Several agencies headquartered at APG will play key roles in the operation, including the Program Manager Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives, the Chemical Materials Agency, the U.S. Army Technical Escort Unit, and the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, among others. Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass, the contract team responsible for destroying the Kentucky chemical weapons stockpile, will conduct the Ohio-based portion of the testing.

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(Note: There are no nerve agent weapons in the Maryland chemical agent stockpile.)



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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: The Program Manager for Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives at 410-436-3398, the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility at 256-238-1652 (Ext. 235), or the Chemical Materials Agency at 410-436-3629.