

KEY ORGANIZATIONS IN US CHEMICAL DEMILITARIZATION

The Chemical Demilitarization Program has experienced numerous shifts in oversight and responsibility, including changes in both general oversight by the Department of Defense and Army, and the oversight of specific facilities. The roles played by different groups within the system are complex and changing. This list contains key groups that continue to play an active role in chemical demilitarization, and reflects their positions after the restructuring over oversight in 2003. For more information on each site, please see the section on chemical destruction sites.

ACWA Assembled Chemical Weapons Assessment Program

In 1996, in response to rising public concerns over the safety of incineration, Congress created the ACWA to explore and test two or more alternatives to incineration. The ACWA has immediate oversight at Pueblo and Blue Grass.

ASA (ALT) Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisitions, Logistics, and Technology)

The ASA-ALT has immediate oversight (together with the Commanding General of US Army Material Command) of the Chemical Materials Agency. Prior to the 2003 restructuring, the ASA-ALT immediately supervised the Program Manager for Chemical Destruction (PMCD), now the Program Manager for the Elimination of Chemical Weapons (PM ECW). The ASA-ALT's non-chemical demilitarization duties focus on scientific research and logistics management for the Army.

ASA-I&E Assistant Secretary of the Army (Installation and Environment)

The ASA-I&E regulates buildings, facilities and environmental repercussions of Army properties and activities.

ATAP Alternative Technologies and Approaches Project

ATAP was created solely to investigate alternative destruction technologies for Newport and Aberdeen, where the agent is stored in bulk containers. Neutralization became the central technique pursued by ATAP, which conducted the early pilot runs of neutralization.

CMA Chemical Materials Agency

The CMA was created in 2003 to combine the responsibility for storage and destruction of chemical weapons into one agency. Previously the Program Manager for Chemical Demilitarization and the Soldier Biological and Chemical Command separately oversaw these respective aspects of chemical demilitarization. The

creation of the CMA was part of a major restructuring in 2003, attempting to streamline oversight of chemical demilitarization.

AMC

Commanding General of US Army Military Command

The US AMC is in charge of Army material readiness. Previous to the reorganization in 2003, the AMC was in charge of the Army Soldier Biological and Chemical Command (SBCCOM). SBCCOM focused on technological protection from, and detection of, chemical agents.

CSEPP

Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program

CSEPP is a joint Army–FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) operation to strengthen the preparedness in communities surrounding destruction facilities. The efforts to improve preparedness in the surrounding areas focus solely on the possibility of chemical releases. Responsibility is divided between FEMA and the Army by location. The Army is in charge of on-site preparedness while FEMA (now part of the Department of Homeland Security) provides for the surrounding civilian population.

DO-CMA

Director of Operations, Chemical Materials Agency

The DO-CMA oversees sites that are past systemization and in operation or closure.

OPCW

Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

The OPCW implements the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). The CWC requires all countries to destroy their chemical weapons by 2007, with possible allowances for extensions. The OPCW verifies chemical weapons destruction conducted by the US chemical demilitarization program, as well as the destruction efforts being made by the five other chemical weapons possessor states that are current members of the Convention (Russia, India, Albania, Libya and allegedly South Korea).

PM ECW

Program Manager for the Elimination of Chemical Weapons

The PM ECW (formally the PMCD) had the most substantial role in chemical demilitarization until the creation of the CMA. The PM ECW has held some responsibility at all sites except those run by the ACWA. Two of the PM ECW's main programs include ATAP and the Chemical Stockpile Disposal Program. The PM ECW also oversees the disposal of the non-stockpile materials project.