

TIMELINE OF US CHEMICAL WEAPON LEGISLATION AND OVERSIGHT

The Army began investigating methods of chemical weapon destruction in the 1970s. In 1997, the US ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), and by 2001, the US had completed destruction operations at Johnston Atoll. As of February 2004, 26 percent of the chemical agent and 39 percent of the chemical munitions stored in the United States had been destroyed. The United States has acknowledged, however, that it will not make the CWC's 2004 deadline for destruction of 45 percent of its stockpile and received a three-year extension of this deadline from the member states of the treaty in October 2003. The treaty deadline for destruction of 100 percent of the stockpile is 2007. An extension of up to five years of this deadline can be requested under the CWC.

The Army is the executive agent for the program's implementation, and created the Chemical Material Agency to manage the storage and destruction of the stockpile. Oversight for construction and systemization is directed by the Program Manager for the Elimination of Chemical Weapons. Oversight of the individual destruction sites is divided between CMA's Director of Operations and ACWA.

1985 The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1986 (Public Law 99-145) mandates that an organization to manage the disposal of the US chemical stockpile should be created within the Department of the Army. The Army is the executive agent for the program's implementation.

1986 Congress requires the Department of Defense to destroy the US chemical weapons stockpile.

The Army charged with running the demilitarization program.

The Secretary of the Army puts the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations and Environment in charge of this effort.

Parsons Infrastructure and Technology Group, Inc. is awarded a \$52 million, four-year system design and integration services contract for the chemical weapons destruction program. (This contract is currently worth \$323 million and has been extended through 2005.)

1988 CSEPP created by Congress.

The Army selects incineration as its baseline chemical agent destruction technology.

1992 The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1993 (Public Law 102-484) mandates that the US stockpile of lethal chemical agents and munitions should be destroyed by 31 December 2004; and the Secretary of the Army should report to Congress on possible alternatives to baseline incineration for the demilitarization of the stockpile.

1994 The Army submits to Congress its Alternative Demilitarization Technology Report, which provides no alternative technology for the destruction of energetics. Neutralization is presented as a possible alternative to incineration for the destruction of some of the US stockpile of agent.

DoD designates the Chemical Demilitarization Program as a Major Defense Acquisition Program.

1996 Congress mandates that the Secretary of Defense conduct a pilot program to develop alternatives to incineration for chemical munitions demilitarization.

1997 Congress creates the ACWA program.

The United States ratifies the Chemical Weapons Convention.

1998 The Defense Department delegates oversight of the chemical weapons destruction program to the Army as part of efforts to reduce staffing and DoD responsibilities.

2001 The Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics) is given ‘milestone decision authority’ to streamline decision-making and oversight.

The Army transfers primary program oversight from the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisitions, Logistics, and Technology) to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Installations and Environment).

2003 The Army reassigns oversight to the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisitions, Logistics, and Technology) on all matters of policy and the direction of the CSEPP.

The Secretary of the Army directs the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisitions, Logistics, and Technology) and the Commanding General of the US Army Material

Command to create jointly the Chemical Materials Agency to handle both storage and destruction of the US chemical stockpile.

The Program Manager for the Chemical Demilitarization is re-designated as the Program Manager for the Elimination of Chemical Weapons (PM ECW). The PM EWC reports to the Director of the CMA and is responsible at sites during construction and through systemization.

The CMA Director of Operations will manage Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Demilitarization Facility, Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, and Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility from operations to closure.

ACWA maintains its original oversight of Aberdeen Chemical Disposal Facility, Anniston Chemical Activity Destruction Facility, Johnston Atoll, and Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility.