

# DEMIL DISPATCH

BGAD Project

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## BGCAPP Groundbreaking Ceremony Held at EKU

By: Shannon Powers

On Saturday, Oct. 28, 2006, a ceremony was held to officially commemorate the groundbreaking of the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) that will destroy the chemical munitions housed on Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD).

The ballroom of Eastern Kentucky University's Keen Johnson Building hosted nearly 220 stakeholders,

including federal officials, state officials, project personnel, and community members.

The theme for the ceremony took its cue from the commonwealth of Kentucky's motto "United

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Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet Secretary Teresa J. Hill speaks during the BGCAPP Groundbreaking Ceremony Open House held at the Keen Johnson Building on Eastern Kentucky University's campus on Saturday, Oct. 28, 2006.

## Col. Mason Visits KDEP

Col. Richard Mason, commander of the Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD), visited the Kentucky Department of Environmental Protection (KDEP) on Oct. 31, 2006. He met with the BGAD project team members and field office staff to discuss permits and the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP). He allowed some time during his visit for a question and answer session. Here are the results:

*Could you give us a brief biography on you—hitting the highlights (i.e., where was your last command, where did you graduate, where were you born, etc.)?*

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## Public Meeting Held on RD&D Permit Revision

By: Shannon Powers

Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass (BPBG) hosted a public meeting on Dec. 12, 2006, at Eastern Kentucky University to discuss the revising of the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) Research Development and Demonstration (RD&D) permit application. Tom Kurkky, environmental manager for BPBG, presented a slideshow to explain the revisions to the meeting attendees.

The RD&D permit was issued on Sept. 30, 2005, for

the building of the BGCAPP for the destruction of the chemical munitions housed on the Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD). The permit allows for the gradual design and building of the facility.

The federal government asked that design considerations be researched in order to decrease BGCAPP costs. These design considerations include: the reduction of processing rates by making the actual Munitions

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# Col. Mason Visits KDEP

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I am originally from the Baltimore area. I received a B.S. in chemistry from Loyola College of Baltimore. I received a M.S. in logistics management from Florida Institute of Technology. My military education, beyond the initial training for my specialty, includes the logistics executive development course; the Army Command and General Staff College; and the Army War College.

My last assignment was as the Chief of Support for an 11-nation military and civilian force operating in the Sinai under the Camp David Peace Accords. Concurrently, I served as the Deputy Commander for the U.S. Task Force Sinai.

*What is the purpose of your visit to KDEP today?*

I am here to formally meet the department officials who have been working so hard with us in supporting various BGAD missions.

I wanted to take this opportunity to discuss BGAD mission operations and our strategic vision for the future beyond the chemical demilitarization program. I also wanted to better understand the roles and responsibilities of KDEP.

*How would you describe the relationship between the department and the depot? What, if anything, would you change about it?*

I am here to improve an already excellent working relationship. We believe in open dialogue and communications. I am glad to say that for the most part, BGAD and KDEP have been working very well in support of our respective missions. I believe in the continuous learning process. There are always ways to do things better, apply lessons learned and use technological advances to create a safer and more productive environment for the depot and the commonwealth.

*Do you anticipate any changes to the BGAD Environmental Office as a direct result of BGCAPP?*

BGAD is committed to the successful and safe operation of the BGCAPP mission. As the BGCAPP progresses, BGAD will have to continually evaluate the staffing requirements in the

environmental office and all of the other BGAD organizations supporting the facility.

*What do you see as the role of KDEP in the chemical demilitarization process?*

KDEP already provides excellent support to BGAD and the BGCAPP through open dialogue, communications and effective teamwork for environmental matters.

As in any industrial operation, KDEP's role is to ensure that the chemical demilitarization process from development through execution supports the goals and objectives of a safe and sound environmental workplace. Their efforts and oversight ensure a balance between the focus of operational requirements and timelines with environmental concerns and stewardship which benefits all of the agencies and key stakeholders participating in BGCAPP, in addition to the commonwealth of Kentucky.

I see KDEP's role as a dynamic and an integral part of the development of a safe and environmentally sound chemical demilitarization program within the commonwealth. The department's role will be continuing through the BGCAPP and well into the future.



BGAD Commander Col. Mason (in camouflage) visited the KDEP offices on Oct. 31, 2006. He was hoping to learn more about the workings of the department and meet the staff. Pictured with the colonel (clockwise starting after him) are April Webb, Eric Ringo, Bill Buchanan, John Jump, Todd Williams, Chris Hettinger, and Chris Wren. Webb, Ringo, Buchanan, Jump, and Hettinger are KDEP employees. Williams and Wren are BGAD employees who accompanied the colonel on his visit.



**Tim Thomas, a federal facilities coordinator for EPPC, talks with Sen. Mitch McConnell. McConnell was instrumental in getting the federal funding for the BGCAPP.**

## BGCAPP Groundbreaking

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We Stand,” which was altered to “United at Home and Around the World for Safe Chemical Weapons Destruction.”

Attendees viewed “A Safe Kentucky Home,” a 10-minute video featuring the actual shovel-digging groundbreaking held previously at BGAD since security could not allow for nearly 220 visitors. The video provided an overview of the chemical destruction efforts being made at the depot, the storage of the chemical munitions, the workings of the depot, and the partnering between all of the BGCAPP participants, including the Kentucky Department of Environmental Protection.

Newly-appointed Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet secretary,

Teresa J. Hill, was one of the featured speakers during the ceremony. Other speakers included: Sen. Mitch McConnell, Program Manager for Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives Mike Parker, BGCAPP Site Project Manager Jim Fritsche, Gen. Benjamin Griffin, Office of the Secretary of Defense Special Assistant Jean Reed, Judge-Executive Kent Clark, Richmond Mayor Connie Lawson, Citizens’ Advisory Commission Chair Doug Hindman, Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board Co-chair Craig Williams, and Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass Project Manager Chris Haynes.

Cabinet employees in attendance included Tim Thomas, Shannon Powers, Bill Buchanan, Chris Hettinger, and Eric Ringo.

## Public Meeting

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Demilitarization Building more compact, the revision of the site plan, and the addition of a rocket cutting machine to take the motors off the rockets before destruction.

Specific changes to the RD&D permit application include: modification of rocket shear machine to process rocket warheads without shipping and firing tubes; deletion of heated discharge conveyors from design; modification of treatment of non-contaminated rocket motors at another BGAD location or shipped for offsite treatment; modification of offgas treatment systems with a bulk oxidizer; deletion of dunnage shredding and

handling system; and deletion of the brine reduction system.

The one BGCAPP design basis that did not change in the revision was the use of neutralization followed by supercritical water oxidation (SCWO). This would include agent/energetics access, agent neutralization, energetic neutralization, aluminum precipitation/filtration, metal parts treatment, and the actual SCWO process.

The permit revision was submitted to the Kentucky Department of Environmental Protection on Sept. 26, 2006. Comments will be accepted until Jan. 30, 2007.

## BGAD Joins KY EXCEL Program

The Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD) became a master member of Kentucky Excellence in Environmental Leadership (KY EXCEL) on Sept. 28, 2006. A voluntary program sponsored by the Kentucky Department of Environmental Protection (KDEP) through the Division of Compliance Assistance (DCA), KY EXCEL offers a nonregulatory approach that allows the department to work cooperatively with all of Kentucky’s organizations

to recognize and reward the voluntary efforts conducted each year to improve the commonwealth’s environment.

Master membership is the highest level of the program. To attain it, BGAD had to demonstrate comprehensive environmental management planning, submit to an independent third-party assessment of the facility’s

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## BGAD Project Coordinator Applies for Reality Show

Shannon Powers, BGAD project coordinator for the Kentucky Department of Environmental Protection

(KDEP), applied to be a contestant on the CBS reality show *The Amazing Race*, which features teams of two

people racing around the world and performing local tasks for the chance to win \$1 million.

The application process includes a three-minute video of teammates discussing why they would be beneficial to the show, applications from both teammates, a picture of the teammates together, passport photos of each teammate, and a copy of each teammate's passport or proof that both are applying.

## BGAD Joins KY EXCEL

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compliance and commit to and report on four voluntary projects that benefit Kentucky's environment.

seedlings over 200 acres to widen the riparian zone along Muddy Creek and other tributaries; and purchasing, setting up and operating a Teemark aerosol can crusher with charcoal collection and filtration. Additionally, BGAD is implementing a business methodology to help them reach their environmental goals.

Powers' teammate is Michael Neal, a Kentucky Transportation Cabinet employee. He is the fiancé of Kelly Rodgers, Powers' friend and KDEP employee.

"I'm glad Kelly loaned me Michael, and he agreed to it. I think the gimmick of him being my friend's fiancé might give us a chance to make it on the show," said Powers. "I'm just glad he can drive a stick shift."

The depot's four voluntary projects include: implementing and conforming to ISO 14001 Environmental Management System by Sept. 29, 2009; planting of 50,000 tree

If Powers and Neal are chosen for the next round, they will travel to Atlanta to be interviewed by producers. If they pass that test, they move on to interviews in Los Angeles.