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Demil Dispatch

Recent Progress on the Blue Grass Army Depot Demilitarization Effort.

*Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection
Division of Waste Management
Hazardous Waste Branch
Blue Grass Army Depot Section*

BGCA Welcomes LTC Grice

July 11, 2012-Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection (KDEP) employees had the pleasure of attending a Change of Command Ceremony at the Armed Forces Reserve Center in Madison County.

In the ceremony led by United States Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) Acting Director Don Barclay, Lt. Col. Steven Basso relinquished command of Blue Grass Chemical Activity (BGCA) to Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Grice.

The Change of Command Ceremony is a tradition that honors the outgoing commander's tour of command while acknowledging the transfer of responsibility and authority to the incoming commander. The organization colors are passed to symbolize the transfer and reinforce the continuity of leadership.

Traditionally the unit colors served as a rally point for soldiers; now however, they are used to identify units during ceremonial formations. The Chemical Corps regimental insignia is gold and cobalt. The battle-scarred trunk symbolizes the roots of American chemical warfare as battered



BGCA Commander, LTC Christopher Grice

tree trunks were often the only point of reference chemical mortar teams had in battle during World War I. The dragon symbolizes the fire and destruction of such warfare. The lettering "ELEMENTIS REGAMUS PROELIUM" in Latin means "Let us rule the battle by means of the elements."

A tenant facility of the Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD), BGCA is responsible for the safe storage and monitoring of the chemical munitions until their destruction at the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) that is currently being built.





The cascading ventilation system ducts stretch across the control and support building.



Water will be cooled by evaporative coolers to support plant processes.



The munitions demilitarization building's final concrete placement was performed on the unpack area.



Recent concrete work has involved the hydrolysate storage area.



The SCWO (Super Critical Water Oxidation) has recently undergone factory acceptance testing before shipping to BGCAPP.



The rocket cutting and rocket shear machine have joined other BGCAPP specific equipment at the construction site.

BGAD Hosts Battle of Richmond Skirmish

Aug. 26-Blue Grass Army Depot hosted a special re-enactment of the Battle of Richmond. This year marked the 11th year the Battle of Richmond re-enactment has been observed but the first year an event was held on the depot. Infantrymen and cavalry met on the actual grounds that the battle occurred 150 years ago and commenced to skirmish.

The opposing sides stood one another down producing multiple volleys of gunfire with the Confederate cavalry performing frequent runs at the Union infantry. Slowly the Union infantry fell back, then the Confederate cavalry burst from the woods to attack their exposed left flank and the

Union surrender came soon after.

When speaking to the re-enactors it was apparent how special it was to experience living history on such hallowed ground and honor those individuals that shaped our nation's future. It is rare to end a battle on the same spot it ended 150 years ago since most sites are designated as historical parks. As a spectator it made the experience more authentic and provided a window into how the terrain could influence the course of a battle. The organizers at Blue Grass Army Depot put together a memorable event that was an excellent addition to the Battle of Richmond activities.



The Confederate cavalry discusses the day.

Paging Mr. Jagger

There's a new tour rolling through town; however, it doesn't feature Mick, it features *the MIC*. Much to their satisfaction, the Blue Grass Chemical Activity (BGCA) and Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) outreach have recently acquired a nice and shiny educational tool in the form of the Mobile Information Center (MIC). It's not new, but you can't always get what you want. The Airstream trailer, that is the MIC, was acquired from Pine Bluff Arkansas, the dirty work of refurbishing it was done in Ohio, and design implementation was performed in Maryland.

Though it was a bit torn and frayed the MIC wasn't entirely shattered. The Airstream was brought into safety compliance; logos, carpeting, panels, and an air conditioning unit were replaced producing a blank slate for the MIC design team to work with. The Chemical Materials Agency (CMA), BGCA Public Affairs, and the BGCAPP outreach team figured it wouldn't do to just paint it black. Their collaboration resulted in a respectable design that showcased the beauty of Kentucky, the BGCAPP site, as well as the inside of a munitions storage igloo.

A regular "beast of burden" the MIC packs a wealth of resources to surrounding colleges and schools. There are models, employee testimo-

nies, and information about public safety. Mock munitions on pallets are available for visitors to see how BGCA gives them shelter. There is also a button that plays the warning tones and messages of the emergency alert siren. With all these features and more, any way you look at it BGCA Public Affairs and BGCAPP outreach team will likely have a variety of opportunities to educate citizens about the demilitarization project. Can't you hear them knocking?



Part storage, part BGCAPP, all Kentucky.



Coming to a school or event near you!

Farewell

The BGAD Section would like to extend best wishes to Ryan Kirkpatrick. Ryan worked for the section as an engineer assistant for three years. She accepted a graduate assistant position with

the University of Louisville and will be performing research there as she works toward a Master of Business Administration. Good luck and may you succeed in all that you do.



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The mission of the Kentucky Division of Waste Management is to protect human health and the environment by minimizing adverse impacts on all citizens of the Commonwealth through the development of fair, equitable, and effective waste management programs.



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Photographs courtesy of ACWA, BGCAPP, CMA, and KDEP. Battle of Richmond photos courtesy of Don Morgan.