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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*

Seventeenth Annual Environmental Forum

By: Bill Lunsford

The Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection (KDEP) was privileged to attend the 2010 Seventeenth Annual Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) Environmental Forum on the United State's chemical weapons destruction program in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Members of the public, Citizen's Advisory Commission (CAC), state and federal regulators, emergency management officials, and the Department of Defense worked together in an active format to present status updates and discuss common issues related to chemical weapons destruction.

The Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives program (ACWA) is the parent organization for operations in Colorado and Kentucky. Both sites use neutralization as the primary chemical agent destruction method. However, the PCAPP site will use bio-treatment technologies for processing the chemical agent hydrolysate and the Blue Grass Chemical Agent Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) will use Super Critical Water Oxidation (SCWO).

There are four active sites managed by CMA located in Alabama, Arkansas, Oregon and Utah. The remaining CMA sites utilize incineration as the baseline technology and are scheduled to finish destruction by 2012. The 2010 Forum provided a valuable opportunity for personnel related to the ACWA projects to learn from the



KDEP Engineer Bill Lunsford visits the Deseret Chemical Depot display during the poster session.

experiences of CMA managed incineration operations.

Day one began with environmental regulator and CAC working groups. The working groups were an opportunity for peers to collaborate on current issues relevant to each program. Highlights from each session were out-briefed to the full group on day two. An evening poster session demonstrated milestones and progress at each location and presented an opportunity for attendees to engage individuals from other sites and job functions.

The second day consisted of an extensive set of

(Continued on Page 3.)

Change of Command

By: Daniel Walker

Recently Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection (KDEP) employees had the pleasure of attending two Change of Command Ceremonies at the Armed Forces Reserve Center in Madison County.



BGCA Commander LTC Basso accepts the unit colors

The first Change of Command Ceremony took place on Flag Day, June 14, 2010. Lieutenant Colonel Steven Basso assumed command of Blue Grass Chemical Activity (BGCA) from Lieutenant Colonel David Musgrave in a ceremony

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Employment and Walls Go Up

By: Ryan Kirkpatrick

On July 26, 2010, Bechtel Parson's Blue Grass received formal government approval for the Blue Grass Chemical Agent Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) completed design. This is a great step forward and has sparked a new enthusiasm for the project.

Meanwhile, construction has continued at an exciting pace and contributions to the community persist. As construction continues, BGCAPP development employs 590 workers, 51 percent of which are from the local area. Employment has continued to climb in the recent months and construction at BGCAPP has contributed over \$63 million to local firms. Madison and surrounding counties have seen \$38 million – a huge involvement in the area's economy.

The Metal Parts Treater (MPT) has been completely assembled and construction of the Munitions Demilitarization Building (MDB) is on schedule. Currently, the blast walls and foundations are the main focus. Other works in progress at BGCAPP include the utility power centers, fire water pump house, utility building, and the SCWO building foundation.

The community and involved parties celebrate BGCAPP's achievements and look on in anticipation of the great undertaking the facility will assume in years to come.



Dense rebar surrounds a thick steel door at the MDB

2010 National CSEPP Conference

By: Daniel Walker

The collective minds of hundreds of emergency preparedness professionals made Louisville, Kentucky theoretically one of the safest places to be June 22nd - 24th as it hosted the National Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) Conference as well as the Kentucky Governor's Emergency Management Workshop (GEMW).

The Call to Order was executed by the Kentucky National Guard Color Guard and Heidi Douglas performed the National Anthem. Richard Serino, Deputy Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was on hand as the keynote speaker and emphasized the importance of fostering strong relationships between the emergency management communities and citizens.

All hands luncheons provided informative presentations for both days. On the first day Nancy Dragani, Director of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (EMA) presented hazards that Ohio has faced in recent history and the unique parameters involved when responding to each situation. Also discussed were the various levels of partnership involved from citizen, local, state, to federal and how important cooperation is at every level to ensure success in the face of disaster. Margaret Riggs, Senior Epidemiologist for the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) presented on

the second day with a first hand account of responding to the catastrophic January earthquakes in Haiti and the aid provided. Photographs and stories illustrated the challenges encountered by responders such as sanitation issues, cultural differences, and lack of shelter.

A variety of breakout sessions were available to help enhance the efficiency of the participants' emergency management program. Participants were updated on the status of select projects, exchanged lessons learned, and had hands-on-experience with technological advances relevant to emergency management. Time was also provided to visit the various vendor booths present and network with others.

The final session consisted of an "Interactive Catastrophic Preparedness Seminar" focused on a hypothetical earthquake event at the New Madrid Fault. Productive brainstorming and question/answer sessions resulted in various viewpoints and ideas for efficiently responding to a severe earthquake event.

An awards ceremony was held at the end of the conference to recognize those in the CSEPP and EMA communities for their service and extraordinary efforts in keeping their communities safe. This was the first year the CSEPP Conference and GEMW were held concurrently and it was agreed to be a success.

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Madison County EMA Director Carl Richards receives the Program Manager's Award for Superior Service.

Change of Command (Cont)

lead by United States Army Chemical Materials Agency Director Conrad Whyne.

The second Change of Command Ceremony was performed July 13, 2010. Colonel Joseph Tirone relinquished command of Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD) to Colonel Brian Rogers in a ceremony lead by Brigadier General Larry Wyche, Commanding General of the United States Army Joint Munitions Command.

The Change of Command Ceremony is a tradition honoring 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.

The senior enlisted Soldier in the organization passes the colors to the current Commander, who then passes the colors to the Commander of the organization's higher headquarters to symbolize the release of authority, the colors are then passed to the incoming Commander who then accepts the responsibilities of command. The colors are then passed from the new Commander to the senior enlisted Soldier beginning his tour of duty as Commander.



BGAD Commander Col. Brian Rogers

During the ceremonies, red roses were presented to the outgoing Commander's wife, to symbolize her love and support during the tour of command, and yellow roses were pre-

sented to the incoming Commander's wife, to welcome her to the unit.

Located in Madison County Kentucky BGAD provides logistic support to the joint warfighter by receiving, storing, servicing, and shipping an array of munitions as well as producing equipment components essential to enhancing the warfighter's capability. BGCA is a tenant facility of BGAD responsible for the safe storage and monitoring of the chemical munitions until their destruction at the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) being built.

Environmental Forum (Cont)

presentations and dialogue on explosive detonation technology, secondary waste processing, first-of-a-kind equipment, and closure operations. A lunchtime slideshow was presented concerning wildlife conservation at the army installations and centered on the habitat project for the Western Burrowing Owl at the Umatilla, Oregon Depot.

The Pueblo Chemical Agent Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) site visit was an impressive end to the Forum's activities on day three. Some systems such as portions of the electrical power supply are already being turned over to systemization and start-up groups. Much of the equipment such as neutralization reactors and thermal treatment units are installed while the bio-treatment areas are awaiting major components. PCAPP construction is scheduled to be 85 percent complete by the end of 2010.



Louisville, KY hosted the 2010 National CSEPP Conference

*Kentucky Department for
Environmental Protection*

Blue Grass Army Depot Section
200 Fair Oaks Lane
Frankfort KY 40601

Phone: 502-564-6716 ext. 4507

Web: www.waste.ky.gov

E-mail: daniel.walker@ky.gov

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Aerial photo of the BGCAPP site, July 2010