

**BASE VISIT REPORT**  
**UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT**

**MAY 26, 2005**

**LEAD COMMISSIONER:** Commissioner Philip E. Coyle

**ACCOMPANYING COMMISSIONER:** Commissioner James H. Bilbray

**COMMISSION STAFF:** Mr. George Delgado, Ms. Elizabeth Bieri

**LIST OF ATTENDEES:** see attached

**BASE'S PRESENT MISSION:**

The Umatilla Chemical Depot opened in 1941. The depot's mission was to store and maintain a variety of military items, from blankets to ammunition. The depot took on its chemical weapons storage mission in 1962. From 1990 to 1994 the facility reorganized in preparation for eventual closure, shipping all conventional ammunition and supplies to other installations. Today, the chemical weapons are the only items still stored at the depot.

The Umatilla Chemical Depot is one of eight Army installations in the U.S. that currently store chemical weapons. The chemical weapons stored at the depot consist of various munitions and ton containers, containing GB or VX nerve agents or HD blister agent. The Army is working in partnership with Oregon state and local government agencies, as well as federal agencies like the Environmental Protection Agency and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to safeguard the local community and protect the environment as it stores and disposes of these chemical weapons.

The Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility is designed for the sole purpose of destroying the chemical weapons stored at the Umatilla Chemical Depot. The facility was completed in 2001, and the Army began weapons disposal in 2004. The facility uses high-temperature incineration technology to destroy weapons, a technology employed by the Army for more than a decade, for disposing of more than a quarter of the nation's original chemical weapons.

**SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RECOMMENDATION:**

Close Umatilla Chemical Depot, OR.

Library Routing Slip 2005 BRAC Commission Materials

Title of Item: Base Visit Report

Installation or Community: Umatilla Chemical Depot

Source: Commission Generated

Certified Material? yes  no

Analyst / Provider: George Delgado Date Received: 7/19/05

### **SECRETARY OF DEFENSE JUSTIFICATION:**

There is no additional chemical demilitarization workload slated to go to Umatilla Chemical Depot. The projected date for completion of its existing workload is the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2011. There is no further use for Umatilla Chemical Depot.

### **MAIN FACILITIES REVIEWED :**

The entire depot was reviewed, including administrative, support, storage, chemical disposal plant, and surrounding land.

### **KEY ISSUES IDENTIFIED**

1. Potential delay of chemical demilitarization mission may extend closure date beyond six-year period of BRAC actions. As of May 2005, the chemical demilitarization mission has only accomplished 14,000 of 30,000 planned rockets to be destroyed. Trial agent burns that will determine destruction rates and schedules are also not yet completed or verified by the state of Oregon. Based on past history with the closure of other demilitarization sites, Umatilla projects two to three years to tear down the chemical destruction facility after completion of the demilitarization mission.
2. Umatilla has no other mission than chemical demilitarization; incineration is taking longer and costing more.
3. No other mission that could generate costs savings is slated for this installation.
4. Validity of cost savings particularly projected savings related to recapitalization costs.
5. Facility wants to be closed under BRAC so resources will be available for site personnel relocation and training, for the community to continue planning for reuse, and for the environmental cleanup of the installation.
6. State and community environmental concerns from Oregon and Washington.
7. Safety concerns, a recent accidental ignition of a rocket's propellant caused the temporary shutdown of the demilitarization operation.
8. Expected claim of the entire site from the local Confederation of Indian tribes.
9. BRAC recommendation was built using FY03 baseline data, personnel and environmental figures have changed since then. Military guard force has been civilianized. Current staffing levels provided by the depot as of 5/25/05 are – 12 military and 404 civilian employees. There are also 800 contract personnel who work at the chemical demilitarization facility that will be released upon completion of the chemical demilitarization contract.

### **INSTALLATION CONCERNS RAISED**

1. Depot has been planning for closure since the initial 1988 BRAC realignment of the site.
2. Installation wants to be closed through the BRAC process so that funds will be available for the site personnel and community.
3. Disposal of some existing facilities and land in response to the 1988 BRAC realignment stopped after 9/11 due to increased security requirements for the storage and disposal of

chemical weapons. Facilities and land that could have been disposed of now became part of the protective buffer around the storage and chemical disposal facilities.

**COMMUNITY CONCERNS RAISED:**

There was no representation from the community during the site visit with staff or Commissioners. The installation characterized community concerns as noted above.

**REQUESTS FOR STAFF AS A RESULT OF VISIT:**

1. Obtain a new estimated timeline for completion of the chemical demilitarization mission from the facility. Mission completion could be delayed beyond the BRAC 6 year time period. (This is a question that requires an inquiry to the BRAC legal staff on inclusion/exclusion of a proposed for closure site if its mission extends beyond the BRAC 6 year timeframe.)
2. Further examine cost information, particularly the recapitalization cost savings in COBRA for validity.

## Umatilla Chemical Depot (UMCD) POINTS OF CONTACT

LTC David "Doc" Holliday	<a href="mailto:david.holliday@umcd.army.mil">david.holliday@umcd.army.mil</a>	541-564-5200	Commander, UMCD
Mr. Bill Milbrodt	<a href="mailto:william.milbrodt@umcd.army.mil">william.milbrodt@umcd.army.mil</a>	541-564-5200	Chief of Staff
Mr. Martin Yakawich	<a href="mailto:martin.yakawich@umcd.army.mil">martin.yakawich@umcd.army.mil</a>	541-563-5200	Project Management Engineer
Ms. Mary Binder	<a href="mailto:mary.binder@umcd.army.mil">mary.binder@umcd.army.mil</a>	541-564-5312	Public Affairs Officer
Mr. Larry Meeks	<a href="mailto:larry.meeks@umcd.army.mil">larry.meeks@umcd.army.mil</a>	541-564-5341	Director, Public Works
Ms. Mary Hensal	<a href="mailto:mary.hensal@umcd.army.mil">mary.hensal@umcd.army.mil</a>	541-564-5220	Director, Chemical Operations
Mr. Wendell Wrzesinski	<a href="mailto:wendell.wrzesinski@us.army.mil">wendell.wrzesinski@us.army.mil</a>	541-564-7053	Deputy, Site Director
Mr. Mark Daugherty	<a href="mailto:mark.daugherty@umcd.army.mil">mark.daugherty@umcd.army.mil</a>	541-564-5294	BRAC Coordinator
Ms. Linda Shelly	<a href="mailto:linda.shelly@umcd.army.mil">linda.shelly@umcd.army.mil</a>	541-564-5360	Protocol
Ms. Larina Cissna	<a href="mailto:larina.cissna@umcd.army.mil">larina.cissna@umcd.army.mil</a>	541-564-5418	Public Affairs Assistant
Mr. Jim Hackett	<a href="mailto:james.hackett@umcd.army.mil">james.hackett@umcd.army.mil</a>	541-564-5418	Public Affairs
Mr. Doug Hamrick	<a href="mailto:doug.hamrick@wgint.com">doug.hamrick@wgint.com</a>	541-564-7110	Project General Manager
Mr. Don Gillis	<a href="mailto:don.gillis@umcd.army.mil">don.gillis@umcd.army.mil</a>	541-564-5420	Environmental Specialist
Mr. James Hasty	<a href="mailto:james.hasty@umcd.army.mil">james.hasty@umcd.army.mil</a>	541-564-5486	Chemical Surety Specialist
Mr. Phil Ferguson	<a href="mailto:phillip.ferguson@umcd.army.mil">phillip.ferguson@umcd.army.mil</a>	541-564-5390	Director of Compliance Sustainment
Mr. Ron Haertling	<a href="mailto:ronald.haertling@umcd.army.mil">ronald.haertling@umcd.army.mil</a>	541-564-5258	Chief of the Uniformed Guard Force