

PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT

COLORADO

LOCATION

Pueblo Chemical Depot is located in southern Colorado and is surrounded entirely by Pueblo County. The Depot is approximately 15 miles east of Pueblo, Colorado, and approximately 40 miles south of Colorado Springs, Colorado. Just east of the first range of the Rocky Mountains, the Depot consists of short grass prairie of the Great Plains. Roughly rectangular in shape, the Depot is surrounded by privately owned grazing land consisting of short grass prairie. To the south and southeast are the small communities of Avondale and Boone. The Arkansas River is approximately two miles south of the Depot. Local weather is dry (less than 15 inches precipitation per year), with an average annual temperature of approximately 52 degrees F.

SIZE

Acres: 23,121

Square Footage of Buildings: 6,060,412 SF

Plant Replacement Value: \$1,557,107,000

HISTORY

Construction of the Pueblo Ordnance Depot began in February 1942, with the first carload of ammunition received in August 1942. Although originally planned for the storage and supply of ammunition, almost immediately facilities were expanded to receive, store, and issue general supplies to support World War II. In 1946, Pueblo was assigned the mission of maintaining and overhauling artillery, fire control, and optical equipment. Two years later, ammunition renovation and demilitarization were added to that mission. During the Korean War, shipments of general supplies and ammunition increased, and the Depot reached its highest civilian strength of nearly 8,000 employees. Missile maintenance was added to the Depot's mission in the 1950s and in 1962, the Depot was renamed Pueblo Army Depot.

The missile maintenance mission at Pueblo, with the exception of maintenance of the Pershing missile, was transferred to Letterkenny Army Depot in 1974. In 1976, Pueblo was given Depot activity status and assigned to the Tooele Army Depot Complex. In December 1987, the United States and the then-Soviet Union entered into the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty. Pueblo was assigned to do disassembly and elimination. Pueblo completed its INF and Pershing mission in May 1991. Pueblo Depot Activity was in the forefront of support to Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm, shipping a large part of contingency stocks, in addition to ammunition and supplies, to Southwest Asia.

The Base Realignment and Closure Commission designated the Depot for realignment in 1988. The installation was renamed the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot in 1996, with the current mission of safe, secure storage of chemical weapons while setting conditions to return Depot land and facilities to the Pueblo Community.

MISSIONS

Pueblo Chemical Depot is one of several Army storage facilities for the nation's chemical weapons stockpile. The Depot's current mission is the safe, secure storage of chemical weapons, while setting the conditions to return Depot property to the Pueblo community. The Depot's primary tenant, the Program Manager Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives, has the mission to destroy the chemical weapons stockpile by 2012. The Depot supports this mission, along with the environmental cleanup of Depot property, as required under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. The Depot currently is subject to several compliance orders for environmental cleanup by the State of Colorado. Environmental cleanup is projected to be complete by 2015, with long term requirements for monitoring, maintenance, and operation of environmental treatment systems. The Depot has submitted to higher headquarters a request for declaration of excess of approximately 20,000 acres (all property except that required for chemical weapons storage and the demilitarization plant).

MAJOR UNITS/TENANTS

Program Manager Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives
Pueblo Development Authority (Local Reuse Authority)

POPULATION

	Authorized
Military	167
Civilian	181
Contractor	49
Student	0
Other	53
TOTAL	450