

U.S. ARMY UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT

OREGON

LOCATION

U.S. Army Umatilla Chemical Depot is situated in the north-central part of the State of Oregon in the United States' Pacific Northwest. The installation is bisected by two counties – Morrow on the west; Umatilla on the east. The closest large major city to the installation is Portland, Ore., about 187 miles to the west on interstate I-84. Seattle, Wash., is 280 miles to the northwest. About 37 miles to the east along I-84 is Pendleton, Ore., with a population of 16,000. The State of Washington is about 3 miles north of the installation's boundary where the Columbia River acts as the state border. On the installation's eastern boundary is I-82, which travels north from I-84. The Tri-Cities, Wash., – Pasco, Kennewick and Richland with a population of more than 200,000 – is 35 miles to the north. The U.S. Department of Energy's Hanford Nuclear Reservation borders Richland, along the Columbia River. There are 3 airports in a 40-mile radius. The Tri-Cities Airport, Pasco, serves several airlines with connections for both national and international flights. It can accommodate most civilian and military aircraft. The Eastern Oregon Regional Airport in Pendleton serves one airline with connections for both national and international flights. It can also accommodate most civilian and military aircraft. Hermiston, Ore., just east of the installation, has a population of 15,000 and a small commuter airport that can accommodate up to small business jets. To the east, 10 miles of the installation, is the Hinkle rail yard servicing the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) – the largest classification yard west of Omaha, Neb. UPRR has a main line running east/west along the installation's southern boundary. It has capabilities to traverse onto the installation and access all the storage areas. The Columbia River to the north, flowing westerly to Portland and then to the Pacific Ocean, handles barge traffic to other West Coast ports and around the world. The Army Corps of Engineers' McNary Dam on the Columbia River is about 6.5 miles east/northeast of the installation's boundary. This dam, and others along the Columbia River, has navigational locks for shipping and supplies part of the regions electrical power. Both Umatilla and Morrow counties can ship water-borne containers to both national and international ports.

SIZE

Acres: 19,729

Square Footage of Buildings: 3,709,022 SF

Plant Placement Value: \$1,305,244,000

HISTORY

In 1940 the Army selected a 16,000 acre plot of northeastern Oregon sage land for a new arsenal. Construction work began in January 1941, and 10 months later on October 14,

officials dedicated the depot and named it for the Umatilla Indian tribe. Thirty-five million dollars and 7,000 workers transformed the prairie site into a complex of warehouses, munitions magazines, shops and office buildings connected by a web of paved roads and railroad tracks. The first shipment of munitions arrived on Oct. 27, 1941. Six weeks later after the Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor, depot workers went on round-the-clock shifts to ship, receive, store and care for items. During its now more than 60-year history, Umatilla grew to almost 20,000 acres and continued to support other war efforts, including the Korean Conflict, Vietnam, Grenada, Panama and Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm. The depot shipped more than 10,000 tons of conventional ammunition during the first 18 days of Desert Storm and shipped 19,371 tons in 223 shipments before the conflict ended. Besides its conventional ammunition and general supply missions, the depot received a new mission in 1962 – receiving and storing chemical agent munitions and bulk containers. Between 1962 and 1969, the depot received various types of munitions and bulk containers containing the chemical nerve agents GB and VX, and blister agent HD. In 1988 the depot was identified for realignment by the Base Realignment and Closure Act. Therefore, during the early 1990s, depot workers shipped all the conventional ammunition and general supplies to other U.S. depots and installations. Today, the depot’s remaining mission is to safely store and destroy its chemical agent stockpile. In June 1997, construction started on the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility and was substantially completed in August 2001. Systemization startup was completed and in September 2004 the first chemical weapon was destroyed. Disposal operations are projected to be completed by 2011.

MISSION

Provide a safe, secure and environmentally sound domain for the storage and disposal of the chemical weapons stockpile while concurrently providing maximum protection to our employees, the public and environment. Provide common support and installation management oversight to installation organizations.

MAJOR UNITS/TENANTS

Occupational Health Clinic, Madigan Army Medical Center (MAMC), Ft. Lewis, Wash.
 Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, Program Manager for the Elimination of Chemical Weapons (PMECW), operated by Washington Group International (WGI), Boise, Idaho

POPULATION

	Authorized
Military	127
Civilian	434
Contractor	656
Student	0
Other	0
TOTAL	1,217