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# THE MEMPHIS DEPOT TENNESSEE

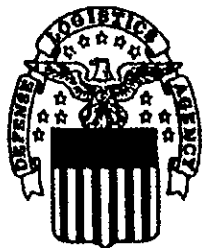
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## ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD COVER SHEET

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Command Affairs Officer

## **CWM Removal Action Continues at Dunn Field**

**MEMPHIS, TENN.** – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and its contractors have completed the first phase (Site 1) of the Chemical Warfare Materiel (CWM) removal project at Dunn Field. In addition, the team began work earlier this month on the second phase (Site 24-A) which historical records and field investigations have identified as the 1946 burial location for 29 empty bomb casings.

To date, excavation at Site 24-A has revealed four empty 500-kg bomb casings and one empty 250-kg bomb casing, which have been identified as being consistent with the historical records. The bomb casings were emptied and the bursting charges were removed prior to disposal. No chemical warfare agent has been detected on the empty bomb casings or in the surrounding soil. The casings have been removed from the ground and will be sent to an off-site disposal location. Air monitoring results confirm that there have been no releases into the environment.

This finding confirms the progress of the operation and the accuracy of the historical records and field investigation. During a thorough excavation at Site 1 that was completed August 28, the CWM team was successful in locating and removing chemical warfare service materials buried in the 1950s, including a box containing 24 empty bottles that would have been used in the production of Chemical Agent Identification Sets (CAIS). The unused bottles were packed in their original box and did not contain any traces of chemical warfare agent. After testing was completed, the bottles were removed to U.S. government archives.

Workers at Site 1 also removed approximately 100,000 small vials containing sodium hydroxide pills, identified as being from the M-9 Chemical Agent Detection Kit. The vials, which were used by soldiers to detect chemicals in vapor form, were removed for safe, offsite disposal.

More than 856 cubic yards of soil were excavated and carefully sifted under controlled conditions to locate and remove all disposed materials at this location. This volume of soil is equivalent to approximately 172,900 one-gallon pails. No chemical warfare agent was found at Site 1.

“More time was spent at the first site than we estimated in our initial schedule,” said Clyde Hunt, Onsite Coordinator for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. “This was due to the volume of items that were removed, and the need to carefully sift more soil than we anticipated, combined with the impact of the summer heat on workers inside the vapor containment structure.”

The CWM team will continue working at Site 24-A until the site is cleared of disposed material and soil testing is complete.

Work is also scheduled to begin in October 2000 at Site 24-B, the third and final phase of the removal action at Dunn Field. Historical records and geophysical testing have identified this as the disposal site where the bomb casings were drained, and the contents were neutralized and buried.

A second, larger Vapor Containment Structure (VCS) will be erected at Dunn Field by mid-October, to optimize the progress of the removal action at the remaining two sites. The additional VCS will be placed over Site 24-B (the neutralization pits) to allow work to progress at both sites concurrently with the same high levels of safety. The second VCS will be an A-frame, tent-like structure measuring 82 ft. wide X 100 ft. long, with a 13-ft. sidewall and a 26-ft. ceiling.

Additional trained workers will also be employed to work concurrently at both sites, optimizing the progress made at both sites. Air quality monitoring will continue at both locations throughout the project, providing maximum protection for the workers and the community.

The project is scheduled to continue through May 2001, according to a presentation made Thursday night to the community at the Memphis Depot Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting.

Weekly CWM briefings are held in the Community Outreach Room at the Defense Logistics Agency's former Memphis Depot Main Installation, each Wednesday at 10:00 a.m., to update the community on the progress being made at Dunn Field. For more information on these briefings, phone (901) 544-0613.

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