





# THE MEMPHIS DEPOT TENNESSEE

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## ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD COVER SHEET

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### CWM Removal Action Completed at Dunn Field

**MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE – May 17, 2001.** The Memphis Depot, the U S Army Corps of Engineers and their contractors announced today that the chemical warfare materiel (CWM) removal action at the Defense Logistics Agency's Dunn Field is now completed and all excavated soils and recovered materials have been removed from the site.

Excavation at Site #1, located at the northwest section of Dunn Field, began on May 4, 2000, and was completed August 28, 2000. Approximately 125,000 small vials containing sodium hydroxide pills, identified as being from the M-9 Chemical Agent Identification Set (CAIS), were removed from this site. The vials were used by soldiers to detect chemicals in vapor form. Empty 3.5 oz. glass bottles were also found in a cardboard storage box at Site #1. These bottles were identified as components of the CAIS K941 Toxic Gas Set, M-1, which was used to train soldiers on the proper procedures for removing mustard agent from terrain and equipment.

Excavation at Site #24A began on September 6, 2000, and was completed November 8, 2000. As indicated by the historical records, a total of 29 empty bomb casings were buried at this site in 1946. The CWM team positively identified the 29 casings, including 25 empty 500-kg casings and four empty 250-kg casings. No chemical warfare agent was detected on the empty bomb casings, and air-monitoring results confirmed that there were no releases into the environment.

The final phase of the CWM removal action began at Site #24B on November 28, 2000, and was completed March 12, 2001. Historical records and geophysical testing identified this as the disposal site where the bomb casings were drained, and the contents were neutralized and buried. Samples taken from the soil within the pit indicated low levels of mustard at a depth of approximately 8.5 feet, which confirmed the site as being the neutralization pit.

Following the excavation, additional testing was conducted along the sides and bottom of the pit, which confirmed that all affected soil has been removed and the site is free of mustard and CWM byproducts.

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A scientific test known as a Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) analysis was conducted on all excavated soil at Dunn Field to determine the appropriate method of treatment and disposal. The Base Realignment and Cleanup Team (BCT), including representatives from Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), approved a Transportation and Disposal Plan for all soils and excavated materials. Based on this plan, all CWM related materials have been removed from the site to approved waste management facilities outside the state of Tennessee.

All excavation and removal activities took place inside two vapor containment structures erected at Dunn Field. These tent-like structures are designed to contain any material uncovered and to filter the air during the excavation to provide maximum protection for the community and the workers.

To mark the closure of the CWM project at Dunn Field, a presentation will be made during the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting on Thursday, May 17 at 6:00 p.m. at Alcy Elementary School, 1750 Alcy Road. The RAB meeting is open to all members of the community.

*The Defense Logistics Agency provides supply support, and technical and logistics services to the military services and to several civilian agencies. Headquartered at Fort Belvoir, Va., DLA is the one source for nearly every consumable item, whether for combat readiness, emergency preparedness or day-to-day operations.*

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