

## From the Acting Army Acquisition Executive

# U.S. Army Success Stories



I am always pleased by the significant number of success stories within the acquisition, logistics, and technology (AL&T) community. We have a vast number of programs that range from developing transformational technologies for our warfighters to destroying stockpiled chemical weapons for the safety of the American public. I would like to share with you some of our recent successes.

Our Soldiers at war need efficient, reliable, mobile power sources that are available anywhere and anytime for mission success. The Army, in partnership with its Army Venture Capital Initiative (AVCI), OnPoint, has produced the world's first compact militarized methanol fuel cell, which can produce 25 watts average energy for 12 hours or enough to run a laptop for that same period of time. The device, a product of UltraCell Corp., has been successfully tested by Soldiers in controlled exercises at Fort Polk, LA, and Fort Dix, NJ.

The Army's Communications-Electronics Research, Development, and Engineering Center (CERDEC) discovered UltraCell as a result of a Broad Agency Announcement and contracted with the company to develop the technology for \$4 million. At the same time, AVCI invested in UltraCell and, as a result, leveraged an additional \$25 million investment of private sector venture capital funds from a variety of sources. This unique partnership significantly reduced the time and costs of device development, as well as produced a viable company with a manufacturing capability. Let me explain.

The traditional approach to developing this technology would have cost at least \$10 million over 8 years just to produce a prototype. This unique partnership enabled the \$4 million contract through CERDEC, along with its technical expertise, testing facilities, and validation capabilities, to produce the same technology with UltraCell in just 4 years and a viable business with a complete manufacturing capability. While this is just one data point, it does provide direct evidence that this type of partnership works. An important factor in our success is having a product for the military early on in its development that has component technologies and device characteristics with significant potential for revenue generation in the commercial world.

In another important area within our responsibility, the U.S. remains the world's leader in safely destroying stockpiled chemical weapons covered by the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). As of May 2008, 16,405 U.S. tons, or 53.6 percent of the chemical stockpile, have been destroyed by the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) through its chemical agent disposal facilities and Non-Stockpile Chemical Material Project. In 2007, these programs enabled the U.S. to meet the CWC milestones for complete destruction of former production facilities and 45 percent of chemical agent disposal months ahead of schedule. Early in 2008, CMA reached another milestone with the destruction of the last VX rocket scheduled for disposal at its destruction facilities, eliminating the largest single source of risk to the local communities where it had been stored.

Overall, we've completed the destruction of all chemical agents stored at Johnston Island in the South Pacific and at Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD.

CMA currently operates facilities at Anniston, AL; Newport, IN; Pine Bluff, AR; Tooele, UT; and Umatilla, OR. CMA also safely stores chemical munitions at Pueblo, CO, and Blue Grass, KY, which are destined for destruction under the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives program.

Our mission is to continue to ensure worker and community safety and to protect the environment while destroying the remaining U.S. stockpile of chemical weapons. Following are highlights of the progress being made.

The Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ANCDF) has destroyed 45.9 percent of chemical agent stored at the Anniston Chemical Activity. ANCDF recently completed the destruction of all 139,581 VX-filled projectiles and is preparing to destroy VX land mines, the last of the VX-filled munitions stored onsite.

The Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (NECDF) has neutralized 92.1 percent and received certificates of destruction for 83.6 percent of the chemical agent stored at the Newport Chemical Depot. Destruction credit at Newport is not claimed until the wastewater from the neutralization process is destroyed. NECDF plans to complete the disposal of all chemical agent later this year.

The Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (PBCDF) has destroyed 15.5 percent of the chemical agent stored by the Pine Bluff Chemical Activity. PBCDF recently met the 50 percent milestone on its current campaign to destroy VX-filled land mines, the last of the nerve agent munitions originally stored at Pine Bluff.

The Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) has destroyed 71.2 percent of the chemical agent stored at the Deseret Chemical Depot. TOCDF has completely eliminated its stores of nerve agent filled munitions and is diligently progressing through the remaining stores of mustard agent.

The Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility has destroyed 33.8 percent of the chemical agent stored at the Umatilla Chemical Depot. Having completed the destruction of VX-filled rockets, Umatilla is actively destroying VX-filled projectiles.

Lastly, this issue of *Army AL&T Magazine* showcases the U.S. Army Sustainment Command (ASC) and its integral link to current and future logistics missions. ASC, a U.S. Army Materiel Command major subordinate command, with 76 worldwide locations, delivers support to our warfighters everywhere and provides a direct line for their feedback that enables the Army to make needed improvements in weapon systems and equipment as quickly as possible. The many successes that ASC has achieved in a relatively short period of time are truly remarkable, and I'm sure you'll enjoy reading about them.

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