

b. The disposal process varied depending on the source of the chemical agent due to the different requirements for munition disassembly, agent draining, explosives destruction and metal parts decontamination. However, the same chemical agent destruction process was used in all cases. In the process, aqueous sodium hydroxide was combined with the GB in a mixing tee, or "eductor." The brine formed in the eductor was then transferred to one of two 13 cubic meter stirred reactors. Each reactor was charged with approximately 11 cubic meters of brine solution. The brine solution was continuously stirred while being recirculated through the reactors until the neutralization reaction was completed. Heat was removed from the reactors by circulating water through external cooling jackets. Sampling stations were provided for testing to ensure that all the GB had been destroyed. The brine was then divided using the spray dryers and the resulting salt was packaged and shipped to an approved landfill.

c. M34 Cluster Bombs. The M125 bomblets were removed from the M34 cluster bombs using a programmed manipulator called a versatran. They were then placed in a staking machine to render the fuze safe. The bomblets were then punched and the agent was allowed to drain into a collection tank. The drained bomblets were then weighed to verify the quantity of residual agent, transferred through a caustic dip tank to remove the residual agent and then sheared to expose the explosive burster prior to being fed to the deactivation furnace. A rotary kiln deactivation furnace was used to incinerate all explosive components contained in the drained M-125 bomblets. A blast attenuation duct was used to protect the PAS in the event a detonation occurred in the deactivation furnace. The metal parts were discharged to a conveyor which transferred them to the decontamination furnace. An endless woven steel conveyor was used to transport the bomblets through the decontamination furnace.

d. Underground Storage Tanks. The equipment and procedures for neutralizing the GB from the underground storage tanks were essentially those utilized for the GB from the M34 Cluster Bombs. The primary modification was the addition of a dual filter bank to remove any solids in the GB pumped from the underground-storage tanks. The drained tanks were left in place and are scheduled for eventual clean-up and destruction.

e. Ton Containers. Ton containers were vacuum drained through eduction tubes in a manner similar to that used for the Mustard-filled ton containers. After being drained, they were delivered to a wash booth where they were filled with aqueous caustic to neutralize the residual GB in the ton container. The resulting brine was then drained and the external surfaces of the ton containers were decontaminated with clean caustic solution. The pedestal hearth furnaces used for Phase I were used to thermally decontaminate the ton containers.

f. Honest John Warheads. Each Warhead was manually stripped of its vapor-proof bag, nose cone, burster charges and inert parts.