

ILLUSTRATIVE ON-SITE INSPECTION PROCEDURES FOR
VERIFICATION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION

I. Introduction

Procedures for destruction of chemical weapons, and for verification of the destruction, have been discussed in general terms in a number of working papers. A recent United States paper (CD/CW/CTC 28; 11 January 1983) contains United States views on general verification procedures.

However, the course of the negotiations has shown that a common approach to verification of stockpile destruction cannot be achieved through a discussion of concepts and general principles alone. It is necessary to understand how the approaches proposed would actually be carried out in practice.

The purpose of this paper is to facilitate further negotiations by illustrating in concrete terms how the United States approach to verification of stockpile destruction would work. For the purposes of illustration, we have chosen a specific destruction facility already operating in the United States, the Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System (CAMDS). The paper outlines possible verification measures for this facility.

The specific procedures outlined here are preliminary, illustrative and tailored to a specific facility. While the concepts and general principles would be applicable to any facility, the actual procedures must take into account both the characteristics of a facility and of the items being destroyed. Thus, the procedures employed at another facility could be somewhat different.

II. Over-all description of the Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System (CAMDS)

The Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System (CAMDS) is an industrial-size prototype facility for destruction of chemical weapons and storage containers filled with mustard agent or the nerve agents GB or VX. The facility is located on the grounds of Tooele Army Depot; the site is approximately 45 road miles south-west of Salt Lake City, Utah.

CAMDS, which began toxic operations in September 1979, is being used to develop and demonstrate technology for demilitarization of toxic chemical munitions and to obtain technical data from which other similar plants can be designed and built.

Current activities are devoted to completion of a Technical Data Package for use in the design and construction of the first full-scale United States disposal facility, to be located at Johnston Atoll in the Pacific. This planned facility, which might begin operations in the late 1980s, would have a destruction capacity two-to-five times greater than CAMDS.