

# CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/CW/WP.381  
14 February 1992

Original: ENGLISH

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Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

### A Report on the U.S. Chemical Weapons (CW) Destruction Experience at Rocky Mountain Arsenal, Colorado

(Presented at the meeting of the Technical Experts on CW  
Destruction, Geneva, 7-11 October 1991)

#### 1. Introduction

The U.S. has been actively destroying CW in industrial scale facilities designed to meet applicable safety and environmental standards since 1972. Rocky Mountain Arsenal (RMA), which is located adjacent to Denver, Colorado, was the site of the first industrial scale CW destruction facility built in the U.S. RMA engaged in three CW destruction programs from 1972 through 1983.

#### 2. General Overview

Three CW destruction programs were conducted at RMA:

(1) Project Eagle Phase I was conducted from August 1972 through February 1974 and destroyed 2,586 metric tonnes of the blister agent Mustard (H/HD) and 3,407 ton containers;

(2) Project Eagle Phase II (Expanded) was conducted from October 1973 through October 1976 and destroyed 3,714 metric tonnes of nerve agent Sarin (GB), as well as 2,422 ton containers, 59,996 M139 Bomblets contained in 106 Honest John Warheads and 21,114 M34 Cluster Bombs, each containing 76 GB-filled M125 bomblets; and

(3) Chemical Agent Identification Set (CAIS) Disposal Program was conducted from May 1981 through December 1982 and destroyed 17 metric tonnes of chemical agents contained in 21,458 CAIS's. Chemical agents destroyed included HD, GB Lewisite (L), Cyanogen Chloride (CK) and Phosgene (CG).

Incineration was used to destroy the Mustard in Project Eagle Phase I because approximately 3,000 tonnes of Mustard had been previously incinerated at RMA. The Army did not have comparable GB