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SUMMARY OF MAJOR EVENTS and PROBLEMS

United States Army Chemical Corps (U)

FISCAL YEARS 1961 - 1962

JUNE 1962

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of Brig. Gen. Lloyd E. Fellenz, Commanding General, Materiel Command, and Col. James H. Batte, Commanding Officer, Engineering Command, the Chief Chemical Officer reassigned the Materiel Command responsibilities to Engineering Command.⁶⁸ Installations Branch, Logistics Division, OCCm10, continued to provide coordination and staff support for the construction and facilities management programs. Materiel Command and Engineering Command retained shared responsibilities for industrial construction using Procurement of Equipment and Missiles, Army (PEMA) funds, and for reserve plants.⁶⁹ Engineering Command adopted the management practice of decentralizing operations, whenever possible, to the individual installations. The Engineering Command staff was to concentrate on management and coordination work, especially in connection with installation master planning.⁷⁰ There was no opportunity to evaluate this change since further change was in prospect as a result of Army reorganization.

Industrial Facilities⁷¹

(U) Fiscal years 1961 and 1962 were years of great activity in the construction of industrial facilities. Construction was completed or inaugurated on the Newport Chemical Plant, on munitions assembly and filling lines at plants

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OCCm10 GO 70, 21 Dec 61.

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Quart Hist Rpt, MATCOM, Jan - Mar 62.

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Interv, Hist Off with Mr Robert D. Henderson, ENCOM, 5 Apr 62.

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See R&E, CmlC Program, FY 1961, p 89, and CBR Program, FY 62, p 101, for summaries of CmlC industrial facilities and other real property under commercial lease.

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and arsenals, and on pilot production facilities at Pine Bluff Arsenal.⁷² One particularly important auxiliary industrial facility, the contaminated waste deep well and treatment facility at Rocky Mountain Arsenal, was completed early in FY 1962. This well was drilled to a depth safely below water-bearing strata. The liquid contaminated wastes from manufacturing processes are injected under pressure. The operation which was initiated on 8 March 1962 was a highly successful one, and, in the fourth quarter of FY 1962 alone, 24,000,000 gallons of wastes were injected. The well proved to have a greater capacity than anticipated, and the 260 gallon per minute injection rate was to be stepped up with the installation of new pumps in FY 1963.⁷³

(U) The attempt to dispose of a large part of the real estate at the Chemical Corps Marshall Plant at Natrium, West Virginia, created a problem when the General Services Administration refused to accept the property for disposal when the provision was made that the purchaser must move the hexachlorethane plant from the property to be sold to a Chemical Corps Arsenal.⁷⁴ Since no solution could be found for this problem, the Chemical Corps withdrew the excessing action pending a review of the mobilization

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(1) See R&E, CmlC Program, FY 61, pp 104 - 07, and CBR Program, FY 62, pp 135 - 42 for project titles and funding information. (2) Also see below, Chap IV, for information on production or production forecast at these facilities.

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(1) Interv, Hist Off with Mr Joseph D. Hartsoe, Log Div, OCCmlO, 30 Jan 62. (2) Quart Hist Rpt, Rocky Mountain Arsenal, Apr - Jun 62. (3) Quart Hist Rpt, MATCOM, Jan - Mar 62.

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(1) Summary of Major Events and Problems, FY 60, p 46. (2) Leo P. Brophy, "History of the Marshall Plant," USA CmlC Hist Off draft study, p 10.

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construction or modification of facilities at Pine Bluff Arsenal to provide pilot plants for the production of dry agent UL, an etomological agent, and dry and wet viral/richettsial agents were resubmitted by the Chief Chemical Officer to higher authority in FY 1961. All the projects, dubbed X1001, X1002, and X1009, were approved in June 1961 for a total initial cost of \$6.8 million and target completion dates were set for FY 1964.⁴⁴ During FY 1962 contracts were let for design, equipment, and construction, and work started on all projects between 7 August and 6 September 1961. Funding was subsequently increased by \$3.3 million. No major problems were encountered by the end of FY 1962. Such problems as did arise stemmed largely from the necessity for designing and producing highly technical and extremely complicated equipment. Also in FY 1962 a project was approved and funded in the amount of \$6.6 million to modify the existing AB-1 and UL-1 agent production and filling facility at Pine Bluff Arsenal to provide for munitions systems other than the designated M33 cluster which the Air Force no longer considered compatible with high-performance aircraft. This work, initiated under the provisions of Project 112, was only 1 percent complete by the end of FY 1962, but a readiness date of FY 1964 had been set.⁴⁵

(S) VX Agent and Munitions.⁴⁶ Test operation of the Newport Chemical

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Review and Evaluation, Chemical Corps Operating Program, FY 1961, pp 99 - 100.

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(1) R&E, CBR Program, FY 62, pp 125 - 26. (2) Quart Hist Rpt, USA CmlC ENCOM, Apr - Jun 62.

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Summary of Major Events and Problems, FY 60, pp 152 - 54.

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Plant for the production of agent VX commenced on schedule in the 3d Quarter of FY 1961. By the time the test operation was complete in July 1961, the overall progress on the plant represented about 90 percent completion with construction at 86 percent.⁴⁷ Meanwhile, the Newport Plant had been activated as a Class II industrial activity of the Chief Chemical Officer,⁴⁸ and \$339,296 was transferred to the Corps of Engineers to provide storage facilities at the plant.⁴⁹ Full scale production of agent commenced early in FY 1962, and munitions filling began in the second half of the fiscal year. A number of problems were encountered in the preparation and production phases. The preparation problems involved the overlapping of the building and operating contracts even though both were held by the Food Machinery and Chemicals Corporation, details concerning M23 land mine assembly and design, and the disposition of excess construction and operating equipment. Except for the land-mine problem, these problems were essentially solved by 30 June 1961.⁵⁰ The land-mine problem persisted into the final quarter of FY 1962 when redesign of components and alterations in the production line solved them.⁵¹ Filling operations commenced

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Rpt, Resident Project Engineer, Food Machinery and Chemicals Corporation to C.L. Sayre, et al., 30 June 1961, sub: Monthly Progress Report #24. In Newport Plant file, Installations Br, Log Div, OCCm10.

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DA GO 33, 20 Sep 61, eff 26 Apr 61.

49

DF, CCm10 to CofE, 17 Jan 61, sub: Contract No DA 11-032-ENG-7295, Newport Chemical Facility. In Newport Plant file.

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Resident Project Engineer, Monthly Progress Reports, 21, 24 Mar 61; #22, 21 Apr 61; #23, 26 May 61; #24, 30 Jun 61.

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Quart Hist Rpt, MATCOM, ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Apr - Jun 62.

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on the M55 rocket. The M55 rocket was also filled with agent GB on a new line at Rocky Mountain Arsenal.⁵²

(C) MC-1 Massive Bomb. The Air Force authorized production of the MC-1 Massive Bomb, a 750-pound bomb compatible with high performance aircraft. Bomb bodies formerly filled with high explosives were washed out and modified for GB filling, and a new filling and assembly line was erected at Rocky Mountain Arsenal. The arsenal received a project order for 10,000 bombs (15 simulant filled) in September 1961. Initial delivery on this schedule, the estimated cost of which was \$2.6 million was expected in FY 1963.⁵³

(C) Riot Control Agent and Munitions.⁵⁴ As predicted in FY 1960, commercial production of riot control agent CS and CS1 proved feasible in FY 1961. Edgewood Arsenal continued to produce until commercial sources could solve the micro-pulverizing and safety problems connected with production. Commercial producers then assumed the load although some equipment problems continued to be experienced. Edgewood Arsenal also attempted to handle the filling of M7A2 and M25A2 grenades,⁵⁵ but the workload was too great. Pine

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(1) Quart Hist Rpts, MATCOM, FY 1962. (2) Quart Hist Rpts, Rocky Mountain Arsenal, FY 1962.

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(1) Cohen interv, 22 Oct 62. (2) Walsh information, 22 Oct 62.

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Summary of Major Events and Problems, FY 60, pp 155 - 56.

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The M7A2 was an improved grenade developed during production of the M7A1.

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