

U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command



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- Project Genesis
- FDHS Design and Production
- FDHS Installation on Cape Ray
- Destruction of Syrian CWM
- Return and Decommissioning of Cape Ray





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 Capabilities Assessment requested by Threat Reduction Advisory Committee (TRAC) on December 27, 2012



Capabilities Assessment

- Identify technologies that are currently available, or could be available within 6-12 months, capable of:
 - Destroying bulk liquid chemical agent or precursors
 - Operating in a remote location

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• Operating in semi-permissive or uncertain environment





- 28 Jan 2013: ECBC and JPM-E directed to demonstrate a suitable technology by 31 Jul
- Neutralization (hydrolysis) was selected as the only technology that could be demonstrated in this time frame



- 15 Feb 2013: Scope and schedule changes:
 - Required to produce and demonstrate a full deployable capability
 - Deadline moved to 1 Jul 2013



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1QFY13	2QFY13	3QFY13	4QFY13	1QFY14	2QFY14	3QFY14	4QFY14	1QFY15	2QFY15
12/2	2/4								
	FDHS Funding Received								

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Design/Production Team



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- Destroy bulk liquids in metric ton quantities
- Destroy HD, DF, possibly other precursor compounds
- Achieve 99.9% destruction efficiency
- Achieve throughput rate of at least 3 MT/day
- Operate 24 hours/day, 7 days/week
- Be transportable by standard modes of transportation
- Operate at remote sites
- Be operable within 10 days of equipment arriving on site

Binary Destruction Facility (BDF) managed by CMA/NSCMP destroyed 127 tons of DF from 2003-2006



Destruction and Throughput Requirements



Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ABCDF) managed by CMA destroyed 1,621 tons of HD from 2003-2005

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Requirements

Basis of Design

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Requirement	Characteristics	Achieved By				
Destruction/ Throughput	Reliance on proven technologyProcess flexibility	 Basing process flow and chemistry on ABCDF Using 2 surplus reactor vessels from ABCDF Designing for varying recipes and flow rates Using chemical -resistant materials of construction 				
Transportability	 Modular design 	 Designing system to fit within 20' ISO frames Selecting ancillary systems that fit within 20' ISO containers 				
Remote Location	 High availability Operator-level maintenance Self-sufficiency 	 Installing redundant components Using flanged connections Procuring generators and water heaters Designing custom electrical and air distribution systems 				
10-Day Setup/ Systemization	 "Plug-and-play" setup Simplicity	 Designing transport configuration to be very similar to operational configuration Quick disconnects and easy-to-install flexible connections between components Color-coding and component labeling 				

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Primary Skid Design





CAD modeling of primary skids by ADM (March 2013)

Reactor Skid

> Hydrolysis Skid



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Modular System Design with FDHS Technology





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FDHS Skid Layout







1QFY13	2QFY13	3QFY13	4QFY13	1QFY14	2QFY14	3QFY14	4QFY14	1QFY15	2QFY15
	12/27 2/4	6/27							
	Capabilities Assessment FDHS Funding Received	Prototype Demonstration							

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Transition and Planning



- FDHS technology transferred from DTRA to JPEO on June 27, 2013
- Concept of Operations planning
 - 6 systems deployed at 2 or 3 sites in country
 - Tabletop exercises

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 Materiel release for active duty operators



- Capability demonstration and validation conducted September 16-22, 2013
- 7 FDHS systems procured/fabricated through May 2014





Ghouta and Aftermath



August 21, 2013 Sarin (GB) attacks on Ghouta

• Estimates range from a few hundred to over 1,000 deaths

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Assad regime accused of orchestrating attack

September 14, 2013 Syria agrees to turn over CW Stockpile



- Syria to sign Chemical Weapons Convention
- All CWM to be destroyed by June 30, 2014



Syria conflict: 'Chemical attacks kill hundreds'



The BBC's Frank Gardner says the footage shows people gasping for breath and convulsing

Chemical weapons attacks have killed hundreds on the outskirts of Damascus, Syrian opposition activists say.

Rockets with toxic agents were launched at the suburbs of the Ghouta region early on Wednesday as part of a major bombardment on rebel forces, they say. Syria conflict

'No-one cares' 'Till the last drop of blood' Suffering in west Aleppo

The Syrian army says the accusations have been fabricated to cover up rebel losses.

US intelligence map: Areas reportedly affected by 21 August chemical attack



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- Possibility of ship-based destruction raised by JPEO/ECBC/DTRA, with two FDHS platforms on board
 - Provides ample water supply
 - Provides security

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- Design team visited ships in September 2013 in Baltimore and Portsmouth
- No countries volunteered to accept Syrian CW for destruction
- Cape Ray, part of the Maritime Administration's Ready Reserve Fleet, selected for mission in November 2013



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- Problem: Loading and storing all equipment and material on Cape Ray
 - 269 total ISO containers (6,000 gal each) on board
 - 78 shipping containers full of Syrian CW
 - Very limited capability for transfer of equipment within and to/from Cape Ray
 - Distribution of loads changing daily during operations



- Approach
 - Collaboration on initial and predicted load planning with Keystone
 - Real-time adjustments to load plan throughout operations
 - pH adjustment system designed to allow safe long-term storage TECHNOLOGY DRIVEN, WARFIGHTER FOCUSED.



Maritime Ops Challenges



- Problem: Requirement to prevent agent liquid or vapor release to the environment
- Approach:
 - FDHS equipment and all Syrian CW stored on Main Trailer Deck
 - Only reagent and effluent pass between decks – no agent
 - Existing ventilation system retrofitted with carbon filtration
 - Multiple levels of environmental controls:
 - Reaction occurs in closed system of FDHS
 - FDHS located within ventilated environmental enclosure (EE)
 - EE located within Main Trailer Deck with ventilation/filtration system







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- Problem: Ship environment imposes unusual forces on equipment
 - Vibration effects of ship's propeller
 - Forces in multiple directions caused by ship movement, "sloshing" of liquid
- Approach:
 - ADM, AMSAA, and Navy personnel performed analysis
 - Additional bracing installed for primary FDHS skids and holding tanks
 - Ship roll/pitch limits implemented to halt operations in worst conditions



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- Problem: Movement of Syrian DF tanks
 - Weight of tanks over 8,000 lbs each
 - Aisle space between containers and FDHS equipment ~ 8 feet (severely limits forklift movement)
- Approach:

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- Container movement system developed by CBARR and ADM engineers/operators
- Allowed for movement of containers without personnel inside shipping container or in path of movement
- Positive control maintained on front and rear side of tank, mitigating effects of ship movement
- Minimized risk of spill or injury











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HD Waste Disposal

UN/OPCW Joint Mission







Accept CWM at Latakia



Facilities Contracted for Industrial Chemical and DF Waste Disposal









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Cape Ray Ops Team

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Concept of Operations



 100% inspection of Syrian containers

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- Concurrent DF operations in both systems
- HD operations in one system
- 24/7 operations
- Ramp-up to full throughput and shift work







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- Buildup of solids in pH adjustment tanks
- High temperatures in work area
- Effluent management and near-real-time load plan adjustments



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Mission Success



- Agent operations started July 7, 2014
- Agent operations completed August 17, 2014
- 580 MT of DF and 20 MT of HD destroyed in 42 days
- Offloading of waste completed September 5, 2014
- Cape Ray return to Portsmouth September 17, 2014
- Cape Ray operations area cleared of DF/HD January 14, 2015

Next Steps:

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- All FDHS equipment stored at APG-EA awaiting future use
- Cape Ray to be returned to Ready Reserve Fleet



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Conclusion









The success of the FDHS and the Cape Ray in the destruction of the Syrian chemical weapons stockpile was made possible by the collaboration of many government and contractor organizations with varied expertise, accomplishing remarkable things in extraordinarily short timeframes.





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