ALTERNATE OPTIONS?

- The military continually looks for safe methods to destroy excess munitions and explosives.
- Currently there are limited options for closed disposal alternatives. As of now, there is no closed disposal alternative option robust enough to handle all types of munitions.
- The disassembly, preprocessing, and extra handling required to prepare a munition for processing through closed-disposal technologies expose personnel to more explosive safety hazards than OB and OD.

JMC DEMILITARIZATION SITES



- Anniston Munitions Center, Anniston, AL
- Blue Grass Army Depot, Richmond, KY
- Crane Army Ammunition Activity, Crane, IN
- Hawthorne Army Depot, Hawthorne, NV
- Holston Army Ammunition Plant, Kingsport, TN
- Iowa Army Ammunition Plant, Middletown, IA
- Letterkenny Munitions Center, Chambersburg, PA
- McAlester Army Ammunition Plant, McAlester, OK
- Radford Army Ammunition Plant, Radford, VA
- Tooele Army Depot, Tooele, UT

FAQS

WHY IS OPEN BURN/OPEN DETONATION GENERALLY THE SAFEST AVAILABLE METHOD OF DEMILITARIZATION?

OB and OD limits the handling of excess munitions and explosives, helping to protect local residents and employees from injury or damage due to explosive safety risks.

DOES THE SMOKE SPREAD CONTAMINATION?

No. The state-issued permits for OB and OD at military facilities include an air pathway risk assessment based on precisely-calculated releases.

HOW DOES THE PUBLIC KNOW THE AIR TESTING IS SAFE?

The Department of Defense partners with the EPA Office of Land and Emergency Management, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, and Office of Research and Development-Research Triangle Park to ensure that the technical oversight on air sampling methods and data quality review used in calculating open disposal emissions factors meet the highest possible standards.

IS OPEN BURN/OPEN DETONATION USED BECAUSE IT IS THE LEAST EXPENSIVE DEMIL OPTION?

OB and OD destroys munitions and explosives in a manner that minimizes risk to the workers, the community and the environment. In addition, this process is compliant with federal and state environmental regulatory requirements for performing Resource Conservation and Recovery Act regulated destruction of munitions and explosives.



JOINT MUNITIONS COMMAND

DEMILITARIZATION BY OPEN BURN AND OPEN DETONATION

Learn more at: www.jmc.army.mil/obod/ob_od.aspx



CORE COMPETENCIES

WHY OB AND OD ARE IMPORTANT

SAFETY & REGULATIONS



JMC MISSION

JMC provides precise, predictive conventional munitions sustainment and life-cycle management to an expeditionary global force from 17 arsenals, depots, and ammunition plants across the spectrum of conflict in support of the Joint Force.

JMC VISION

JMC will ensure excellence in munitions readiness and sustainment through continual innovation and modernization.

HOW IT WORKS

Open Burn (OB) and Open Detonation (OD) are regulated processes with managed and monitored releases to ensure protection of human health and the environment.

This is accomplished through a variety of site-specific analytical inspection techniques, including subsurface water well monitoring; surface water runoff management; atmospheric and meteorological analysis; emissions dispersion modeling techniques authorized and applied in accordance with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulatory standards

OB and OD are processes that have been empirically evaluated and quantified for more than 30 years through a variety of studies and tests conducted in cooperation with the EPA.

- Demilitarization and disposal are the final steps in the life-cycle management of munitions.
- The Joint Munitions Command actively manages its munitions stockpile to eliminate obsolete, unstable munitions that are unusable.
- Demilitarization stocks take up limited space on military installations and continually degrade over time.
- Maintaining demilitarization stocks in storage causes fragmented and sub-optimal storage conditions, which degrade munitions readiness in support of the National defense strategies.
- Propellant is especially dangerous when added stabilizers degrade.
- When military munitions can no longer be used, JMC manages them through recycling or recovering parts or the whole munition, demilitarization through alternative technologies, and OB and OD.





- OB and OD personnel, who have specific munitions training, are limited to the minimum number of people required for the job.
- JMC is regulated by the quantity and type of munitions that can be processed at each site.
- OB and OD areas are regulated by the EPA and typically have Department of Defense Explosives Safety Board approvals as well.
- The Army is committed to destroying munitions in a manner that minimizes risk to workers, the community, and the environment, which includes the safe handling and destruction of excess munitions and explosives.
- The Army Ammunition RDT&E Demilitarization Program continues to explore and pursue closed disposal capabilities that will address over 40% (140,000 short tons) of the Army's current demil stockpile of munitions.
- OB and OD is the safest means of munitions destruction currently permitted under Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).
- To ensure safety, OB and OD areas are positioned at locations that are at safe distances from the installation workers and the general population.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT JMC'S DEMILITARIZATION PROGRAM AND OB AND OD, PLEASE VISIT: http://www.jmc.army.mil/OBOD/OB_OD.aspx