

Pueblo exchange

A Partnership for Safe Chemical Weapons Destruction

Moving Toward Construction

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Summer 2004

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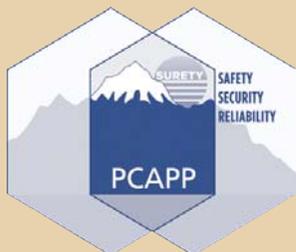
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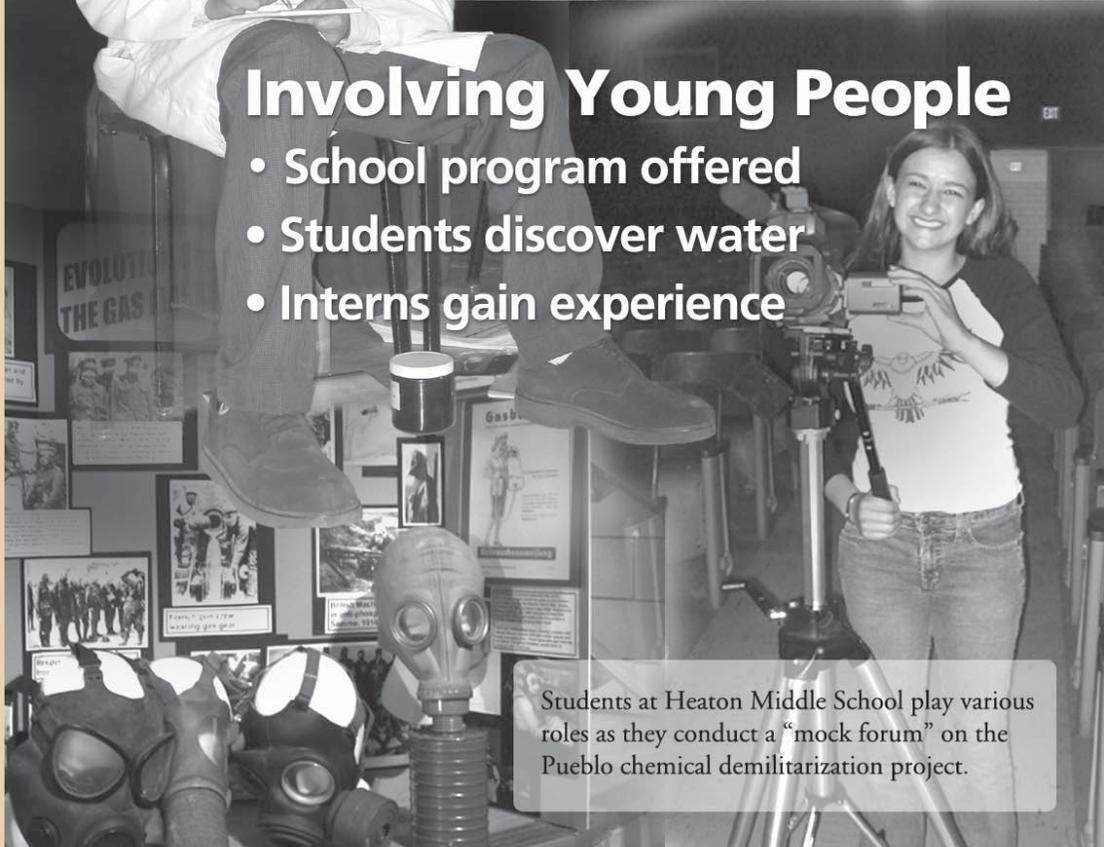
**Pueblo Chemical Agent-
Destruction Pilot Plant**

www.pmacwa.army.mil



Involving Young People

- School program offered
- Students discover water
- Interns gain experience



Students at Heaton Middle School play various roles as they conduct a “mock forum” on the Pueblo chemical demilitarization project.

PCAPP Education Program Provides Real-Life Lessons

Students in Pueblo will have an opportunity to learn about the chemical demilitarization project from both technical and societal perspectives in a program being developed by the Pueblo Chemical Depot Community Outreach Office.

Cindy Elm-Sinn, a former Pueblo educator who joined the outreach staff last fall, designed a program that will use the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) as a local case study for science and social studies students. The program will also raise student awareness of career options and the educational background needed to be a success in these fields. The curriculum is being developed in cooperation with local educators and is closely correlated to the Colorado Model Content Standards.

Teachers interested in participating or learning more about the program should contact Ms. Elm-Sinn at the Outreach Office, telephone 546-0400.

To date, the program has two major components: a science-based unit for high school students and an interdisciplinary unit for middle and high school students. Ms. Elm-Sinn has worked with local schools to develop and pilot test the program this spring, and will begin school programs in the fall.

The science-based unit will cover topics such as:

- Chemical properties of mustard agent



Ryan Zanini, left, played the part of CAC Chair John Klomp, right, at the Heaton Middle School mock forum.

- Chemical processes that will be used to destroy the Pueblo stockpile
- History of chemical weapons
- Chemical warfare in nature
- Microbiology applications in industry
- Robotic applications in industry
- Environmental issues and sustainable development

The second component, the interdisciplinary program, will include middle and high school teachers from all disciplines. In addition to the chemical properties and processes of destroying the agent, the curriculum will cover:

- History of chemical weapons
- Why the United States is destroying these stockpiles
- The process used to select neutralization technology
- The ongoing process to involve the public in decision-making
- The economic, environmental and social impacts of the project on Pueblo

One successful interdisciplinary method is a simulation activity. A “mock forum” was piloted in Ms. Vicky Luther’s classroom at Heaton Middle School on May 20. The students played various roles of people involved in the project (CAC member, city council member, citizen group leader, local business leader, Bechtel project manager, depot commander). They used various props (old gas masks, munitions models, historical photographs, gas alarm rattles) to present the PCAPP story to an audience consisting of students, teachers, principal, parents and some of the “dignitaries” represented in the role-playing.

James White, an eighth-grade student, played



Gas masks and other historical artifacts used in the presentation.

the part of a World War I veteran and explained the history of mustard agent. He said the mock forum was “very educational and fun to do.”

John Klomp, county commissioner and Citizens’ Advisory Committee chairperson, was interviewed by Ryan Zanini, the young man playing his part. Klomp also attended the presentation made by the students and said: “Through this program our young people are learning about the national chemical stockpiles and the stockpile in Pueblo. As a result they will be better prepared to help us rid the nation of its stockpiles of chemical weapons in the interest of national security.”

Ms. Luther, a language arts teacher who agreed to pilot this program, assigned roles and responsibilities and said, “It (the forum) required minimal preparation and the students enjoyed the activity.”

Before joining the outreach staff, Ms. Elm-Sinn spent eighteen years in the classroom and twelve years as an administrator serving as the science and gifted/talented coordinator for Pueblo District 60. For the past several months she has worked with teachers, counselors, and administrators to lay the foundation for this program.

Local Students “Discover Water”

Local fourth- and fifth-grade students learned how water is used in cleaning up the environment and destroying chemical weapons at the Pueblo Chemical Depot at “Discovering Water In Pueblo” (DWIP) on May 6. DWIP is a water festival sponsored by a consortium of government agencies and businesses to teach young people about the importance of water in their lives. About 1,500 students attended this year’s program, held at Colorado State University-Pueblo.

The Pueblo Chemical Depot Environmental Office, represented by Stan Wharry, Ann Mead, Kathryn Cain, Ellen Glover and Marilyn Thompson, held a “Good Bugs Eat Bad Stuff” session about soil remediation at the Depot. The Bechtel Pueblo Team (Bob Kennemer and Cindy Elm-Sinn) presented “Water versus Mustard Agent” outlining the neutralization (water) and biotreatment (microbes) process planned for the mustard agent destruction.



Stan Wharry (left) explains soil cleanup, and Cindy Elm-Sinn (right and above) demonstrates use of water in neutralization and relative sizes of microbes.



College Students Gain Experience with PCAPP Staff

Fourteen students from eleven colleges and universities are getting work experience on the Pueblo chemical demilitarization program this summer through the Bechtel Pueblo Team’s intern program.

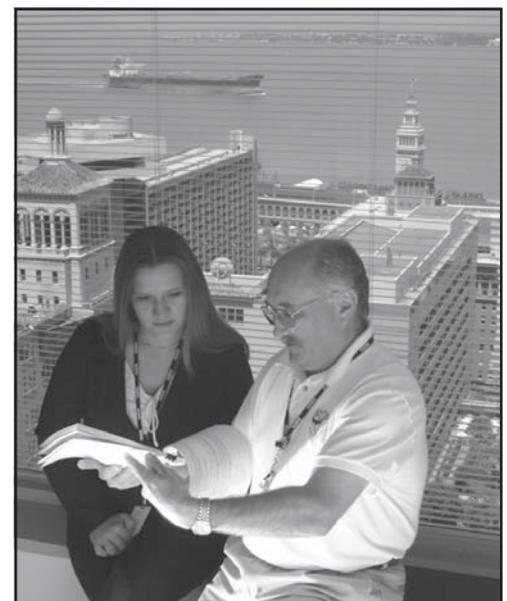
The students are working in Pueblo and San Francisco in such diverse areas as Engineering, Office and Administrative Services, Project Controls, Quality Assurance, Procurement, Environmental Health and Safety, and Operations.

Four of the students are from the Pueblo area:

- Becki Keator, a student at Colorado State University-Pueblo, is working with Quality Assurance Manager Dennis Murphy. She will have duties in both Pueblo and San Francisco, helping improve procedures related to the 3-D engineering model and procurement. She is a graduate of Pueblo Technical Academy.

- Sherrie Newell is majoring in Computer Information Systems at Pueblo Community College. She is working in Pueblo with the Office and Administrative Services group, under the direction of Meira D’Amico, project field administrator. Sherrie will graduate from PCC in 2005.
- Tony Arellano, a business management/marketing major at CSU-Pueblo, works with Supplier Advocate Michele Jacobus, assisting with vendor forums and other local business activities. He is a graduate of East High School.
- Donald Womack of Swink is a computer-aided design student at Otero Junior College in La Junta. Don is back for his second summer with the Engineering department in San Francisco.

Other schools represented include Colorado School of Mines, California Polytechnic, Tufts, Stanford, Brigham Young, Scripps College, and UC Berkeley.



Becki Keator, a student at CSU-Pueblo, is working this summer with Dennis Murphy, the Bechtel Pueblo Team’s quality assurance manager. They are shown here at the PCAPP design center in San Francisco.



Project Continues Moving Toward Construction

The Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant continues to move toward starting work this fall on Stage One construction activities, which include roads, fences, utilities and site grading.

Bill Pehlivanian, deputy program manager, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA), gave a project update to the Citizens' Advisory Commission on May 26. He outlined current major activities, including:

- The Bechtel Pueblo Team and the Army expect to receive all required permits and begin Stage One construction in August or September.
- Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition Technology and Logistics) Michael Wynne

requested the Department of Defense Inspector General (IG) to conduct an audit of the PCAPP project. The IG is briefing Wynne on July 16. The final report is due by Sept. 10. ACWA is providing a full accounting of information on all elements of the program and working closely with the Bechtel Pueblo Team and other organizations to gather data to comply with the audit.

- ACWA continues working with other organizations in the Department of Defense to analyze alternatives for the size of the plant and its operating work force.
- Funds are available to continue design and permitting activities and to start construction. Research and Development

funding for PCAPP for fiscal year 2005 is projected at \$75 million, including \$70 million in carryover from previous years and \$4.9 million in the proposed 2005 budget. These funds pay for design, testing, purchase and installation of equipment. Military Construction funding for 2005 is projected at about \$70 million, including \$25 million of carryover and \$44.8 million in the proposed budget. These funds pay for design and construction of the facility.

Pehlivanian noted that a final determination on 2005 funding will be made during Congressional budget deliberations, which are normally concluded in the fall.

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