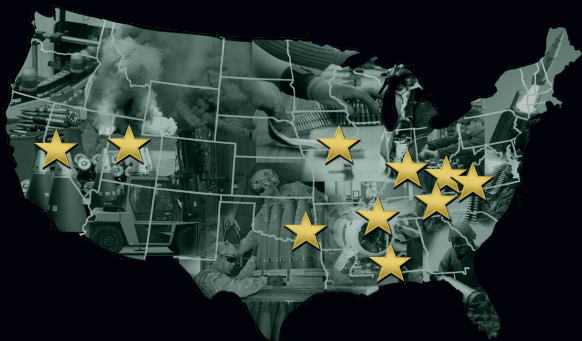


## ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 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/OD.

## JMC SITES WITH OB/OD PERMITS



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

## FAQS

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

OB/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/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?

Currently, few closed-disposal alternatives for the demilitarization of bulk energetics and propellants have been proven to meet safety and environmental standards. OB/OD destroys these 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 or state environmental regulatory requirements for performing Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) - regulated destruction of munitions and explosives



U.S. ARMY

## DEMILITARIZATION BY OPEN BURN/ OPEN DETONATION JOINT MUNITIONS COMMAND

Learn more at:  
[www.jmc.army.mil/obod/ob\\_od.aspx](http://www.jmc.army.mil/obod/ob_od.aspx)





## JMC CORE COMPETENCIES

**Mission:** To provide the Army and Joint Forces with ready, reliable, lethal munitions at the speed of war sustaining global readiness.

**Vision:** Provide Lethality that Wins!



## HOW IT WORKS

Open Burn and Open Detonation (OB/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 and emissions dispersion modeling techniques that have been developed, authorized and applied in accordance with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulatory standards.

OB/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.

## WHY OB/OD IS IMPORTANT

- Demilitarization and disposal are the final steps in the life-cycle management of munitions.
- The Joint Munitions Command (JMC) actively manages its munitions stockpile to eliminate munitions that cannot be used.
- 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 open burn/open detonation (OB/OD).



## SAFETY & REGULATIONS

- OB/OD personnel, who have specific munitions training, are limited to the minimum number of people required for the job.
- We are also regulated by the quantity and type of munitions that can be processed at each site.
- OB/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 these munitions in a manner that minimizes risk to the workers, the community and the environment.
- That includes the safe handling and destruction of excess munitions and explosives.
- OB/OD is the safest means of munitions destruction currently permitted under Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).
- To ensure safety, OB/OD areas are positioned at locations that are at safe distances from the installation workers and the general population.

