

News Release



*Defense Threat Reduction Agency
U.S. Strategic Command Center for Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction
Standing Joint Force Headquarters for Elimination*

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For Immediate Release

No. DTRA 2014-003
August 18, 2014

THE CAPE RAY SIGNALS MISSION COMPLETE: SYRIAN CHEMICAL WEAPONS DESTROYED

FORT BELVOIR, VA – Today the Defense Threat Reduction Agency/U.S. Strategic Command Center for Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction (DTRA/SCC-WMD) recognizes the completion of the neutralization of one-hundred percent of the declared Syrian chemical weapons materials transferred for processing on-board the U.S. M/V Cape Ray.

The accomplishments onboard the Cape Ray represent the first time the chemical weapons have been destroyed aboard ship on the open sea. A proven technology, the hydrolysis system was turned into a field-deployable system for ship-board application in just 5 months. The system uses heat, water and bleach-like chemicals to change the chemical weapon materials into effluent, which will be disposed of, in accordance with all applicable international laws, regulations and treaties at commercial sites.

DTRA has been involved in the efforts to deal with the Syrian chemicals specifically—planning and synchronizing the evaluation of the threats, the options for destroying them, and ultimately the project that came to be the Cape Ray. Onboard the modified Cape Ray, a team of chemists and engineers accomplished their work in international waters on the Mediterranean Sea. They processed approximately 600 tons of chemical weapon materials that included mustard gas and components for the nerve agent sarin.

"I want to congratulate the dedicated team of professionals aboard the Cape Ray, as well as our interagency and international partners, on the successful completion of Cape Ray's mission to destroy approximately 600 metric tons of chemical weapons materials at sea, said Kenneth A. Myers, Director, DTRA/SCC-WMD. These materials could have been used to make countless chemical weapons, and now have all been eliminated in an environmentally safe and effective way. This historic mission would not have been possible without the herculean efforts of all our partners and our DTRA/SCC team."

DTRA/SCC-WMD safeguards America's interests from weapons of mass destruction (chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high explosives) by controlling and reducing the threat to the United States and its allies, and providing quality tools and services for the war fighter. This

Department of Defense combat support agency is located at Fort Belvoir, Va. and operates field offices worldwide.

DTRA is the U.S. Department of Defense's official Combat Support Agency for countering weapons of mass destruction, addressing the entire spectrum of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high yield explosive threats. DTRA's programs include basic science research and development, operational support to U.S. warfighters on the front line, and an in-house WMD think tank that aims to anticipate and mitigate future threats long before they have a chance to harm the United States and our allies. SCC-WMD, the U.S. Strategic Command Center for Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction, synchronizes Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction efforts across our military's geographic commands and leverages the people, programs and interagency relationships of DTRA at a strategic level. We work with the military services, other elements of the United States government, and countries across the planet on counterproliferation, nonproliferation and WMD reduction issues with one goal in mind: Making the World Safer.