

# Upgrades to Holston acid lines first since 1940s

By Nancy Gray  
Holston AAP Public Affairs

HOLSTON ARMY AMMUNITION PLANT, Tenn. -- In early May, Holston Army Ammunition Plant broke ground on the largest project ever undertaken since the construction of the facility in 1942.

The U. S. Army and BAE officials, along with the local community gathered together to celebrate this momentous occasion. This \$142 million effort, better known as the A2B project, will consolidate all Area A functions to Area B, the main production facilities located seven miles away.

Holston Army Ammunition Plant uses large quantities of acetic anhydride and acetic acid for the production of the military high explosives RDX and HMX, both secondary detonating explosives. Since the plant was built in 1942, this acid has been processed at the Area A facility.

A rail corridor exists between the two facilities along which acid is transferred by rail tanker and pipelines.

The facility was built to support

explosive production rates of up to 1 million pounds per day. Now over capacity for current needs, only a small portion of the facility is still operational.

After 70 years of operation, the Area A facility required a major investment to maintain the existing capacity/operability of the facility over the next 10 to 15 years. With the transport and pumping of the acids between the facilities, this presents an environmental risk due to the encroachment of residential housing along the rail corridor.

"This is a critical day for our Army, the Department of Defense, and Holston Army Ammunition Plant. It's a day that will live in history," said Lt. Gen. William N. Phillips, Principal Military Deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Acquisitions, Logistics and Technology and keynote speaker at the ceremony.

The idea of the A2B move was proposed to Phillips which brought him to Holston Army Ammunition Plant to get a look

at all that was involved in doing something this monumental.

"At that point I knew we had to do something to protect this pristine river, to protect the people of this great community, and to make sure that we did the right thing." He made it a priority to work to secure funding for the move and eventually got the thumbs up.

In May 2009, the A2B Project was approved with funding authorized. Construction of the Control Room Complex for the project, as well as an entry road to the new facility recently began and will be completed within the next 10 months.

Design efforts on the chemical processing area will be completed by September 2011 with construction of the major facility to begin January 2012. The purchasing of long lead equipment items to support the construction phase has already commenced.

Target for completion of construction of the new facility is September 2013 with commissioning completed and start-up for the new facility by March 2014.

At that time, the Area A facility will be shut down. <sup>M</sup><sub>C</sub>



**Change** The following were on site at Holston Army Ammunition Plant for the Area A to Area B ceremony: (left to right) Jerry Hammonds, BAE; Eric Fugate, BAE; Bridget Baird, representative for Sen. Bob Corker (Tenn.); David Herr, BAE; Dennis Phillips, mayor, Kingsport, Tenn.; Col. Franz Amann, commander, Pine Bluff Arsenal, Ark.; Lt. Gen. William Phillips; Col. Jeffrey Wilson; Lama Moore, representative for Sen. Lamar Alexander (Tenn.); Bill Snodgrass, representative for Cong. Phil Roe (Tenn.); Joe Kennedy, commander's representative, Holston Army Ammunition Plant; and Nigel House, BAE