

Environmental permit delays: Program officials found that estimating the time required to obtain environmental permit approvals was much more difficult than expected. For example, permits to construct the Umatilla, Anniston, and Pine Bluff chemical demilitarization facilities took 2 to 3 years more than the program office anticipated. Although funds were obligated for these projects, the program office could not liquidate the obligations until after the respective state approved the construction permit and the demilitarization facilities were constructed.

Technical delays: According to program officials, lessons learned from ongoing demilitarization operations at Johnston Atoll in the Pacific Ocean and Tooele, Utah, resulted in technical and design changes for future facilities that required additional time and resources. While these changes were being incorporated, liquidation of obligated funds proved to be slower than program officials expected.

#### ACTIONS THAT HAVE AFFECTED OR WILL AFFECT UNLIQUIDATED OBLIGATIONS

Several factors have affected or will affect the program office's unliquidated obligations. First, in fiscal year 1999, the Congress reduced the administration's budget request for the Chemical Demilitarization Program by \$75.1 million. Consequently, there were fewer funds to obligate during fiscal year 1999 than planned for the program. A factor that should reduce unliquidated obligations is the 1997 approval of environmental permits for the construction of the Umatilla, Oregon, and Anniston, Alabama, chemical demilitarization facilities. The construction of these facilities should allow the program office to liquidate unliquidated procurement obligations for these locations. In addition, the environmental permits were approved in 1999 for the construction of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and Aberdeen, Maryland, chemical demilitarization facilities, which should allow the program office to liquidate unliquidated procurement obligations for these locations. At the same time, program officials expect additional procurement costs at the Umatilla and Anniston disposal sites due to design and technical changes to previously purchased equipment.

#### AGENCY COMMENTS AND OUR EVALUATION

We provided a draft copy of this report to DOD and the Army for comment. Responsible officials stated that they did not have sufficient time to formally review and comment on the report. However, we were provided with various technical comments which were used in finalizing the report.

#### SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

To assess the unobligated appropriations and unliquidated obligations for the Chemical Demilitarization Program, we interviewed and obtained data from DOD, Army, and FEMA officials, including officials from the Program Manager for Chemical Demilitarization Program in the Edgewood area of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland; Office of the United Secretary of Defense (Comptroller); Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army, Chemical Demilitarization; Assistant Secretary of the Army for Financial Management; Army Audit Agency; and Office of Management and Budget. We reviewed DFAS reported budget execution data for selected appropriations for chemical demilitarization program budget authority, unallocated, unobligated, and unliquidated balances for fiscal years 1992–99. We did not attempt to reconcile budget execution data with DOD's financial statements.<sup>8</sup> In addition, we interviewed DOD and Army officials to discuss the (1) requirements for these funds, (2) primary causes for the unliquidated obliga-

tions, and (3) actions that have affected or will affect unliquidated obligations.

Because most unallocated appropriations are no longer available for obligations, unobligated balances are relatively small compared to the budget authority and fiscal year 1999 funds are still available for obligation and liquidation for several years, we focused our analysis on the status of the unliquidated obligations for fiscal years 1992–98. We judgmentally selected and reviewed 28 of the program's 63 MIPRs with reported unliquidated obligations of more than \$1 million to (1) verify the reported unliquidated obligation, and (2) identify specific requirements and time frames for liquidating the obligations. To verify the reported unliquidated obligations, we interviewed responsible program officials and reviewed supporting documentation from the Army and its contractors and compared these data with the unliquidated obligations reported in DFAS budget execution reports. On the basis of this comparison, we determined the extent to which more obligations have been liquidated than previously reported by the finance service. These liquidated obligations were deducted from the reported unliquidated obligations to determine the revised unliquidated amount. In addition, we interviewed responsible program officials and reviewed supporting documentation from the Army and its contractors to determine the schedules for liquidating the remaining unliquidated obligations.

We conducted our review from July 6 to July 26, 1999, in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. We are continuing our review of the Chemical Demilitarization Program. This report represents the preliminary results of our work.

We are sending copies of this report to Senator Pete V. Domenici, Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Senator Ted Stevens, Senator Robert Byrd, Senator Frank R. Lautenberg, Senator Joseph I. Lieberman, and Senator Fred Thompson and to Representative John R. Kasich, Representative Jerry Lewis, Representative C.W. (Bill) Young, Representative David R. Obey, Representative John P. Murtha, Representative Ike Skelton, Representative Floyd D. Spence, and Representative John M. Spratt, Jr., in their capacities as Chair or Ranking Minority Member of cognizant Senate and House Committees and Subcommittees. We are also sending copies of this report to: the Honorable William S. Cohen, Secretary of Defense; the Honorable William J. Lynn, Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller); the Honorable Louis Caldera, Secretary of the Army; and the Honorable Jacob Lew, Director, Office of Management and Budget.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Barry Holman or me on (202) 512-8412. Key contributors to this assignment are Don Snyder, Claudia Dickey, and Mark Little.

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#### FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup>We did not include military construction appropriations in our review.

<sup>2</sup>Unallocated appropriations refer to funds not yet committed to specific projects—the program office refers to unallocated funds as unissued funds. Unobligated balances represents funds committed or allocated to specific programs but pending contract award. Obligations are the amounts of orders placed, contracts awarded, services received, and similar transactions during a given period that require payments. Unliquidated obligations consist of those obligations for which disbursements have not yet occurred.

<sup>3</sup>If a country is unable to maintain the Convention's disposal schedule, the Convention's Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons may grant a one-time extension of up to 5 years.

<sup>4</sup>This estimated cost excludes funding for the Assembled Chemical Weapons Assessment Program, whose goal is to study the feasibility of disposal efforts for assembled chemical weapons without use of incineration. Separation funding is devoted to this effort.

<sup>5</sup>See *Chemical Weapons Stockpile: Changes Needed in the Management of the Emergency Preparedness Program* (GAO/NSIAD-97-91, June 11, 1997) and *Chemical Weapons: Army's Emergency Preparedness Program Has Financial Management Weaknesses* (GAO/NSIAD-95-94, Mar. 15, 1995).

<sup>6</sup>An MIPR is a DOD financial form that is used by the program office to transfer funds to other government agencies, such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, for work or services identified for the Chemical Demilitarization Program. As required by DOD regulations, the program office records these transfers as obligations.

<sup>7</sup>The \$150.6 million represents 24.7 percent of the total reported \$610.5 million in unliquidated obligations for fiscal years 1992–98, as identified in table 1.

<sup>8</sup>For information on DOD's overall financial status see *Financial Audit: 1998 Financial Report of the United States Government* (GAO/AIMD-99-130, Mar. 31, 1999).

#### COMMENDING THE "FIGHT FOR YOUR RIGHTS: TAKE A STAND AGAINST VIOLENCE" PROGRAM

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to draw my colleagues' attention to a program that, I think, deserves to be commended. It is called "Fight for Your Rights: Take a Stand Against Violence." The purpose of the program is to give our nation's youth information and advice on how to cope with the epidemic of violence that is taking so many of their own.

The Departments of Justice, and Education are participants in the campaign, but what I would like to draw my colleagues' attention to is the role of MTV music television and the Recording Industry Association of America.

The most basic and profound responsibility that our culture—any culture—has, is raising its children. We are failing that responsibility, and the extent of our failure is being measured in the deaths, and injuries of our kids in the school yard and on the streets of our neighborhoods and communities.

Our children are killing each other, and they are killing themselves.

Primary responsibility lies with the family. As a country, we are not parenting our children. We are not adequately involving ourselves in our children's lives, the friends they hang out with, what they do with their time, the problems they are struggling with. This is our job, our paramount responsibility, and most unfortunately, we are failing. We must get our priorities straight, and that means putting our kids first. But, parents need help.

This is an extraordinarily complex problem. However, at its core, is a collapse of the value shaping institutions of our society. Our public schools are restricted from teaching basic morals and values. Stresses on families, the most basic value building institution in our society, the demands of two income households, and the breakdown of the traditional family structure are undermining our ability to raise decent and moral children. The marginalizing of the critical role of religion, of

churches and synagogues, in our modern society contributions to a youth culture devoid of moral responsibility and accountability. All of these factors conspire to disconnect our children from humanity, and are turning some of them into killers.

Our homes and our families—our children's minds, are being flooded by a tide of violence. This dehumanizing violence pervades our society: our movies depict graphic violence; our children are taught to kill and maim by interactive video games; the Internet, which holds such tremendous potential in so many ways, is tragically used by some to communicate unimaginable hatred, images and descriptions of violence, and "how-to" manuals on everything from bomb construction to drugs.

With the pressures of this modern society, the emphasis on technology, the demand for performance, the fast pace of events, our children seem to be increasingly isolated from family and peers.

If we are to turn this tide of youth violence, we must examine all of these factors together. We must develop a comprehensive understanding of how these factors interrelate to produce a child capable of the shocking violence unfolding in our streets and school yards.

I have repeatedly joined various of my colleagues in efforts to call the entertainment industry to task for creating and marketing violent products to children. Most recently, I joined in many of my distinguished colleagues, prominent Americans, and concerned citizens in an "Appeal to Hollywood," asking the leaders of the entertainment industry to adopt a voluntary code of conduct exercising restraint from marking violence and smut to our nation's youth. I have also introduced legislation requiring the Surgeon General to complete a comprehensive study to determine the effect of media violence on children. I joined Senator Lieberman in calling for a special Youth Violence Study Commission that will study all of the various complex factors that conspire to generate such youth violence as we have recently witnessed. Earlier this year, I also introduced the Youth Violence Prevention Act, which targeted the various illegal ways by which our nation's children are gaining access to guns. As I have stated, this is a complex problem, and we must press the issue on all fronts.

For this reason, I wish to commend the efforts of MTV and the Recording Industry Association of America. The electronic media dominate much of our children's lives. They are the first generation of Americans to grow up entirely in a digital age. Much of what they see through the media is good. Some of it is both irresponsible and dangerous.

The "Take a Stand Against Violence" campaign represents the positive potential of the television and music industry. It is a positive cam-

paign that engages the various factors that contribute to youth violence, and most important, it does so in a language that young people understand. As I believe the entertainment industry should be held responsible when they peddle violence and smut to America's youth, I equally believe that the industry should be given credit for the many positive things they do.

The epidemic of youth violence in our Nation is a complex challenge. It will only be solved if we all work together. Again, I urge all Americans to get involved in their kids' lives. Ask questions, listen to their fears and concerns, their hopes and their dreams.

Again, I think we should commend entertainment industry leaders when they take positive steps to curb the tide of youth violence. In particular, I want to commend MTV and the Recording Industry of America for the "Take a Stand Against Violence" campaign. It represents a very positive step, and should serve as an example for others in the entertainment field.

Mr. President, I ask that a summary of this program be inserted into the RECORD following my statement.

There being no objection, the summary was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

FIGHT FOR YOUR RIGHTS: TAKE A STAND  
AGAINST VIOLENCE

MTV's Emmy Award-winning 1999 pro-social campaign "Fight for Your Rights: Take a Stand Against Violence" gives young people a voice in the national debate on violence and provides them with tactics for reducing violence in their communities. Fight for Your Rights involves special programming, Public Service Announcements, grassroots events, and News special reports.

Both on air and off, MTV's campaign focuses on the three types of violence that most affect its audience: Violence in the Schools, Violence in the Streets (hate violence and gang violence), and Sexual Violence. Through high profile programming events, coverage on MTV News, thought-provoking on-air promos, a 20 college campus tour, and local events involving cable affiliates across the country, the campaign provides ideas beyond curfews and school uniforms. Focusing on solutions, such as peer mentoring, conflict resolution programs, artistic responses to violence and youth advocacy groups, Fight for Your Rights gives young people the tools they need to take a stand against violence.

"Fight for Your Rights: Take a Stand Against Violence" programming includes:

True Life: Warning Signs, an investigation of the psychological factors that can cause a young person to turn violent, produced in conjunction with the American Psychological Association.

Point Blank, a one-hour national debate on the issue of gun control and the role guns play in the lives of young people.

Scared Straight! 1999, MTV's update of the Oscar and Emmy award-winning documentary of the same title.

Rising Hate Crimes Among Youth, an examination of the alarming increase in hate-related incidents.

Unfilered: Violence from the Eyes of Youth, puts cameras in the hands of 10-15 young people to document violence in their lives.

True Life: Matthew's Murder, takes viewers into the heart of young America's shock

and confusion about the death of 21-year old college student Matthew Shepard.

Fight Back, a hard-hitting look at the thousands of young women and men who are the victims of sexual abuse each year.

Through partnerships with The US Departments of Justice and Education, as well as the National Endowment for the Arts. MTV developed a 24-page Action Guide/all-star CD that will be distributed throughout the campaign. The CD contains music and comments on the subject of violence from top recording artists such as Lauryn Hill, Dave Matthews, Alanis Morissette, and many others. The Guide outlines five actions aimed at engaging young people in solutions to violence, as well as providing alternative outlets to violence. One million copies of the CD/Guide package will be given away to MTV viewers via a special toll-free number promoted on MTV during PSA's, programming and on-air promotions devoted specifically to the topic of youth violence.

The Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) graciously donated and manufactured the all-star CD which also contains CD-ROM content focusing on conflict resolution skills produced by the National Center for Conflict Resolution Education.

CONGRESS MISSES THE BUS ON  
GUN CONTROL

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, in less than two weeks, the students of Columbine High School will resume classes and begin their 1999-2000 school year. Since the now infamous Columbine massacre on April 20th, the school has gone through a complete transformation. Sixteen high-definition security cameras have been installed in the school; bullet holes have been patched or covered; the alarm system, which rang for hours during the reign of terror, has been replaced; and new glass windows have been installed to replace broken ones shattered by bullets and home-made bombs. In addition, keyed entry doors have been replaced by high-security electronic doors, a makeshift library has been created out of classrooms, and the school district has hired two additional security guards for protection.

School officials will be making additional changes up until the very day students come back on August 16th, all in an effort to make the Columbine students feel safer when they return to school. Yet, Columbine students were not the only ones affected by last April's shooting. Students and teachers around the nation have lost the sense of safety they deserve to have at school. These students will hardly regain that safety by new landscaping or replaced alarm systems. These students and their families will continue to live in fear until the real issue at hand is addressed: the easy accessibility that young people have to guns.

When school resumes on August 16th at Columbine and around the nation, Congress will have done nothing to prevent young people from purchasing dangerous weapons. Students across the nation will walk into school to begin a new year, while Congress is in a month-long recess, having done nothing to change the same loopholes in the