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US army says detonation of lead explosives in Iowa will proceed

CHENNAI – 25 Nov, 2026 The United States military will proceed with its plan to blow up a deteriorating stockpile of toxic lead explosives in rural Iowa, according to the army's top civilian official, after a federal appeals court gave clearance to the waste disposal operation.

In an announcement late Monday on X, Acting Army Secretary Adam Telle called the choice to move forward a "consensus decision" among all the federal agencies involved, as well as the courts and state officials.

"Every expert agency agrees, and both Iowa's current and incoming governors say the call belongs to the experts," Telle said.

"We are proceeding with the controlled removal in full coordination with all state, local and federal authorities."



The Army prompted a public outcry last week when details surfaced of its plan to conduct two controlled detonations of 68 drums containing almost 4,500kg (10,000lb) of degraded lead azide, a chemical used in munitions, at the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant in Middletown, Iowa.