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Foreword

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FOREWORD

Global changes in the political arena in the mid and late 80's have triggered arms reductions and created a significant demand for demilitarization practices including closing, relocation or role reassignment for a number of military facilities around the country. This, along with increased public awareness of environmental issues and strict environmental regulations, banning previously acceptable disposal practices, generated a surging demand for decontamination of military facilities.

This issue of the Journal is devoted entirely on issues related to characterization, treatment and disposal of munitions and energetic materials. The papers were presented in a symposium titled "Alternatives to Incineration for Disposal of Chemical Munitions and Energetics" held on June 5-6, 1995 at Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, New Jersey. The symposium, sponsored jointly by the Center for Environmental Engineering and the Highly Filled Materials Institute at Stevens, emphasized technologies having the potential of replacing incineration for the destruction/disposal of chemical agents and energetic materials. The objective of the symposium was to provide a state-of-the-art coverage of various technology areas and explore ways of further utilizing these technologies in a synergistic fashion to expand their utility base. The selected articles cover recent advances made by researchers in academia, DoD, industry and regulatory communities.

We wish to express our sincere appreciation to the Editor of the Journal of Energetic Materials for publishing this issue and to all contributors. It is our hope that this comprehensive collection of articles will keep the readers abreast of the latest developments in the energetic materials and chemical agents demilitarization field.

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