



Advisory #8

December 3, 2008

Operation *Swift Solution* - Weekly Progress Update

WHAT: Operation *Swift Solution* is the Army initiative that started operations on Nov. 12 to destroy the contents of three steel containers commonly referred to as "ton containers," holding a corrosive mixture of the nerve agent GB and its breakdown products. This weekly progress advisory will be provided to stakeholders through the duration of the project.

WHO: Army teams including members from the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, the Blue Grass Chemical Activity, the Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD) and Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA) are involved in the destruction effort, with cooperation and oversight from local and state government agencies, and daily oversight from the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection.

WHERE: BGAD, Richmond, Ky.

WHY: One of the containers has leaked in the past and the others are showing signs of corrosion. Operation *Swift Solution* will safely eliminate all risks associated with the long-term storage of the steel containers and their contents.

PROJECT UPDATE: After completing operational readiness checks to ensure a safe start-up following a temporary halt to operations in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday, the Operation *Swift Solution* team resumed processing the nerve agent mixture from the second container on Dec. 2. To date, the team has successfully neutralized more than 56 gallons of the nerve agent mixture, totaling about 30 percent of the amount of mixture estimated in the containers.

"Operation *Swift Solution* is inspiring, and we're really looking forward to the day when the larger plant is eliminating the entire chemical weapons stockpile," said ACWA Program Manager Kevin Flamm, who visited the depot site on Tuesday. "That's always been our main focus, but this smaller operation shows that if you put the right team in place, with the right equipment, the right training, and the right preparation, the chemical stockpile can be destroyed safely. The entire stockpile is our goal--this is a small, but effective, first step."

Please visit www.pmacwa.army.mil/ky/swift_solution.htm for previous advisories and additional information.

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**A PARTNERSHIP FOR SAFE CHEMICAL WEAPONS DESTRUCTION****FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Contact the U.S. Army Element, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives
Public Affairs Office at (410) 436-3398 or visit www.pmacwa.army.mil.

