



## 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 throughout 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 the U.S. Army Element, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives 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 leaked in the past and the others showed 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:** The second phase of the operation began on Jan. 5. This phase includes removing and neutralizing any sludge, rust, or other solids that may have formed over time inside the containers. The empty containers will be placed one at a time inside the Chemical Agent Transfer System, known as CHATS, and treated by adding water and sodium hydroxide. The containers are then rotated frequently to ensure the neutralized solution decontaminates the remaining material inside of the containers. The liquid mixture is then sampled to confirm the content has meet its treatment goal. After the containers are decontaminated, they will be cut in half and prepared for shipment to a recycling facility.

The third and last phase of the mission involves processing the legacy and secondary wastes generated during the management and destruction of the containers for off-site shipment. Finally, the operational facilities will be shut down and the temporary structures and equipment will be shipped back to Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

The first phase of Operation *Swift Solution* was completed on Dec. 18 and included the neutralization of a mixture of the nerve agent GB and its breakdown products stored in the steel containers. The wastewater product of the neutralization process, known as hydrolysate, is currently being stored in industrial transportation containers.

Please visit [www.pmacwa.army.mil/ky/swift\\_solution.htm](http://www.pmacwa.army.mil/ky/swift_solution.htm) for previous advisories and additional information.

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Contact the U.S. Army Element, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives  
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