



Operation *Swift Solution* - Weekly Progress Update

WHAT: Operation *Swift Solution* is the Army initiative that started operations on Nov. 12, 2008 to destroy the contents of three steel containers commonly referred to as "ton containers," that held 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), the Chemical Materials Agency 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 to decontaminate the interior of the steel containers, cut them in half and prepare them for off-site recycling. The operations team has completed the first step in Phase 2. This involved adding water and sodium hydroxide to the containers and rotating them frequently to ensure the neutralent solution chemically reacted and decontaminated any remaining material inside the containers. The liquid mixture was sampled and the contents met the required treatment goal.

The second step in completing Phase 2 is well under way. This includes removal of solids and cutting the containers in half and monitoring for any agent residue. As of Jan. 14, two of the containers had been cut in half and are now being monitored to ensure decontamination. The third and final container will be cut and decontaminated later this week. The final step in Phase 2 includes preparing the containers for shipment to a recycling facility.

Phase 3 of the mission involves processing the legacy and secondary wastes generated during the management of current and previous operations associated with these containers. When this is completed, the operational facilities will be shut down and the temporary structures and equipment will be shipped back to Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

Please visit 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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