



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 Operation *Swift Solution* which began Jan. 5, was completed on Jan. 18. This phase included further treatment of any residual contaminated material inside the drained GB steel containers, cutting the containers in half, and decontaminating any remaining solids and container halves. Phase 1, neutralization of the liquid GB (Sarin) and its breakdown products stored in three steel containers at the depot, was safely completed on Dec. 19, 2008 by the Army team.

The final phase (phase 3) includes treatment and packaging of all solid wastes generated over several years of various maintenance operations of the ton containers. This includes solid waste generation from *Swift Solution* phase 1 and 2. Once the waste is treated for agent, all liquid and packaged solid wastes will be shipped to a permitted commercial treatment facility for disposal at the conclusion of phase 3. A pre-operational survey of the phase 3 operations is scheduled to begin Jan. 21-22 and the final phase solid waste treatment operations will commence thereafter. The teamwork exhibited by all Army team members, as well as the Commonwealth of Kentucky and local municipalities, reflects favorably on the Department of Defense and the Department of the Army.

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