



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: : Decontamination, repackaging and verification operations continued this week as part of the third and final phase of *Swift Solution*, which began on Jan. 23. This phase includes treatment and packaging of all solid and liquid waste generated during several years of various maintenance operations of the steel containers and during *Swift Solution* operations. The waste will be treated by submerging the waste into a decontamination bath consisting of sodium hydroxide and water. The waste will then be monitored to determine that the treatment goal has been met.

As a result of inclement weather conditions, the *Swift Solution* team halted operations for Jan. 27 and 28. The operational structure's filtration systems have continued to operate during this period. A *Swift Solution* crew is ready to respond to any potential situations. Operation *Swift Solution* will resume as soon as conditions permit.

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 second phase of operations, 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.

At the conclusion of *Swift Solution*, all generated waste will be packaged and shipped to a permitted commercial treatment facility and the operational facilities will be shut down and the temporary structures and equipment will be shipped back to Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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