



Advisory #19

Feb. 25, 2009

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 (KDEP).

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: Phase 3 waste decontamination operations continued this week. *Swift Solution* team members cleaned equipment associated with the Chemical Agent Transfer System, or CHATS, which was used to neutralize the nerve agent solution from the steel containers. By working closely with KDEP, *Swift Solution* team members ensure that the closure actions are in accordance with the required permits and regulations.

After completion of Phase 3, the operations team will begin the final "Closure" phase. This phase will include closing out the KDEP Temporary Authorization Requests for Operation *Swift Solution*. The closure actions will be performed in concurrence with KDEP, which will include certification that the units are clean, followed by dismantling the equipment and facilities. The temporary structures and equipment will then be shipped back to Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

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Chemical Weapons Alternatives**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.