



## Temporary Authorization Request Submitted

This is the first of a series of advisories with information on the progress of Operation *Swift Solution*, the initiative underway to safely destroy three deteriorating steel containers (also known as "ton" containers) and wastes associated with the management of these containers currently in storage at the Blue Grass Army Depot. The three containers hold a mixture of chemical agent GB and its breakdown products that have occurred over time.

These advisories will let you know about significant milestones reached, progress made in the destruction operation itself and what work remains to bring the operation to a successful conclusion.

This initial advisory announces that the Program Manager Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (PMACWA), in collaboration with Blue Grass Army Depot and the Blue Grass Chemical Activity as the permit owner/operator and other parties, has formally submitted a Temporary Authorization Request, known as a "TAR," to the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection. PMACWA is the Department of Defense organization responsible for destruction of the Blue Grass Army Depot chemical weapons stockpile. Once reviewed and approved by Kentucky authorities, the TAR will allow Army teams to begin site preparation for Operation *Swift Solution*.

Attached to this advisory is a fact sheet that gives an overview of the operation and outlines its specific steps and milestones in the operation's schedule.

Although coordinated by PMACWA, Operation *Swift Solution* is a team effort involving the Commonwealth of Kentucky and several U.S. Army organizations including the Chemical Materials Agency, the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, Blue Grass Army Depot, and the Blue Grass Chemical Activity. Madison County and City of Richmond authorities, as well as local stakeholders, also play key roles.

If you have questions or comments about Operation *Swift Solution*, please do not hesitate to contact the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant Public Affairs Office at the number listed below.

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Program Manager Assembled  
Chemical Weapons Alternatives

**A PARTNERSHIP FOR SAFE CHEMICAL WEAPONS DESTRUCTION**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Contact the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant  
Public Affairs Office at (859) 624-6326 or visit [www.pmacwa.army.mil](http://www.pmacwa.army.mil).





## Operation *Swift Solution*

The Program Manager Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA) is the Department of Defense organization responsible for destruction of the Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD) chemical weapons stockpile. ACWA initiated Operation *Swift Solution* to safely eliminate three deteriorating steel containers and wastes associated with the management of these steel containers currently in storage at the depot near Richmond, Ky. These steel containers have also been commonly referred to as "one-ton containers," or simply "ton containers."

The steel containers contain a mixture of chemical agent GB and its breakdown products that have occurred over time. One of the containers has leaked in the past and the other containers are showing signs of corrosion. For health and safety reasons and as a measure to prevent future potential leaks and/or releases, Operation *Swift Solution* will eliminate the risks associated with the long-term storage of the containers. ACWA is coordinating the effort with the following partners: BGAD, Blue Grass Chemical Activity (BGCA), the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC), the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection (KDEP) and local stakeholders.

To complete destruction operations, a trained team from ECBC will deploy to BGAD from Maryland with a system known as the Chemical Agent Transfer System, or CHATS, to destroy the contents of the steel containers. The system will drain and neutralize the contents of the containers, which will then be decontaminated and recycled. The specific steps required to prepare for and carry out destruction operations are described below.

- **Permitting:** This first step involves coordination between ACWA, BGAD and BGCA to obtain approval of a Temporary Authorization Request from KDEP.
- **Site Preparation:** BGCA will initiate site preparation for the General Purpose Operations Shelter, which will house the CHATS equipment.
- **Mobilization:** The CHATS and all additional support equipment will be transported from Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. to BGAD.
- **Operational Readiness Review:** A thorough review of all equipment and standard operating procedures will be performed to ensure safe operations.
- **Destruction Operations:** The contents of the steel containers and associated wastes will be destroyed using the CHATS. Destruction operations are expected to take approximately three months to complete.
- **Decontamination of Residual Waste:** Both liquid and solid residual waste, including cleaned steel containers, will either be shipped off-site to a permitted disposal facility or stored at the BGCA until treatment and regulatory permitting options are identified.
- **Demobilization:** The Operation *Swift Solution* will be decommissioned.



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