



Advisory #20

March 5, 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: With the safe arrival and acceptance of the hydrolysate wastewater at Veolia Environmental Services, near Port Arthur, Texas, Phase 3 of the Operation *Swift Solution* mission was successfully completed. Trucks carrying the two industrial shipping containers, known as isotainers, containing the hydrolysate left the Blue Grass Army Depot Feb. 25 and arrived at Veolia the next day. The United States received credit under the Chemical Weapons Convention treaty for chemical destruction when the hydrolysate was off-loaded at the Veolia site.

Phase 3 included treatment and packaging of all solid and liquid waste generated during several years of various maintenance operations of the steel containers and during the recent disposal operations, monitoring of the treated waste to ensure the treatment goal had been met, and shipment to the permitted disposal facility.

The operations team has begun the final "closure" phase. This phase includes closing out the KDEP Temporary Authorization Requests for Operation *Swift Solution*. The closure actions are being performed in concurrence with KDEP, which will include certification that the units are clean, followed by dismantling the facilities, and shipping some additional containerized waste from the BGAD to Veolia. The temporary structures and equipment will then be shipped back to Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

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**A PARTNERSHIP FOR SAFE CHEMICAL WEAPONS DESTRUCTION****FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Contact the U.S. Army Element, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives
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