



Advisory #23

March 26, 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 (ECBC), 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: The Operation *Swift Solution* mission is winding down, as the decontaminated and cut steel container halves were shipped to Rock Island Arsenal, Ill. this week for smelting and recycling. Also this week, the packaged secondary waste generated during the decontamination and processing of legacy waste was shipped to Veolia Environmental Services near Port Arthur, Texas.

On March 25, KDEP authorized breakdown of Operation *Swift Solution* structures and removal of the CHATS unit. Once the breakdown and removal is accomplished, KDEP will verify clean closure.

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**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.

