



## 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:** On March 31, the project received a Notice of Violation (NOV) from KDEP dated March 25, 2009. The notice states that on Feb. 25, a KDEP inspector observed indications of dried caustic material on the exterior and underneath a shipping container. It is suspected that the residue was left by a drip of the clear sodium hydroxide solution used to top off the shipping container prior to shipment, not hydrolysate. It likely occurred during the removal of the hose which was used to transfer the liquid waste from a bulk container to the shipping container. As the shipping container was parked within a temporary berm which provided total containment, no liquid was released outside of the containment area. The incident was instantly self-reported, as the state inspector was with the observing party and the situation was immediately remediated. The NOV cites improper storage inspection.

ECBC is currently scheduled to return to BGAD on April 13 to break down Operation *Swift Solution* structures and remove the Chemical Agent Transfer System. Once the breakdown and removal is accomplished, KDEP will verify clean closure and the *Swift Solution* mission will be complete.

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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](http://www.pmacwa.army.mil).

