



## **Destruction Operations Set to Begin**

During the week of Nov. 10, 2008, the U.S. Army Element, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA), in collaboration with the Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD) and the Blue Grass Chemical Activity (BGCA) as the permit owner/operator, plan to begin destruction operations for Operation *Swift Solution* contingent upon the completion of all final safety checks and state regulatory approval.

Operation *Swift Solution* is the initiative to destroy the contents of three deteriorating steel containers commonly referred to "ton containers," which hold a corrosive 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. Operation *Swift Solution* will safely eliminate all risks associated with the long-term storage of the steel containers and their contents.

The Chemical Agent Transfer System, or CHATS, has been put in place to complete destruction operations. A trained team from the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC) from Maryland was deployed to BGAD/BGCA with the CHATS, which will drain and neutralize the agent contents of the steel containers. The steel containers themselves will then be decontaminated, cut, cleaned of any remaining interior residue and sent to a smelter.

With the concurrence of the Kentucky Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission and its subcommittee, the Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board, all secondary waste liquid and solid associated with the operation will be shipped to Veolia Environmental Services near Port Arthur, Texas for final treatment and disposal. The ACWA Program Manager and his staff considered several other alternatives for disposal, keeping in mind the main criteria of safety, efficiency and the use of a single technology to treat all of the wastes, without expending labor and resources to research and develop new approaches. The only option that met all of these requirements was shipment to the Veolia facility which is fully licensed and permitted to accept such wastes. This decision applies only to wastes generated by Operation *Swift Solution* and does not set a precedent for disposal of the larger quantities of similar waste to be generated in the future by the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant as it destroys the Blue Grass chemical weapons stockpile.

Operation *Swift Solution*, including shipment to Veolia, is expected to be complete in the first part of 2009. ACWA is coordinating the effort with the following partners: BGAD, BGCA, the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, ECBC, the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection and local stakeholders.

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U.S. Army Element, Assembled  
Chemical Weapons Alternatives

**A PARTNERSHIP FOR SAFE CHEMICAL WEAPONS DESTRUCTION**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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