



Operation *Swift Solution* - Weekly Progress Update

WHAT: Operation *Swift Solution* is the Army initiative that started operations on Nov. 12 to destroy the contents of three steel containers commonly referred to "ton containers," holding a corrosive mixture of the nerve agent GB and its breakdown products. This weekly progress advisory will be provided to stakeholders through the duration of the project.

WHO: Army teams including members from the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC), the Blue Grass Chemical Activity (BGCA), the Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD) and Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA) 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: Blue Grass Army Depot, Richmond, Ky.

WHY: One of the containers has leaked in the past and the others 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.

PROJECT UPDATE: Two containers have been moved from their original storage igloo to the operations structure housing the Chemical Agent Transfer System, known as the CHATS. The contents of the first container, which contained the least amount of the nerve agent mixture, were successfully drained and neutralized. Neutralization of the contents of the second container is currently under way. The third container, which is the container that leaked in August 2007, remains in the storage igloo under daily monitoring.

"Things are going well and we are meeting all of our treatment goals," said Tim Blades, of ECBC, who leads the Maryland unit deployed to BGAD.

On Nov. 17, the ECBC team responded to a routine maintenance situation in the early morning hours due to an error signal generated in the monitoring system, a situation that indicated there were power output fluctuations from the primary system's generators. All of the redundant emergency systems in place were operating as intended, and there were no personnel in the structure at the time. The team performed troubleshooting activities, including switching generators and electrical connections, and re-setting the monitoring system. Follow-up maintenance activities later that day included making adjustments to the filtration system and a 45-second controlled shut-down of the CHATS filter system that resulted in an anticipated monitoring system alarm. Filtration of the overall operational structure continued as normal. A power outage was tested and the secondary (back-up) generator functioned as designed, with all equipment and filter systems working properly.

"With the start up of any new operation, there are going to be issues, but hopefully very few unforeseen events. I'm pleased with the progress made thus far," Blades said.

As of Nov. 18, Operation *Swift Solution* has neutralized 16 gallons of nerve agent GB and its breakdown products.

Please visit www.pmacwa.army.mil/ky/swift_solution.htm for previous advisories and additional information.

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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.

