



## Operation *Swift Solution*

The Program Manager Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA) is the Department of Defense organization responsible for destruction of the Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD) chemical weapons stockpile. ACWA initiated Operation *Swift Solution* to safely eliminate three deteriorating steel containers and wastes associated with the management of these steel containers currently in storage at the depot near Richmond, Ky. These steel containers have also been commonly referred to as "one-ton containers," or simply "ton containers."

The steel containers contain a 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. For health and safety reasons and as a measure to prevent future potential leaks and/or releases, Operation *Swift Solution* will eliminate the risks associated with the long-term storage of the containers. ACWA is coordinating the effort with the following partners: BGAD, Blue Grass Chemical Activity (BGCA), the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC), the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection (KDEP) and local stakeholders.

To complete destruction operations, a trained team from ECBC will deploy to BGAD from Maryland with a system known as the Chemical Agent Transfer System, or CHATS, to destroy the contents of the steel containers. The system will drain and neutralize the contents of the containers, which will then be decontaminated and recycled. The specific steps required to prepare for and carry out destruction operations are described below.

- **Permitting:** This first step involves coordination between ACWA, BGAD and BGCA to obtain approval of a Temporary Authorization Request from KDEP.
- **Site Preparation:** BGCA will initiate site preparation for the General Purpose Operations Shelter, which will house the CHATS equipment.
- **Mobilization:** The CHATS and all additional support equipment will be transported from Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. to BGAD.
- **Operational Readiness Review:** A thorough review of all equipment and standard operating procedures will be performed to ensure safe operations.
- **Destruction Operations:** The contents of the steel containers and associated wastes will be destroyed using the CHATS. Destruction operations are expected to take approximately three months to complete.
- **Decontamination of Residual Waste:** Both liquid and solid residual waste, including cleaned steel containers, will either be shipped off-site to a permitted disposal facility or stored at the BGCA until treatment and regulatory permitting options are identified.
- **Demobilization:** The Operation *Swift Solution* will be decommissioned.



A PARTNERSHIP FOR SAFE CHEMICAL WEAPONS DESTRUCTION

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Call the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant Public Affairs Office at (859) 624-6326 or visit [www.pmacwa.army.mil](http://www.pmacwa.army.mil).

