

**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Baltimore District

**Spring Valley
Washington, D.C.**

***EPA Regional Conference
Dec. 1, 1999***



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Agenda

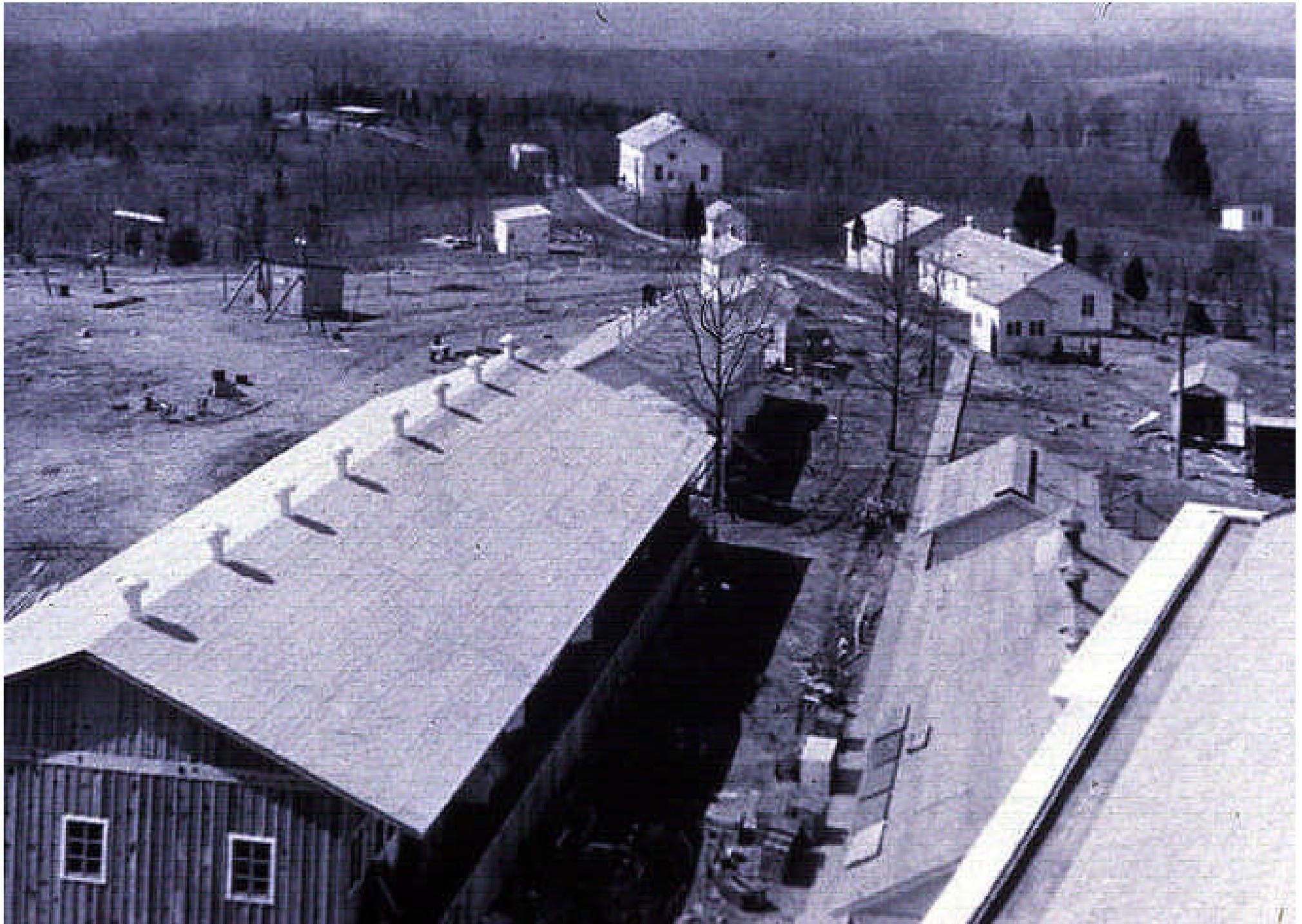
- **History**
- **Site today**
- **Initial investigation**
- **Current work**
- **Customers/Partners**
- **Public Issues**
- **Successful solutions**



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History

- **Between 1917-1919 Chemical Warfare Service used the site to perform small-scale research and testing of chemical agents, equipment and munitions**
- **Site was named the American University Experiment Station**
- **Approximate size of the site was 661 acres**







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Site Today

- **1,200 private homes**
- **Several embassies and foreign properties**
- **American University and Wesley Seminary**







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Initial Investigation - Phase I

- **January 1993 contractor digging utility line unearths World War I munition**
- **Emergency response results in the removal of 141 munitions, 43 of which were suspect chemical**
- **February 1993 site transferred to Corps**







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Initial Investigation - Phase II

- Investigation focused on 56 areas likely to have been used for testing
- Three single ordnance items recovered during two-year search
- No chemical agent unique contaminants found in 260 soil samples
- 1995 Record of Decision recommended no further action







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Current Work

- **Conducted re-look of previous work at the request of D.C. government**
- **Concluded one area within the original study area should be further investigated**
- **Geophysical mapping of Korean Ambassador's property indicated two suspect areas**
- **Intrusive investigation required at these areas**



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Current Work

- **March 1999 began excavating first suspect area**
- **October 1999 completed 95% of work at first suspect area:**
 - 379 items removed, 230 of which were ordnance-related
 - 911, 55-gallon drums of soil removed
- **October 1999 began excavating second suspect area**







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Customers/Partners

- **Spring Valley residents**
- **Property owner - Korean government**
- **D.C. Health Department**
- **D.C. Police and Fire**
- **Environmental Protection Agency**
- **Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.**
- **State Department**
- **Secret Service**



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Public Issues

- **Health and safety**
- **Noise**
- **Evacuations**
- **Work schedules**
- **Public involvement/information**
- **Comprehensive investigation**
- **Site restoration**



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Solutions

- **Health and safety**

- Number one priority
- 24-hour monitoring and security
- Vapor Containment Structure
- Comprehensive Site Safety Plan

- **Noise**

- Mufflers installed on exhaust fans
- Daytime operations only
- Limit work traffic to and from site



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Solutions

- **Evacuations**

- No evacuations required with VCS
- Honored request from adjacent property owner

- **Work schedules**

- Delayed work one week due to NATO meeting
- Adjusted work plans to honor Korean holiday
- Work closely with property owner and other stakeholders to define schedules



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Solutions

- **Public involvement/information**

- Weekly community meetings
- Newsletter - *The Corps'pondent*
- Media interviews
- Internet web site - updated daily
- 1-800 information line - updated daily
- Letters to residents

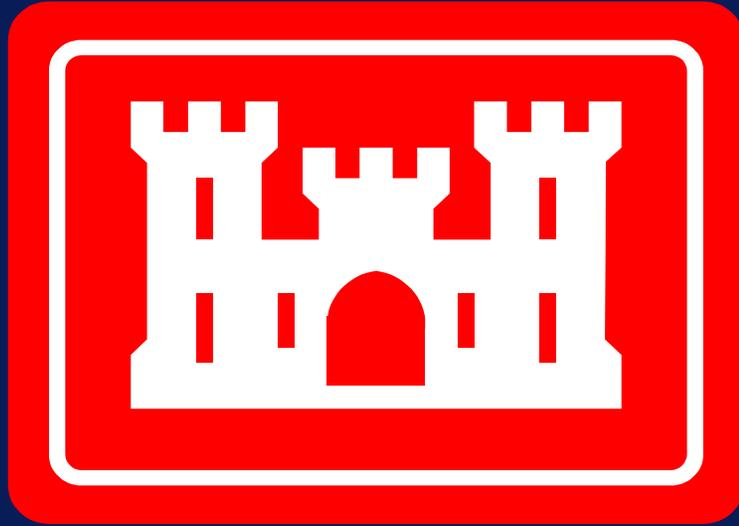


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Solutions

- **Comprehensive investigation**
 - Highly-trained & experienced workers
 - State-of-the-art equipment
 - Air and soil sampling analysis
 - Approved Site Safety Plan
- **Site restoration**
 - Coordinated restoration plan with property owner
 - Restore site to original condition

Questions & Answers



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