



News Release

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Corps of Engineers to Conduct Community Meeting on Spring Valley

BALTIMORE, MD--The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, will conduct a community meeting Feb. 4 to discuss the proposed plan for the Corps' follow up investigation to identify and possibly remove, if necessary, any remnants of past defense activities at one area of the Spring Valley neighborhood. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. at Sibley Hospital Auditorium, 5253 Loughboro Road, N.W.

After a review of historical data, the Corps determined that a site on Glenbrook Road, near the perimeter of the former American University Experiment Station, should be further investigated. In February 1998, the Corps conducted a geophysical survey of this area to detect any disturbances in the soil or the presence of metallic objects, which supported this decision. The proposed follow on investigation will determine whether possible chemical warfare materials, breakdown products and potential laboratory contaminants such as containers of mustard gas, exist at the Glenbrook Road site.

Corps officials are continuing to coordinate this work with the property owners and key governmental agencies including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the D.C. government. On-site work is scheduled to begin in late February and will continue for several weeks. Throughout the investigation, government officials will work to minimize disruptions to the community while taking every step to ensure the health and safety of the Spring Valley residents.

From 1917 to 1920, military personnel used portions of the Spring Valley area to conduct research on and perform small-scale field testing of chemical warfare items as part of the American University Experiment Station, which later became known as the Chemical Warfare Service.