



## News Release

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*For Release: March 29, 1999*

### **Corps to begin intrusive work at Spring Valley site**

**WASHINGTON, DC**--Today, March 29, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, will begin the intrusive phase of its current investigation for chemical warfare materials at one property on Glenbrook Road in the Spring Valley neighborhood of northwest Washington, D.C. This is the first of two suspect areas on the Glenbrook Road property scheduled for intrusive investigation. Work at the first site is expected to be completed by April 12. Work at the second site will begin shortly thereafter.

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During a 1997 review of the Operation Safe Removal project, the Corps determined that the Glenbrook Road property should be further investigated. Historical documents indicated the possibility of a disposal pit of 5-gallon mustard and/or lewisite containers. Army ordnance experts from Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., will excavate the two areas and collect soil samples, which will be tested by Parsons Engineering, Inc., and disposed of as appropriate.

In February 1998 the Corps conducted a geophysical survey of the Glenbrook site to identify any soil disturbances or the presence of metallic objects that would require an intrusive investigation. During the survey, 11 anomalies were identified. Two could not be easily explained, and were indicative of possible burial pits for chemical warfare material. The remaining anomalies were not indicative of a burial area, but at the request of the property owner and the State Department, they will be investigated and removed.

Operation Safe Removal was a three-year investigation from 1993-1995 by the corps in the Spring Valley area to determine if buried ordnance and explosive waste and hazardous substances still existed at this formerly used defense site known as American University Experiment Station. From 1917 to 1920 military personnel conducted research on and performed small-scale testing of chemical warfare items at the experiment station.

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**Note: The media will not be allowed at the actual site of the digging. Any media wishing interviews or file footage should call the Corps' Spring Valley office at 202-686-3154 or 3359.**