



News Release

**US Army
Corps
of Engineers**
Baltimore District
Public Affairs
Office
P.O. Box 1715
Baltimore, MD
21203-1715
(410) 962-2809
Fax: (410) 962-
3660

*Release No. 99-13
Contact: Linda Greene (202) 686-3154
For Release: April 2, 1999*

Corps completes first work week in Spring Valley

WASHINGTON, DC--The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, recently completed its first week of intrusive work for the current investigation for chemical warfare materials at one property on Glenbrook Road in the Spring Valley neighborhood. To date, no items or chemical warfare materials and/or by-products were found.

Four three-person crews from Tech Escort, Aberdeen, Md., worked within the Vapor Containment Structure for 1 1/2-hour shifts each. By close of business Thursday, the crews using hand shovels had excavated to a depth of approximately three feet in a pit approximately 10' by 14' on the Glenbrook property. Work was suspended for the holiday weekend, and will resume April 5.

[Back to News
Release](#)

Forty-five 55-gallon drums of soil were removed and transported to the federal property, where sample testing took place. During the first week, no chemical warfare materials were detected in any of the tested soil samples. Digging will continue at this first of two locations to a maximum depth of 10 feet or until chemical warfare materials and/or breakdown products are discovered. Work at the first location should be completed by mid-April. Work at the second location is scheduled to begin late April and completed in May. Currently, all work is on schedule.

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 Historical documents indicated the possibility of a disposal pit of 5-gallon mustard and/or lewisite containers. 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.

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.

-30-

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.