

News Release

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Corps to investigate eight small suspect areas at the Glenbrook Road site in the Spring Valley neighborhood

Baltimore –During June 7-9, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, will excavate eight small suspect areas of interest as part of the ongoing investigation for WWI chemical warfare materials at the Glenbrook Road site in the Spring Valley neighborhood. These areas were identified during previous geophysical surveys of the Glenbrook site. An analysis of the survey data indicated the presence of unknown metallic objects buried in these areas. Ordnance specialists will dig by hand to further identify the suspect objects.

Residents of seven neighboring homes and officials at American University have been notified of the upcoming investigation, and arrangements have been made to provide for their safety. As another safety precaution, a portion of Glenbrook Road from 49th Street to Rockwood Parkway will be closed to motorists from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. during these three days. Motorists are advised to use Rockwood Parkway as an alternative route.

The investigation of these eight-areas is in addition to the Corps' ongoing investigation of the two disposal pit areas at the Glenbrook Road site. Corps officials estimate the investigation of the disposal areas will be completed by November.

Historical records indicate that from 1917 to 1920 military personnel conducted research on and performed small-scale testing of chemical warfare items in the Spring Valley area. The Corps conducted a three-year investigation from 1993-1995 of 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 the American University Experiment Station.

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Note: The media will not be allowed at the actual site of the digging. Any media wishing interviews should call the Corps' Spring Valley office at 202-686-3154 or 3359, or the Public Affairs Office at 410-962-2809.

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