



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Baltimore District

The Corps'pondent

a newsletter by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the residents of Spring Valley

Vol. 1, No. 3

Spring 1999

First site on Glenbrook Road appears to be a disposal pit

by Col. Bruce Berwick
Commander &
District Engineer

As planned, we began our intrusive work on March 29 at the first of two locations on the Glenbrook property.

This first dig has unearthed what has been identified as a burial pit used during the American University Experiment Station activities.

During the excavation, we removed various items: several unfused Stokes mortars, wooden training aides, intact glass jars, 75mm unfused rounds, ceramic pottery, part of a WWI protective mask, several intact cylinders and miscellaneous pieces of

glass. The majority of these have been classified as non-hazardous, but several items, such as the intact containers, are being further evaluated.

As items were uncovered, ordnance technicians from Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., identified and determined that everything found was safe to handle.

Once that determination was made, each item was packed and transported to the Interim Holding Facility located on federal property. Additional tests using advanced technology will further identify the contents of intact items.

To date, technicians have dug to a depth of five feet across the pit. In the 18 days of work, 161, 55-gallon barrels were filled with excavated soil and removed from the 13' by 23' pit. The soil was transported to the federal property where samples were tested daily.

One of the soil sam-

ples removed on April 15 showed a small amount of dithiane, a mustard breakdown product.

A drum with green substance removed on April 19 contained a small amount of mustard.

No other samples taken here indicated any chemical warfare materials or byproducts.

Due to the NATO conference, the FBI asked that we temporarily cease operations until April 27.

Because of the size of the pit, number of items we've found at this first location and the difficulty in removing a tree stump, our schedule to begin the investigation of the second site has been pushed to late May.

We estimate the next site will take only a couple of weeks, but it is impossible to know precisely until we actually begin the work.

Prior to beginning work at the second site, we will investi-

gate and remove the remaining anomalous areas of interest in the backyard of the Glenbrook Road property.

Investigating and removing these anomalous areas should take a day or two. We expect to do this work May 19-21.

Since the Vapor Containment Structure will not be used during this part of the investigation, seven neighboring homes and two American University buildings will be temporarily vacated during the work day. These families have already been notified of this upcoming work.

As always, I want to emphasize our commitment to conduct this investigation as safely as possible.

We continue to do everything we can to ensure that the community is safe and disruption is kept to a minimum as we conduct our work.

We will continue to report daily work updates, so please call our Spring Valley information line or visit our web site.



Col. Bruce A. Berwick

Media Day at OU3



A Corps employee from the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, Ala., explains the vapor containment structure at a Media Day on March 16. The media was invited to visit the Glenbrook Road site to photograph the area and interview experts on the intrusive work which began March 29.



Two Army ordnance experts from Aberdeen Proving Ground demonstrate the Level B protection suit they will wear when performing intrusive work at the Glenbrook Road site.



Army personnel assist a colleague in putting on the Level B protection suit he will wear during intrusive work. He will do this work inside the vapor containment structure which contains several banks of filters and a filter exhaust system.

Day one

Work begins on Glenbrook property



The Vapor Containment Structure serves as the center of activity for intrusive work that began March 29. To date, ordnance technicians from Aberdeen, Md., have dug to a depth of five feet at the 13' by 23' location on the Glenbrook property, uncovering what they suspect is a disposal pit from the American University Experiment Station activities.



An ordnance technician prepares decontamination solution and equipment used during intrusive work.



Army personnel from Aberdeen suit up prior to entering the Vapor Containment Structure.



A worker moves one of the 55-gallon drums of soil that was transported from the pit to federal property.



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Official Business

Items discovered at Glenbrook Road pit

The following items have been uncovered at the first anomaly: **below**, an unfused Stokes mortar and tail fins for a piece of ordnance; **in the second column**, a cylinder, a tank and scrap items.



Editor's Note:

This is the third issue of the Corps'pondent, a newsletter by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District.

The Corps'pondent will be sent to Spring Valley residents on an as-needed basis.

Residents are also urged to visit the Baltimore District web site at:

<http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/environmental/springvalley.htm>

Information about the 1995 Spring Valley project and the current work is available at the Palisades Public Library, 49th and V St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007.

For further information about this project, residents may call the Public Affairs Office at 410-962-2809 or toll-free at 1-800-434-0988.

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The Corps'pondent is an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of AR360-81 and published by the Public Affairs Office, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, P.O. Box 1715, Baltimore, Md. 21203-1715. Telephone: (410) 962-2809; fax: (410) 962-3660, Spring Valley Information Line (1-800-434-0988). It is printed on recyclable paper; press run 1,400. All manuscripts submitted are subject to editing and rewriting. Material from this publication may be reproduced without permission. Views and opinions are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army.

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