



US Army Corps
of Engineers

Baltimore District

Public Affairs Office

P.O. Box 1715

Baltimore, MD 21203

(410) 962-2809

Fax: (410) 962-3660

News Release

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Contact: Doug Garman or Major Michael Peloquin

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Phone: 410-962-2809 or 410-984-9272

Army Corps of Engineers continues investigation of World War I burial pit at Spring Valley site

Baltimore – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, officials announced today that several dozen World War I ordnance items had been excavated earlier this week at the ongoing investigation of a burial pit on Glenbrook Road in the Spring Valley neighborhood. The excavated items have been safely placed in secure storage pending further assessment and disposal.

Since May, workers have been carefully investigating the pit that was discovered during testing on one of the Glenbrook Road properties earlier this year. During this investigation, the Army has removed dozens of ordnance items, glass bottles and other miscellaneous debris from the site.

In July, Army experts installed a special metal structure over the excavation area as an added safety measure. This structure is certified to contain any harmful contaminants in the event of an accident.

Elsewhere in the Spring Valley neighborhood, the Corps is continuing its efforts to sample the neighborhood for arsenic in the soil. To date, the Corps has completed sampling for arsenic at approximately 1,172 of the 1,550 residential and non-residential properties in the neighborhood. The Corps has received preliminary results on 976 of these properties, of which 129 properties require more detailed follow-on grid sampling. This sampling is ongoing.

Historical records indicate that portions of the Spring Valley neighborhood were once used by military personnel assigned to the former American University Experiment Station from 1917-1919, to conduct research and testing on World War I chemical warfare materials.

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