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# News Release

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## Army Corps of Engineers to hold media day at Spring Valley, August 7

**Baltimore** - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, will hold a media day **Wednesday, August 7, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at the federal property behind Sibley Memorial Hospital** to discuss the planned intrusive investigation for buried anomalies at two properties in the 5000 block of Sedgwick Street in the Spring Valley neighborhood of Washington, D.C. This work is scheduled to begin the week of August 12.

***At the media day, project managers will provide an overview of the operation, show equipment and explain the procedures to be used during the investigation. Because access to Sedgwick Street will be limited when the work starts, this event will be the best opportunity to see the equipment and talk with the experts who will conduct the investigation.***

During the investigation, experts will identify and remove 29 metallic anomalies that are buried on the two properties. These anomalies were identified in May 2000 during a Corps of Engineers' re-evaluation of a select number of Sedgwick Street properties. These are located near what was once a former trench system used by military personnel assigned to the American University Experiment Station from 1917-1919.

The Corps, the Environmental Protection Agency and D.C. Department of Health completed a preliminary assessment of the properties and have characterized 27 of the 29 anomalies as "low risk" and the remaining two as "higher risk." Prior to excavating the "higher risk" anomalies, a protective containment structure will be placed over the dig site. This structure and its associated filtration system are specifically designed to contain any detonation and prevent the release of chemical agent in the event a chemically configured item is found and accidentally detonates. The "low risk" anomalies will be excavated either by hand or mechanically without the cover of the containment structure. Because the risk to residents is low and because of the engineering controls to be used, no evacuation of residents is required.

Due to the amount of equipment that will be parked on Sedgwick Street in support of this work and to ensure the safety of workers, the D.C. police will close Sedgwick Street between Fordham Road and Tilden Street to all traffic except for Sedgwick Street residents and their guests. The street closure will occur between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays. The street will reopen to all traffic at the end of each workday. D.C. police will provide security at the site around the clock to ensure only authorized personnel enter the work area.

Concurrent with this work, the Corps is continuing its removal of arsenic-contaminated soil at American University and three residential properties. Work in these areas is progressing as scheduled.