



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ST. LOUIS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
1222 SPRUCE STREET
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63103-2833

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

CEMVS-ED-P (200-1c)

(Williams)

26 April 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, US Army Engineer District, Huntington, 502 8th Street,
Huntington, West Virginia 25701-2070

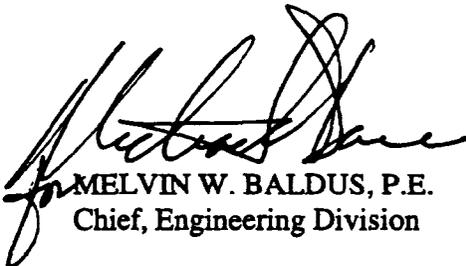
SUBJECT: Potential Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) Formerly Used
Defense Site (FUDS) Projects – West Virginia Maneuver Area

1. Since October 1992 the St. Louis District has been performing historical research and preparing Archives Search Reports (ASR) on Ordnance and Explosives (OE) and Chemical Warfare Materials (CWM) at FUDS locations throughout the United States, for Huntsville Engineering Support Center. Research at the Fort Worth National Archives has discovered documentation in Record Group 77, Entry: SW1, Box 169, pertaining to the West Virginia Maneuver Area. Enclosure 1 is the textual documentation; Enclosures 2, 3 and 4 are copies of the three maps. We believe there may be additional property associated with the Maneuver Area which may be eligible for evaluation under the DERP/FUDS program for potential OE/CWM hazards.

2. For further information regarding this matter, please contact Michael Dace at (314) 331-8036 or by e-mail at Michael.E.Dace@mvs02.usace.army.mil.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Encls


MELVIN W. BALDUS, P.E.
Chief, Engineering Division

CF:

CEMP-RF (Coppola)(w/encls)

CELRD-DE (w/encls)

CELRH-PM-P (R. Meadow)(w/encls)

CEHNC-ED-SY (Mardis)(w/encls)

200.1e

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De-18

9500 TSU-CE DETACHMENT NO. 6
ENGINEER RANGE CLEARANCE TEAM
General Delivery
Southern Pines, N. C.

21 May 1953

SUBJECT: Report of Inspection of West Virginia Maneuver Area

TO: Office Chief of Engineers
Building T-7
Washington 25, D. C.

Attn: Real Estate

Ohio River Division
Cincinnati, Ohio

Attn: Real Estate

TRM: Louisville Engineer District
Post Office Box 79
Louisville, Kentucky

Attn: Real Estate

1. For instructions contained in Savannah District Engineer Travel Order 4-4 dated 5 May 51 & verbal direction received from Mr. Dave Potter of Louisville Engineer District, this unit conducted inspection operations covering the impact areas of the West Virginia Maneuver area. The Maneuver Area covered 750,000 acres of Northwest West Virginia between Elkins & Petersburg. The impact area covered roughly 50,000 acres in the Eastern side of the Maneuver area about 12 to 15 miles West of Petersburg. The impact area is generally barren, rocky & mountainous terrain, with portions of mountain sides heavily over grown. The lands are considered of very little value, from 25 cents to \$1.00 dollar per acre.

2. Impact areas (See Attached Map) of the subject area were located and inspected with the assistance of Mr. Jeff Goldison of Petersburg & Mr. Bill Gandy of Elkins. These men are ex rangers. They were assigned to work with the military during firing operations, had seen the shells fall & knew the impact areas well. There is very little evidence left of the areas having been used. Blast marks & Craters are still recognizable in very rocky areas. It appears that previous Clearance operations were good. Shells remaining in the area are of isolated nature & must be recovered disposed of on a location & call basis. Detail search of the areas is not recommended.

3. The 51st Ordnance EOD Det, from Baltimore Maryland with 3 Officers & 15 SN is presently in the Davis area for 2 or 3 weeks field training, with the mission of disposal of all known duds. To date six missiles have been recovered and/or destroyed.

ENCL 1

4. Articles were placed in local papers to draw attention to our unit activities & to collect information on location of all known missiles. Missiles reported will be disposed of by the Ordnance Det during their stay. This should take care of the degrading problem in the area for some time.

5. Useful & friendly assistance was received from Mr. Clair Carr, Forest Service Office in Petersburg. The assistance received from Mr. Goldisen & Mr. Cramer was invaluable.



D. E. LYNCH
Major., CE
Commanding

CORPS OF ENGINEERS, U. S. ARMY
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ENGINEER
SAVANNAH DISTRICT
200 East St. Julian Street
Savannah, Georgia

SASVE

5 May 1953

SUBJECT: Travel Orders No. 8-8

TO: Major ^{garn}
~~XXXXXX~~ Dallas R. Lynch, CE, O1101561
Sgt (E5) Grant W. Colburn, RA 36471782
Cpl (E4) Billy T. W. Walker, RA 44172403
Pvt (E2) Tommy Terry, US 53123671
Pvt (E1) Fred Hille, US 51208706
9800th TSU-CE Det No. 8, Engineer Range Clearance Team,
Ft Belvoir, Va.

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA (DS)

Under authority of para 5111, Part I, Chapter V, and Part I, Chapter VIII, Orders and Regulations, CE, and letter dated 27 April 1953 from Office of the Division Engineer, South Atlantic Division, subject, "Reconnaissance Survey - West Virginia Maneuver Area," file SADRM 602 Deduinding - RE General, you will proceed on further TDY as directed below, the travel directed herein being necessary in the military service, and upon completion of such temporary duty, return to your presently assigned TDY station within the Savannah District.

DEPARTURE DATE: On or about 12 May 1953, for approximately 15 days.

FROM: TDY station, Southern Pines, N. C.

TO: Elkins, West Virginia, and such points in the vicinity thereof as may be necessary to complete specific mission.

DUTY: In connection with military activities of the Corps of Engineers; for the purpose of making a reconnaissance survey of West Virginia Maneuver Area, and making a report to the Division Engineer, Ohio River Division, of findings and recommendations.

Officer will register upon arrival at and departure from each activity or installation where duty is performed.

Travel by rail, bus, and/or government-owned vehicle is authorized.

Expenses authorized are chargeable to 2132020 8-8619 F1541-02 509-133, to be reimbursed by Ohio River Division when the cost of the survey has been determined.

BY ORDER OF THE DISTRICT ENGINEER:

Distribution: Budget & Accounting Branch
CO, Det No. 8
>EM concerned
DIV ENGR, Ohio River Div
SADIV, Attn: SADPM and SADRM
Files

J. H. Morris
J. H. MORRIS
Major, CE
Executive Officer

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WAR DEPARTMENT
Office of the Chief of Engineers
Washington, D.C.

Refer to File No. CE 602 Bomb Disposal ENGLT

9 July 1946

SUBJECT: Report on Investigation of Report of Unexploded Shells
in West Virginia Maneuver Area

TO: The Division Engineer
Ohio River Division
Columbus, Ohio

1. Reference is made to letter, your office, dated 19 June 1946, concerning a report of duds on the property of Tacy A. Carwell in the West Virginia Maneuver Area.

2. This area was visited by Lt. C. E. Spear, of this office, approximately 27 June 1946. The reported duds were shown to him by Mr. S. R. Harper, of Davis, West Virginia, on whose father's land they were located. The reported dangerous items turned out to be a stack of empty cardboard containers for 81-MM mortar shells. Lt. Spear proceeded to crush the cases so that they could not be mistaken for shells in the future, and to explain to Mr. Harper that no danger existed.

3. Inclosure number one to letter of 19 June 1946, basic lease assembly, is returned herewith.

BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS:

EDWARD J. FANFLIK
Chief, Management and
Disposal Division
Real Estate

2 Incls

1. Cy of Lt Spear's
Rpt dtd 4 Jul 46
2. Cy of Lease No. W-33-017-eng-347

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HEADQUARTERS

Det. #6, 9800 TH TSU-CE

Bomb and Shell Disposal Team

Petersburg, West Va.

24 May 1946.

SUBJECT: Report of Decontamination Work, West Virginia Maneuver Area.

TO: Real Estate Officer, Ohio River Division.

1. In an attempt to clarify the report already submitted by Capt. Luter, the attached report has been prepared to accompany the real estate map of the maneuver area.

2. A copy of this report is being sent to the O.C.E., and another to Capt. Luter.

/s/ Charles E. Spear
CHARLES E. SPEAR
1st Lt. CE

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REPORT OF DECONTAMINATION

20, May 1946

WEST VIRGINIA MANEUVER AREA

Engineer Bomb and Shell Disposal Team No. 6 was assigned to decontaminate the areas in the West Virginia Maneuver Area, in the vicinity of Davis and Petersburg, West Va., on which explosive projectiles had been fired.

Activities in the area included maneuvers by ground forces, with organic and attached artillery; and firing of experimental rocket and mortar projectiles by the Allegany Ballistics Laboratory of George Washington University. Ground force maneuvers extended from September 1942 to June 1943. The Ballistics Laboratory completed its firing in November 1945. The artillery ammunition fired was 75 mm, 105 mm, and 155 mm. A few experimental rocket motors were fired by the Allegany Ballistics Laboratory; but they had no explosive components. A large number of rounds for the 4.2 inch chemical mortar were fired--both FS--smoke-filled, and inert, sand-loaded rounds. Over two hundred smoke rounds were destroyed. The inert rounds were left untouched, although their identity was always positively established. Only four artillery rounds were found and destroyed.

The team personnel--one officer, eight enlisted--made the preliminary survey of the impact areas, and directed the work of a civilian search crew of 20 men hired through the Pittsburgh District Engineer office. Organic equipment and vehicles, augmented by a 2½ ton truck and "Weasel" (Cargo carrier M29C) were used to do the job. The team was occupied in the job from 30 March to 24 May 1946.

The "Impact Area" printed on the attached map can be totally disregarded. Why it was placed where it was, no one seems to know. But the true impact areas were in other parts of the maneuver area; and a thorough investigation showed that there was not so much as a shell hole in that vicinity.

A survey of the whole east face of the mountain (see contours on attached map) by the entire team, guided by a local forest ranger who knew where every target was, disclosed that the two years' growth and windfalls since the last artillery was fired have thoroughly hidden every trace of duds, shrapnel, and shell holes. The terrain is extremely rough and rocky, and heavily forested. No organized search could be run there. And there never were many artillery rounds fired, according to local residents. No official records exist. Furthermore, the percentage of duds was bound to be very low, because of the high angle of impact against the mountain.

In view of the foregoing considerations, it is recommended that those tracts lying on the east face of the mountain be released as entirely suitable for their intended use--i.e., grazing and forestry. The land is not suited for cultivation. Cross-hatched areas on the

attached map are those which can be considered still contaminated, in the literal sense. Double-hatched areas are those where concentrations of fire fell. The single-hatched area is where scattered firing was done at targets which are not apparent now. The contamination does not, in the opinion of this detachment, establish any danger whatsoever to anyone using the land. Every known or suspected impact area in the remainder of the reservation was searched, and the duds destroyed. All tracts lying on top of Cabin mountain, or further to the west, have been decontaminated (no exceptions). These areas are used normally for grazing, hunting, and fishing, and by large numbers of local residents for public recreation and for berry picking. None are suitable for cultivation. All are recommended for disposal as entirely safe for these uses.

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HEADQUARTERS,
Det. #6, 9800 TSU-CE
Bomb & Shell Disposal Team
Petersburg, W. Va.

23 May, 1946

Supplement to Decontamination Report of West Virginia Maneuver Area (20 May 46)

I certify that a thorough reconnaissance was made of the entire West Virginia Maneuver Area by Lt. Charles E Spear and the undersigned. Mr. Jeff Goldizen employed by the Forest Service, Potomac Division, Petersburg, West Virginia, who was attached to the army during the maneuvers and at the time of the firing, acted as our guide, and pointed out all the impact areas.

These impact areas with the exception of the cross-hatched areas were thoroughly searched by a twenty man civilian search crew accompanied by the Bomb Disposal Team; every yard of the ground was covered. The terrain in the impact areas is very rocky and any disturbance by the exploded shells or duds were clearly visible. In no cases did we find where a shell had penetrated the surface beyond visibility. In almost all cases they were found on the surface (clearly visible) five to fifteen feet from the point of impact.

These duds were marked by the searched crew with red and yellow flags and exploded shortly thereafter by the Demolition Team.

Our records show finding 189 FS smoke filled 4.2 CM shell. Artillery shells found were one (1) - 155 MM, three (3)-105 MM and two (2)-40 MM a total of 195 plus some 12 or 14 sand filled. All these duds were exploded and destroyed with the exception of a few cases where the shells were sand-filled, and the fuze and back-plate had been knocked off. In these cases the sand was poured out, which left no more than a steel hull. These were allowed to remain but cannot be considered as duds, and will soon rust away.

The land-owners of the property in the entire maneuver area are using the land for grazing, hunting and fishing; it appears they have been ever since the army moved out. The restricted area signs don't mean much to the people in this country.

I hereby recommend that the land be turned back to the original owners, who are now using it anyway; and that a notice be published in the papers to the effect the West Virginia Maneuver Area has been cleared of all duds so far as practical. Trespassers, hunters, fishermen, etc., be warned that they enter at their own risk and in the event a dud is found not to move it, but to leave it alone. It is doubtful if any will be found, but it is possible.

/s/ Asa B. Luter
ASA B. LUTER
Capt. CE
Commanding

COPY

Decontamination of The West Virginia Maneuver Area

Decontamination work on the West Virginia Maneuver Area has been completed. The results of the search are shown on the attached map. (The printed cross-hatched area on the map marked "Impact Area" can be disregarded.)

The heavily cross-hatched areas are those which remain contaminated. The single-hatched areas are those where the terrain is too rough, or the overgrowth too heavy, to make a search feasible. The danger in them is negligible, because of the fact that they were subjected to only a small amount of firing, and that they were artillery shells, with an extremely low percentage of duds. Inasmuch as it is all woodland, up on the side of the mountain, it ought to be regarded as no more dangerous for its intended use than is the "clear" area. The "contaminated" areas themselves should not be regarded as too dangerous for grazing, hunting, fishing, lumbering, etc., because even there (they are the principal points of impact) the number of explosive duds is very low.

Thorough reconnaissance was made of the entire maneuver area west of the firing line. Known impact areas were searched but spot inspection by the team personnel showed that few duds remain. The open country on top of the mountain was contaminated by FS smoke-filled 4.2 CM shells. Nearly 200 were destroyed.

All farmland, regardless of its location, is recommended as again safe for agricultural use. The remaining land, with the exception of the areas cross-hatched, is recommended as safe for grazing, lumbering, or hunting. Very little regard should be given to the possible danger anywhere in the maneuver area, in view of the nature of the land and the slight use to which it is put.

Mr. Carl E. Bergtorf, Forest Ranger, Potomac Division, Petersburg, W. Va., has been very co-operative. Several times he assigned Mr. Jeff Goldizen to work with the unit as a guide. Mr. Goldizen rendered valuable assistance in the location of Boundary Marks of impact areas, as no army records were available, as to the amount of firing that was done in each impact area. Mr. Goldizen worked with the army here when the firing was done and his knowledge of everything made the job much easier.

/s/ Asa B. Luter
ASA B. LUTER
Capt. CE
Commanding

RECURRING REVIEW
PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND
PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

**DOLLY SODS REGION,
FORMER WEST VIRGINIA MANEUVER AREA**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) solicits input from the community on the conclusions and recommendations resulting from a recent recurring review study. The study purpose is to ensure that an implemented 1997 to 1998 ordnance removal action in the Dolly Sods region continues to minimize explosives safety risks, and continues to be protective of human health, safety, and the environment.

The USACE has set a public comment period for the draft final recurring review report from June 2 to July 1, 2004 to encourage public participation in the process. The report is available for public review at the U.S. Forest Service Office, and the project public repository, which are located at:

**Monongahela National Forest Headquarters
200 Sycamore Street
Elkins, WV 26241**

The report is also available by contacting the USACE Huntington District:

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Attn: Erich Guy (CELRH-EC-CE)
502 Eighth Street
Huntington, WV 25701
Phone: 304-399-5283**

The comment period includes one meeting, open to the general public, at which the USACE will present study findings, answer questions, and accept both oral and written comments. The public meeting is scheduled for June 2, 2004 at 7:00 p.m., and will be held at the conference center of the Blackwater Lodge, located in Blackwater Falls State Park, Davis, WV. Comments from the public will be summarized and responses provided in the responsiveness summary section of the final recurring review report. The report presents the USACE's conclusions and recommendations for further action at the site. To send written comments or obtain further information, contact:

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Attn: Rick Meadows (CELRH-PM-P)
502 Eighth Street
Huntington, WV 25701**

640
 60
 38,400 acres
 48 sq mi -
 640
 1920
 288
 30,720

LEASE AREA
 IMPACT AREA
 WEST VIRGINIA MANEUVER AREA
 TUCKER & GRANT COUNTIES
 ELKINS, WEST VIRGINIA

