

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT

DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROGRAM
FOR
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES
ORDNANCE AND EXPLOSIVE WASTE

APPENDIX B-37

FORMER
WEST VIRGINIA MANEUVER AREA (DOLLY SODS)
DAVIS, COUNTIES OF TUCKER, GRANT AND RANDOLPH
WEST VIRGINIA
OEW Project Number G03WV006504

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this appendix is to provide specific site characteristics of potential OEW. This appendix supplements the main safety plan.

2. ON-SITE ORGANIZATION/COORDINATION

Members of the inspection/coordination team are shown in Table B-37-1. The number of inspection team members on-site will not exceed four per inspection. Guides, property owners, and escorts are not included in this figure; however, the number of personnel on the site must be kept to a minimum consistent with safe and efficient inspection techniques. Coordination with law enforcement and fire department personnel will be completed once the inspection team is on site.



TABLE B-37-1 ON-SITE ORGANIZATION/COORDINATION			
Function	Organization	POC	Telephone
Assessment Team	SMCAC-ESL	*Mike Patterson QASAS (18 yrs)	(815) 273-8763
	CENCR-ED-DO	Charles Gillett EOD (25 yrs)	(309) 794-6007
Geographic District Support	CEORH-DL-M	Wayne Budrus District POC	(304) 529-5507
Project Engineer	CENCR-ED-DO	Daniel J. Holmes Civil Engineer, P.E.	(309) 794-6080
Industrial Hygiene	MCXP-RIA	Bob Platt Hygienist	(309) 782-0807
Division Support	CEHND-PM-SO	Wayne Galloway UXO Safety Specialist	(205) 895-1582

*Team Leader

3. SITE DESCRIPTION

a. The former West Virginia Maneuver Area (WVMA) is a large area in the North Central part of West Virginia leased by the Department of the Army (DA) in the early 1940's. The Dolly Sods Wilderness Area (DSWA), consisting of 10,215 acres, is part of the WVMA. The WVMA was used for mountain training, maneuvering, and as an artillery range. Located in Davis, it extended through the counties of Tucker, Grant, and Randolph. This area consisted of 2,180,742.37 acres that included 350,416.37 acres of public land, 48,557.00 leased acres, and 1,781,769.00 acres of "lesser interests". According to a warning order notice dated 26 March 1945, these "lesser interests" were covered by "trespass agreements" due to the contemporaneous emergency. Apparently, the owners and the Army had verbal agreements, but no records exist that would either describe the agreements, or the areas they covered.

b. The public lands, all being part of the Monongahela National Forest, were permitted to the Secretary of War by the Department of Agriculture (DOA). These lands included 341,266 acres (from Preston, Grant, Randolph, Tucker, and Pendleton counties) on letter dated 4 August 1943, and 9,265 acres on letter dated 10 November 1943. However, 114.63 acres that could not be audited were excepted (from the 9,265 acres), leaving a total acreage of 350,416.37 under permit from DOA. Additionally, 65 tracts totaling 48,557 acres and one license from Western Maryland Railroad Company for a steam line were acquired by purchase and condemnation during W.W.II. Blackbird Knob, an artillery target area located about half a mile north of the

DSWA, is also included in the leased lands. The area (designated as Tracts A-76A (17,515.54 acres), A-76B (2107.74 acres), and A-76C (3512 acres)), was leased on 6 August 1943 from The West Virginia Central and Pittsburg Railroad Company and The Davis Coal & Coke Company on Lease No. W33-017, ENG 1403.

c. Disposition of the land was fast, but clear documentation was not maintained. A warning order dated 26 March 1945, was issued stating that on 19 March 1945 the entire area was surplus. However, a subsequent warning order dated 10 August 1945 withdrew the entire facility as being surplus. A letter dated 21 April 1945, from the office for Emergency Management, requested OCE to issue a permit to test fire rockets and projectiles. The permit was issued and would expire upon the Army's relinquishing of the lands to DOA. On 10 August 1950, OCE relinquished the land by letter to DOA. The leases from the railroad on tracts A-76A, A-76B, and A-76C were terminated on 28 February 1946. The Nature Conservancy acquired the Blackbird Knob area as a 3701.1 acre tract on 25 July 1991. Western Pocahontas Properties Limited Partnership, successor to West Central and Pittsburg Railroad Company, still owns some of the surrounding lands. The Nature Conservancy is in the process of acquiring those lands for eventual consolidation into the Monongahela National Forest.

d. DSWA was used by the Third Army for mountain training and maneuvers, and for firing of artillery and mortars from 15 October 1943 to 1 July 1944. Fired ammunition included 4.2" HE, 81mm HE, 81mm smoke, 105mm, 155mm, and 60mm HE. Impact areas for 105mm and 155mm artillery pieces included the southern face of Blackbird Knob and the eastern face of Cabin Mountain. Although the exact location of the howitzers is not known, three artillery emplacements are apparent; one in the Canaan Valley (105mm firing strictly at Blackbird Knob); a second along the Forest Service Road No. 75 from a point near the Bell Knob Tower, north to the end of the road (105mm firing at both, Cabin Mountain and Blackbird Knob); a third emplacement on the east side of the mountain on the Allegheny Front, north of the DSWA (155mm firing at Cabin Mountain and Blackbird Knob). Some of the artillery rounds could have been fired across the northern end of the wilderness area. Mortar rounds were fired, most likely, from a multitude of locations around Dolly Sods.

d. The artillery range was decontaminated following the end of operations, however, hikers have reported finding OEW on an annual basis in the area, including Blackbird Knob. Personal injuries due to OEW have also been reported.

4. LIST OF EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

TABLE B-37-2 EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS		
Functions	Organization	Telephone
County Sheriff	Randolph County	(304) 636-2100
	Tucker County	(304) 478-2321
	Grant County	(304) 257-1818
State Police	Parsons	(304) 478-3101
	Elkins	(304) 637-0200
	Petersburg	(304) 257-1411
Fire Department Volunteer	Canaan Valley	(304) 866-4412
Safety Office	COE, Huntsville, AL	(205) 895-1582 After hours 800-627-3532, PIN 777-2534
Explosive Ordnance Disposal	For Randolph County *71st Ord Det (EOD) Wright Paterson AFB, OH	(513) 257-4536
	For Grant & Tucker Counties *56th Ord Det (EOD) Fort Indiantown Gap, PA	(717) 861-2811
*Prior to departing, personnel should contact the 52nd Ordnance Group (EOD), DSN 797-5899/3325 (commercial (404) 363-5899/3325) to coordinate possible EOD support at the site.		

5. ORDNANCE AND EXPLOSIVE WASTE POTENTIAL

Table B-37-3 lists the types of ordnance that may have been used at the former West Virginia Maneuver Area and the greatest potential hazards associated with each.

TABLE B-37-3 POTENTIAL OEW HAZARDS AND EVALUATION	
Type of Ordnance	Greatest Potential Hazards
Medium/Large Caliber (20 mm and larger)	Mass Detonation Fragmentation
Small Arms (.22 Cal - .50 Cal)	Moderate Fire

6. PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

a. Table B-37-4 includes personal protective equipment that must be readily available should it be required/needed. As each site presents a unique set of circumstances, the determination of "need" shall be based on the information in the following table and determined by the team leader/site safety person.

TABLE B-37-4 PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT		
Work Area/Zone	Job Function/Task	Level of Clothing
All Areas	Visual Inspection	Safety Shoes Hard Hat (as req'd) Safety Glasses (as req'd) Hearing Protection (as req'd) CPR Microshield Coveralls
*All Personal Protective Equipment shall comply with regulatory requirements.		

b. Table B-37-5 lists specialized equipment anticipated for safety and inspection purposes. The team leader is responsible for determining appropriate use of this equipment.

TABLE B-37-5 SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT	
Type	Comments/Purpose
Magnetometer	Used to enhance safety by reducing the threat of unseen OEW. Will not be used as the sole safety precaution in areas of dense brush.
Global Positioning System	Used to determine exact location of OEW and significant landmarks.
Two Way Radios/ Cellular phone	Used to notify supporting firefighters, USACE Huntsville Division (EOD), ambulance, and police personnel in case of emergency, as needed.

7. SITE SAFETY

a. Safety at the site is of paramount importance and all team members should be aware of the hazards they may encounter. The West Virginia Maneuver Area is high in elevation and remains in a natural, undisturbed condition. The terrain is rocky and rugged, with dense vegetation, and with rivers, streams, and tributaries. Weather changes frequently and two to three inches of rain, or twelve to eighteen inches of snow, in a single storm is not rare. Wild animals in the area that would be most dangerous to the inspection team are snakes and black bears. Other animals found are the whitetail deer, red and gray squirrels, chipmunks, Cheat Mountain Salamander, and the Northern Virginia Flying Squirrel. Proper clothing for protection from the environment and insects is recommended.

b. Intrusive sampling will not be permitted during conduct of inspections. Located OEW, as required, will be brought to the attention of USACE, Huntsville Division Safety Office, which will notify the supporting Service EOD Detachment. The handling and disposal of ordnance shall be conducted by EOD personnel.

c. All personnel on site, to include property owners, guides, and escorts, must be informed of the potential dangers inherent in OEW and must be instructed not to handle, disturb, or move OEW in any way or manner. Failure of individuals who are not members of the inspection team to follow such instructions shall result in the immediate termination of that phase of the visual inspection.

d. Private property rights and trespassing ordinances will be observed without exception.

8. SIGNATURES

My signature below signifies that I have read, understand, and will follow the requirements of the above Site Safety and Health Plan for Ordnance and Explosive Waste assessment of the former West Virginia Maneuver Area. Furthermore, I attended and participated in the safety briefing conducted prior to the on-site visit.

Name (Print)	Signature	Office Symbol/Date
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____