

APVR-PW-ENV  
6 OCT 93

## INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Poleline Road Disposal Area (PRDA), 6th ID (L), Ft Richardson, AK

1. Purpose. To provide USARPAC current information regarding the PRDA remediation project.

2. Points of major interest and facts.

a. PRDA was identified several years ago by a former soldier who believed hazardous substances were buried there during his tour of duty at Fort Richardson in the 1950's. No known documentation exists detailing what types of chemicals were buried. A former Army chemical officer, stationed at Fort Richardson from 1951 to 1953, thought most of the compounds buried were solvents and decontaminants used to clean and neutralize hazardous chemicals. An expanded site investigation in 1990 confirmed the presence of volatile organic compounds in the soil and shallow ground water at PRDA.

b. Enclosure 1 shows the location of PRDA. A Corps of Engineers-contracted removal action at PRDA commenced the week of 27 Sep 93. Two parallel trenches (Trench A and Trench B) were to be excavated in accordance the Scope of Work. On 1 Oct 93, the contractor reported discovery of items not anticipated by any preliminary investigations or site-specific historical information. Approximately 20' short of completion of Trench A, the contractor discovered some opened, glass bottles and pages from a chemical training manual that were possibly components of late 1940's/early 1950's Gas Identification Set, Instructional. Excavation on Trench A was halted and shifted to Trench B. Shortly after starting Trench B, related components potentially from a Gas Identification Kit, Detonation, were uncovered by the contractor. These items were two unopened, steel, tube-shaped shipping containers, or "pigs". A diagram of the original site layout and location of the trenches and suspect glass bottles and pigs are shown at enclosure 2.

c. Available historical documents indicate the potential contents of the suspect kits include mustard gas (HS), lewisite (M-1), phosgene (CG) and chlorpicrin (PS). Results from initial on-site testing by Fort Richardson EOD personnel for leaks the evening of 1 Oct 93 were negative. The area is secure and under the Army's positive control. A diagram of the adjusted site layout is at enclosure 3. Based on guidance to Ft. Richardson from the Director of Environmental Programs, the contractor is preparing to recover remaining components from the PRDA removal site. Advance party personnel from the Technical Escort Unit, Edgewood Arsenal, MD, is at Fort Richardson to coordinate disposition of the material.

b. Enclose the immediate area surrounding the two trenches with 8' chain link/concertina fencing; secure the fence posts with concrete blocks to avoid ground penetration;

c. Survey the exact location of the fence corners to ensure accuracy for future remediation actions.

8. Unresolved problems:

a. USARPAC refuses to certify 176 EOD equipment IAW AR 50-6, para. 6-64, p.18. Since its transfer from FORSCOM to USARPAC in 1991, the unit has been attempting to obtain such certification with no success. This situation poses both a soldier-safety problem and a potential regulatory problem in the event of an emergency response by 176 EOD;



HILL  
B85

Site  
Perimeter

Griffey  
were  
here

NO  
CONCRETE

TRENCH

SUPPLY  
TRUCK  
AREA

SHAKER

EXCLUSION LINE

SCRAP  
METAL

PLASTIC BAGS  
CONTAINING  
MISC JARS  
CYLINDERS  
AND SUSPECT ITEMS

MONITOR  
WELLS

Stockpile  
SOIL

STEP  
ON

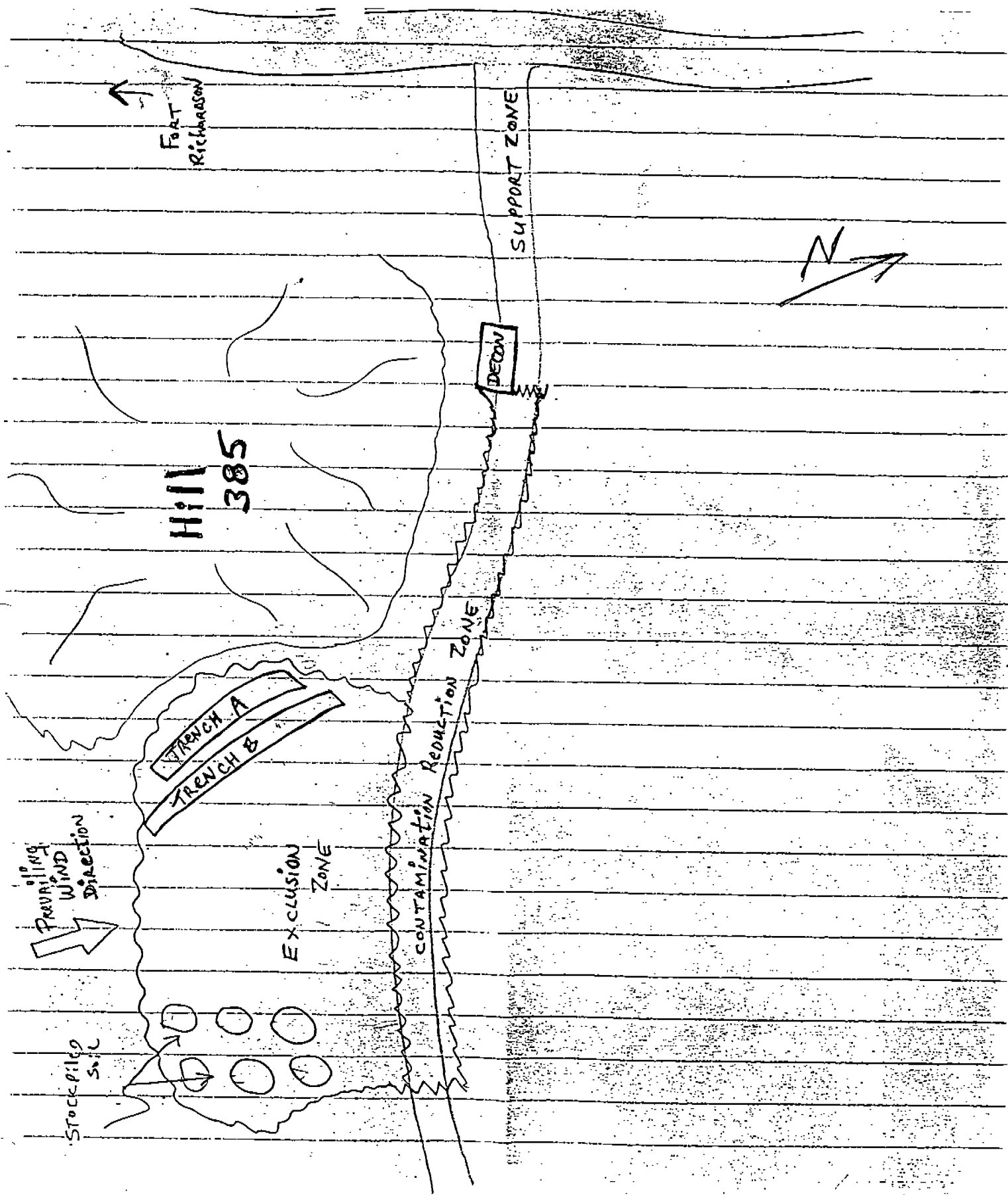
Trailer

Trailer

2 PAIRS  
IN PLY BAG

Generator

Diesel  
Fuel  
Truck



ENCL 3