



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DIRECTORATE FOR FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND SECURITY REVIEW
1155 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1155

Ref: 00-F-0019

Mr. John Greenwald, Jr.
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

18 FEB 2000

Dear Mr. Greenwald:

This responds to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request of September 21, 1999, submitted to the Joint Staff. As the Freedom of Information and Security Review Directorate is the central point of contact for processing FOIA requests for the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the Joint Staff, your request was referred here for administrative processing. We received it on October 28, 1999.

The enclosed documents are responsive to your request for information regarding the "Site R Civil Defense Site." We have not received your request dated, "...May of 1998." Since you indicated you have already written to FEMA, we assume they have answered the portion of your request pertaining to the "Greenbriar Inn Civil Defense Site."

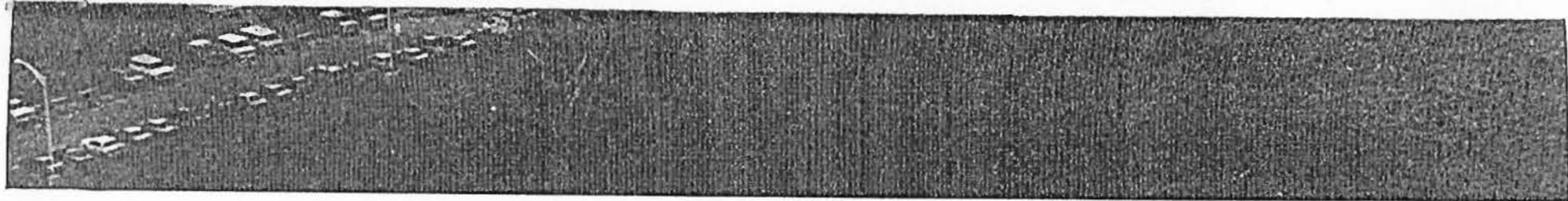
There are no assessable fees for this request.

Sincerely,


H. J. McIntyre
Director

Enclosures:
As stated





Do you have a need to know about the "The Site"?

History explains beginning, but Time changes everything

By Kathy Fotheringham

Fort Ritchie - Ever since it was announced that Fort Ritchie would be closed and that certain organizational functions would be transferred to Fort Detrick, the name "Site R" has encroached into Detrick personnel's vocabulary.

For employees intimately involved in the transfer of the logistical support of Site R from Fort Ritchie to Detrick, there is not much of a mystery. But for others who only know that there will be more troops assigned to Fort Detrick and more employees hired to support the facility, it is a question mark. People who have grown up or lived along the Maryland/Pennsylvania border are also familiar with stories about Site R.

The "Site" is the Alternate Joint Communications Center. It is an underground relocation facility for the Joint Chiefs of Staff situated approximately seven miles away from Fort Ritchie and 30 miles away from Fort Detrick in Pennsylvania.

The history of the Site can be traced back to the time immediately after World War II. The atomic bombing of Japan which ended World War II in 1945 ushered in a new age of military weaponry. Counter-measures to this new nuclear war possibilities had to be prepared. The idea for the Site was in a memo dated May 15, 1948, from the Joint Chiefs of Staff to Secretary of Defense James Forrestal. The memo outlined the need for a protected location for a joint command post for the Armed Forces.

For the next two years, military planners looked at several East Coast locations and they finally settled on the then Camp Ritchie and Raven Rock Mountain (that's where the "R" comes from in Site R - from the name of the mountain). A key consideration was the close proximity to Washington, D.C.

President Harry S. Truman approved the Site R project in May 1950 and construction began early in 1951. Some 718 acres of land and easements were purchased from 33 private owners. By early 1953 the excavation of five

chambers and the construction of three steel buildings were complete. On June 30, 1953, the Site became operational.

Originally, each branch of the Armed Forces planned to relocate separately to the site in the event of war and set up their own separate command post for carrying on their part of the war, presumably with the Soviet Union.

"Rumors take the place of fact when information is given out on a "need-to-know" basis, as is the case regarding the Site."

Time has changed many things, including who is the enemy, but the need for a unified command post became apparent early in the Site's life. The Joint Chiefs of Staff in 1955 ordered planning for a series of improvements at Site R. Other plans included relocating support agencies to the site, such as communications, intelligence and weather service.

Political events happening around the world prompted the U.S. to change or speed up certain plans. For instance, the launching of Sputnik in 1957 and the expanding Soviet nuclear missile capability, created a move for more joint-oriented service operations.

In 1960, Congress authorized construction of two additional buildings inside Raven Rock Mountain and many communication improvements. A 24-hour, seven-days-a-week manning of operations of Site R began in March 1961. Work on two additional buildings began in 1962 and was completed in Feb. 1965.

That 24-hour operation continued until Dec. 1, 1991,

when the Site reverted to a weekday duty schedule and has remained so to this day. The 1111th Signal Battalion of the 1108th Signal Brigade provides information services for the Site, which includes the National Military Command Center for the Joint Chiefs of Staff and representatives of the military services. The 1111th Signal Battalion's sister battalion, the 1110th, is already located at Fort Detrick and the 1108th is scheduled to move to Detrick by Oct. 1998.

After the construction in 1965, there were communications and technology upgrades. In June 1981, the Baltimore District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began a power rehabilitation and enhancement program to improve the reliability of power at the Site. A \$13.5 million construction project, which included a new tunnel, an underground reservoir and additional underground cooling towers, were completed on June 8, 1992. Other work consisted of the installation of structural bracing, fire detection systems and sprinkler systems.

Rumors take the place of fact when information is given out on a "need-to-know" basis, as is the case regarding the Site. Some of those rumors include, that beneath the adjacent farmland around the site, are hangars housing fighters to fend off enemy planes. Another was that the weather above the Site was controlled so that neither heavy rains nor snows would interfere with the once 24-hour-a-day construction. Or, there were the other ones that said there was a nuclear missile launch site within the mountain, or an underground tunnel that connected the Site with Camp David.

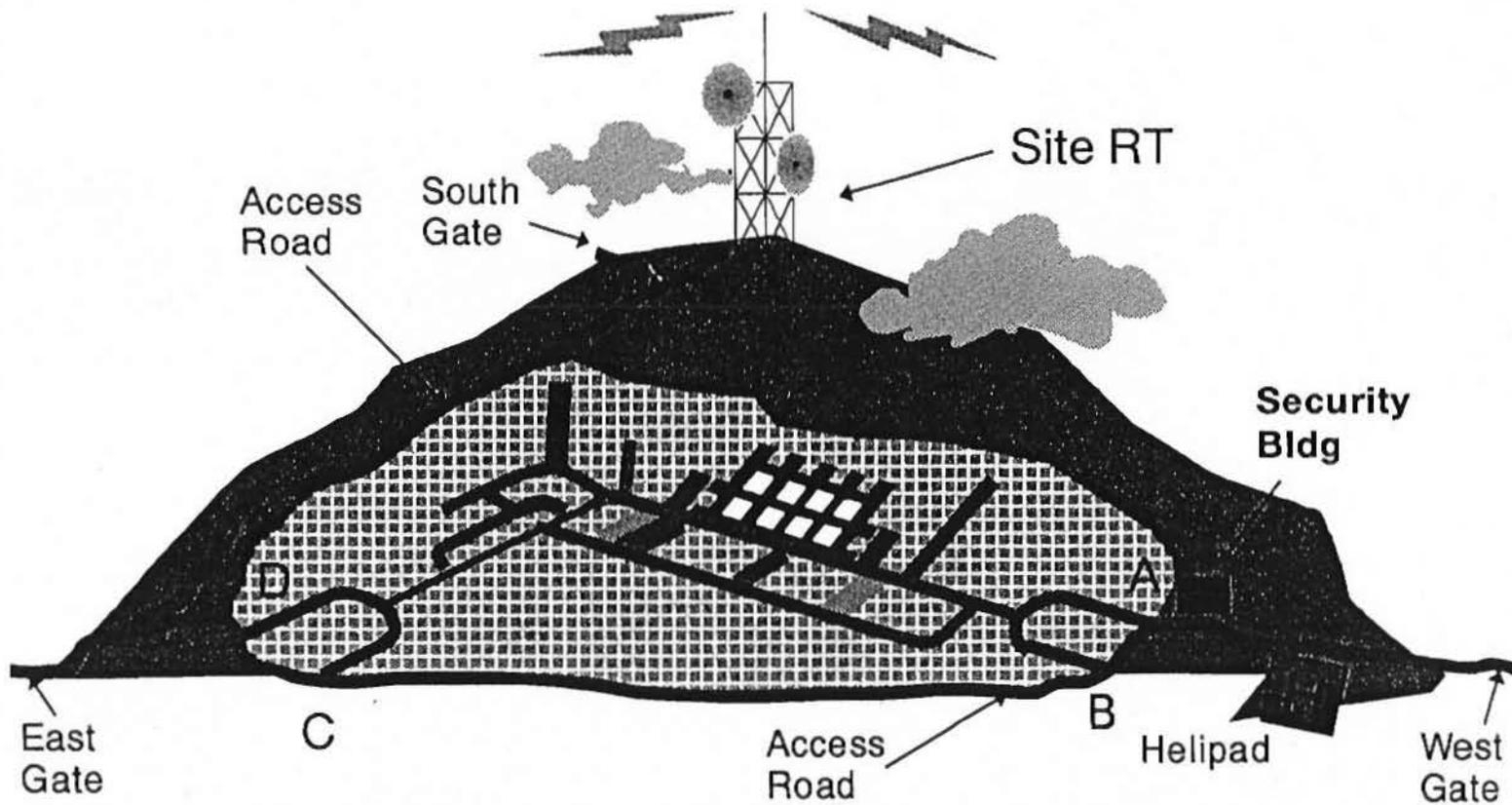
All completely untrue. What is true is that Fort Ritchie is going away and Fort Detrick will become responsible for the security, logistical and engineering support which includes the usual utilities, power, water, sewer and fire protection of the facility which has a dining facility, barber shop, postal service and periodic on-site medical and dental services.

(Editors note: All information for this article was taken from previously released public articles.)

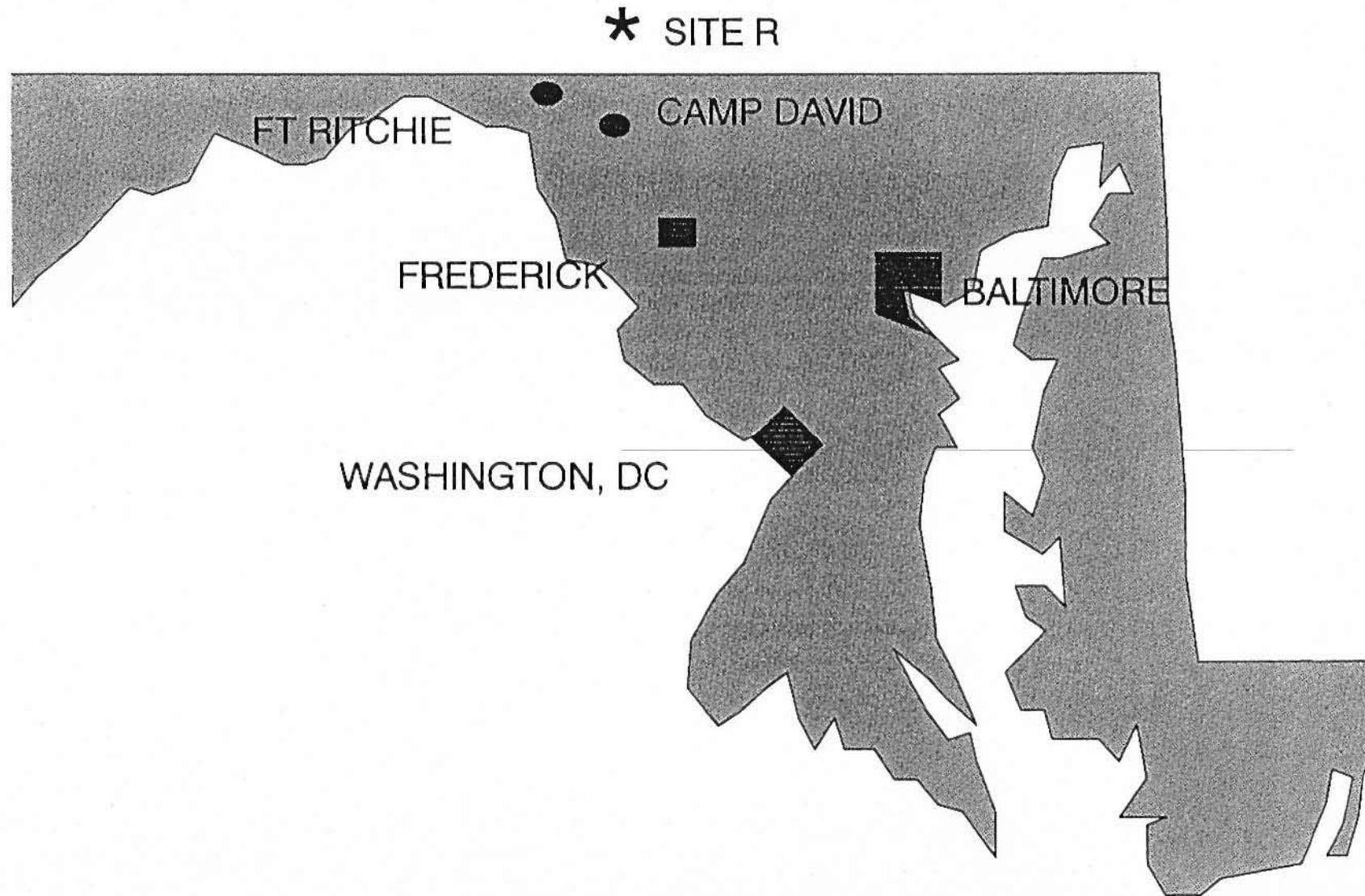
HISTORY OF SITE R

1949	Concept Approved
1950 - 53	Construction of Facility and First 3 Buildings
1961 - 63	Improvements in Hardening
1963 - 65	Construction of 2 Additional Buildings
1989 - 92	Cooling Tower / Reservoir
1994	Site R Security Building

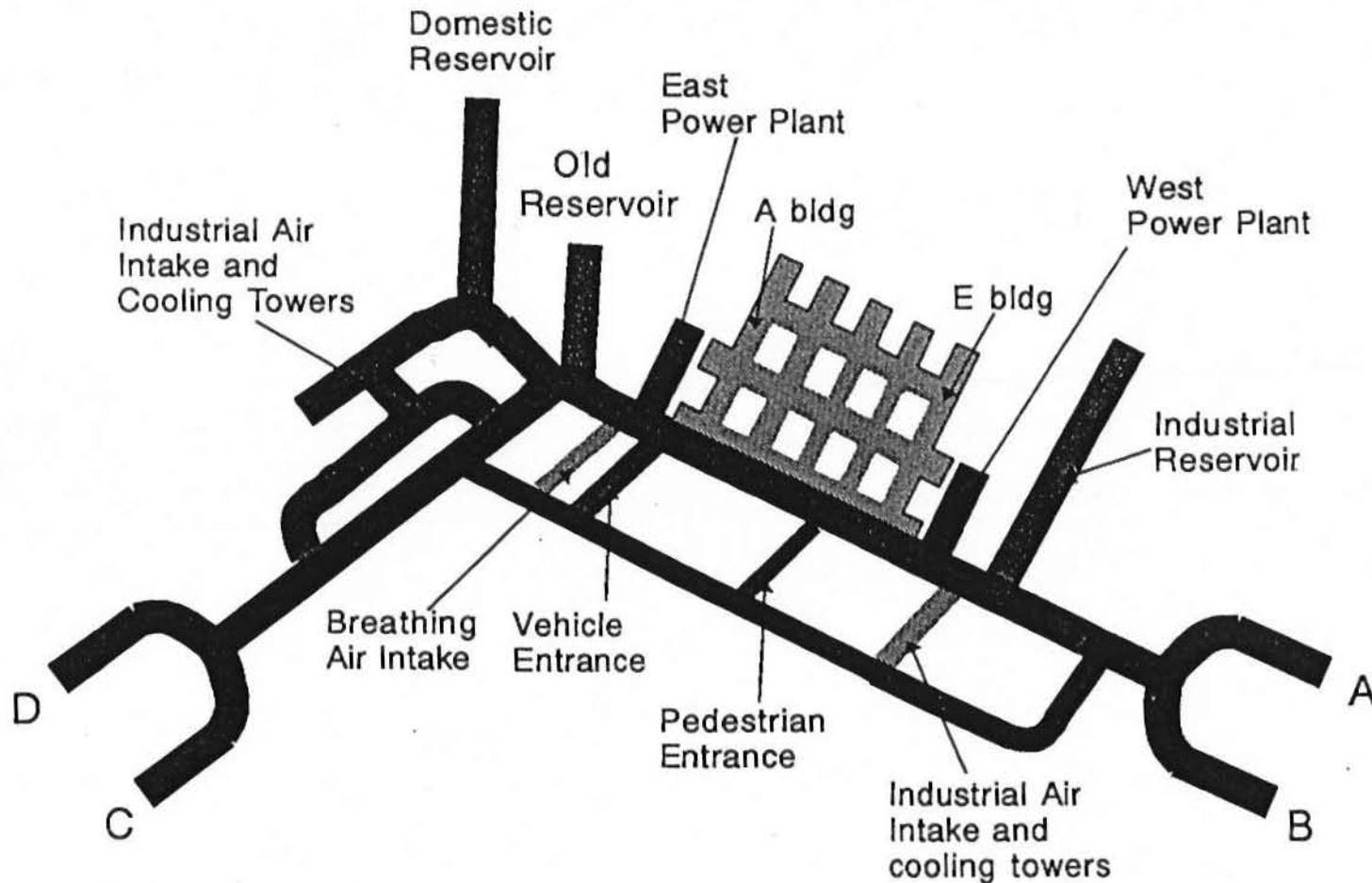
SITE R CUTAWAY



SITE R LOCATION



FACILITY LAYOUT



AJCC FACILITIES AND SERVICES DIRECTORATE



LANDLORDS OF THE ROCK

CUSTOMERS

- NAVAL OPERATIONS SUPPORT ACTIVITY
- JOINT STAFF SUPPORT CENTER
- AIR FORCE MANPOWER READINESS FLIGHT
- NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER-SITE R
- AIR FORCE OPERATIONS GROUP
- AIR FORCE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER
- DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
- 1111TH SIGNAL BN
- DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
- OFFICE OF THE SEC DEF
- 17 UNSTAFFED TENANTS

SERVICES

PHYSICAL SECURITY

RAPID DEPLOYMENT FORCE

DINING FACILITY

PERSONNEL SECURITY

CUSTODIAL SERVICE

SUPPLY/ESC/PBO

SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE

HELIPAD MAINTENANCE

SNACK BAR

FITNESS CENTER

MEDICAL FACILITY

CHAPEL

DENTAL FACILITY

HAZARDOUS WASTE MGMT

PUBLIC WORKS O & M

ELECTRIC CART SERVICE

FIRE DEPARTMENT

CONTINGENCY MANAGEMENT

LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEMS

- ELECTRICAL POWER
 - - Commercial
 - - Internal Power Plants
 - - Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS)
 - WATER SUPPLY
 - - Domestic Reservoir
 - - Industrial Reservoir
 - - Independent Water Sources
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LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEMS

continued

- NBC PROTECTION
 - - Filters
 - - Air Intake Blast Valves

 - TEMPERATURE CONTROL
 - - Heat Rejection
 - - Water-to-Water Heat Exchange
 - - Exhaust and Ventilation Cross Shafts

 - UTILITY EQUIPMENT MONITORING
 - - SCADAS
 - - Power Control Room
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