



Military Corner

Aberdeen Proving Grounds

APG is the U.S. Army's oldest active proving ground, established on October 20, 1917, six months after the U.S. entered World War I. Its location, in Maryland, allowed design and testing of ordnance materiel to take place near contemporary industrial and shipping centers. The first gun was fired there on January 2, 1918. The proving ground was created as a successor to the Sandy Hook Proving Ground, which was too small for some of the larger weapons being tested. At the peak of World War II, APG had billeting space for 2,348 officers and 24,189 enlisted personnel.

Other parts of APG not attached to the main installation include the Churchville Test Area in Harford County, and the Carroll Island and Graces Quarters in Baltimore County, Maryland. The Churchville Test Area is a test track with hills that provide steep natural grades and tight turns to stress engines, drive trains, and suspensions for army vehicles, including M1 Abrams tanks, M2/M3 Bradley Fighting Vehicles, and High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles.

Edgewood Chemical Activity is a chemical-weapons depot located at APG. Elimination of the chemicals held here was put on an accelerated schedule after the September 11, 2001, attacks, and all chemical weapons were destroyed by February 2006.

The U.S. Army Ordnance Corps Museum is also located at APG. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aberdeen_Proving_Ground]

