



FACT SHEET

Solid Waste Landfill



**Fort Detrick Public Affairs Office
810 Schreider Street
Fort Detrick, MD 21702-5000**

**Fact Number FDFS 10-02
August 26, 2010**

What is it?

Fort Detrick operates a permitted municipal solid waste landfill at Area B.

What is the background?

Fort Detrick has a comprehensive system for managing waste within the installation.

Prior to 1976, there were no laws that regulated how waste must be disposed or required permits for treatment, storage, and disposal of “hazardous material”.

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act was enacted into law in 1976 to define the regulations of waste disposal. Since the inception of these environmental, all hazardous waste is shipped offsite for appropriate disposal. Fort Detrick operates a permitted municipal solid waste landfill under the conditions issued by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE).

Fort Detrick constructed its first lined landfill in 1989. Since the liner was installed, all disposal operations have been exclusively confined to the lined landfill preventing groundwater contamination. All waste is covered with soil on the day the waste is placed.

All landfill waste water is collected and pumped to our permitted waste water treatment plant for final treatment. Through a closed and managed treatment system, water, including rainwater and melting snow, is collected and filtered through the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Fort Detrick is rated in the top 1 percent in safety in the nation and has received a number of environmental and safety awards.

Fort Detrick is able to help reduce overall greenhouse gases being released by two-thirds of just depositing the waste in the landfill through incineration. Fort Detrick’s incinerator’s are monitored and inspected by the MDE and are well within the limits prescribed by the applicable permits. Additional benefits are achieved through energy recovery and conversion into high pressure steam. By incinerating the waste only 2.5 percent of the original volume is ultimately deposited in the landfill as inert ash extending the life of the landfill past 100 years.

Waste incineration is only one part of the overall conservation and environmental program, Fort Detrick has an aggressive recycling program that monthly recycles greater than 47 percent of all waste.

Fort Detrick is committed to safety first, last and all the time. This commitment continues to be a dedication to the safety of the community, our families, friends and neighbors.

If the community or members of the media desire to seek information on Fort Detrick’s activities, they are encouraged to visit <http://www.detrick.army.mil/responsible>, or contact the Garrison Public Affairs Office at (301) 619-2018.

Fort Detrick ... A Sustainable Community of Excellence