

Fort Belvoir BRAC Section 106 Meeting May 2, 2007

Notes:

On May 2, 2007 Fort Belvoir held the initial Section 106 consultation meeting for the Fort Belvoir BRAC action. This meeting was open to the public and announced in local papers with press releases sent to a number of local government and community groups. Topics discussed during the course of the meeting include:

- The definition of the Fort Belvoir BRAC Action
- The identification of consulting parties
- Definition of the Area of Potential Effect (APE) for the BRAC Action,
- Cultural resources identification efforts to date
- Preliminary assessment of effect.

Each of these topics was discussed during the course of the meeting with the following comments made by the attendees.

Definition of the BRAC Action

1. Ross Randall of Woodlawn Plantation requested that the BRAC Action be expanded to include cumulative impacts of BRAC such as increased traffic and increased development around Fort Belvoir.
 - Fort Belvoir will continue consultation to redefine the action to include reasonable cumulative affects.

Identification of Consulting Parties and Participation

1. Requests were made to include the Woodlawn United Methodist Church and the George Washington Memorial Parkway unit of the National Park Service in the consultation process.
 - Fort Belvoir will invite these two entities to take part in the process.
2. Marc Holma of the Virginia State Historic Preservation Office requested that the Maryland State Historic Preservation Office be informed of the BRAC Action and Fort Belvoir's determination that the BRAC Action will not affect historic properties in Maryland.
 - Fort Belvoir will correspond with the Maryland SHPO accordingly.
3. Clarification on the process for participation was requested.
 - Communication will be through official mail correspondence, email and meetings.
 - Participants will be afforded the opportunity to review and comment on all documents related to resource identification. Additionally, participants will be allowed to comment on the definition of the BRAC Action, the APE, identification of historic resources and the assessment of effect.
4. Concerns were raised that decisions regarding the action were already made and that the consulting parties would not be able to alter those decisions.
 - Although preliminary design has started on a number of projects the consulting parties will have the opportunity to comment on those designs before any final decisions are made.

5. Marc Holma requested information on how the public will be involved in the process.
 - The May 2 meeting was open to the public and the public was informed accordingly. The public is also able to voice concerns through the NEPA process.
6. Concern was raised that participants be provided adequate time to review and comment on various decisions and documents.
 - Fort Belvoir will disseminate appropriate information as quickly as possible.

Definition of the Area of Potential Effect (APE)

1. Martha Catlin requested that the George Washington Memorial Parkway be included within the APE as BRAC may increase traffic on the parkway.
 - The GW Parkway will be added to the APE.
2. Concern was raised that the APE was insufficient to cover cumulative effects.
 - The APE may be further expanded based on the final definition of the BRAC Action.
3. The question was raised if Mount Vernon participated in the viewshed study that helped to define the APE.
 - Yes, Dennis Pogue of the Mount Vernon staff assisted with the study.
4. The question was asked if the viewshed study included the highest point of Woodlawn Plantation.
 - Yes, the study included the view from the attic windows of Woodlawn Plantation.

Identification of Historic Resources

1. A number of participants requested the opportunity to review various studies completed to date.
 - All relevant studies/documents will be posted on an ftp site for review by the participants.

Assessment of Effect

1. Pamela Cressey requested clarification on the assessment of effect presented during the meeting.
 - The assessment of effect presented at the meeting was preliminary. Fort Belvoir will continue to assess effects in consultation with the participation of consulting parties.
2. Marc Holma requested that ambient light from the hospital be considered among the potential effects.
 - Fort Belvoir will add this potential effect and study it accordingly.

Other Comments

1. A question was raised with regards to the potential impacts of the Museum of the U.S. Army.
 - The Museum of the U.S. Army is not considered part of this BRAC Action and will have its own NEPA and Section 106 process.

2. The question was raised on the timing for the beginning of construction.
 - Hospital construction is scheduled to begin during the winter of 2007-2008.
3. The request was made that Fort Belvoir develop a timeline for consultation and establish a meeting calendar to facilitate scheduling by participants.
 - Fort Belvoir will develop accordingly.
4. The question was raised as to when meetings will occur.
 - All meetings will occur in the evening to allow the greatest participation. Additionally, Fort Belvoir will work to hold all meetings in the same location whenever possible.