

FORT MYER
THE OLD GUARD MONUMENT AND GARDEN

204 Lee Avenue
Arlington, Virginia

Submitted by the Department of the Army, Joint Base Myer Henderson Hall

Delegated Action of the Executive Director

March 26, 2010

Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996 and 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1), I approve the preliminary and final site and building plans for The Old Guard Monument and Garden at Fort Myer in Arlington, Virginia, as shown on NCPC Map File No. 1.61(38.00)43009.

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The Department of the Army has requested preliminary and final approval of site development plans for the installation of a landscaped park in an existing green space located between Summerall Parade Field (east), Building 243, the old theater (north), Sheridan Avenue (west) and an existing parking lot (south) on Fort Myer. The site is where a majority of official ceremonies currently take place at the Fort. The new layout of the park site includes a monument to the 3rd United States Infantry Regiment, or The Old Guard (TOG). TOG is the nation's and the Army's oldest active duty infantry unit, established on June 3, 1784. TOG conducts official ceremonies and special events for the Army, as well as provides funeral honors to the nation's fallen soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery.

The TOG monument consists of an 8-foot-6-inch high bronze sculpture on a round brick base placed at the center of the park site and brick walkways connecting the monument with two small pavilions located at the site's southeast and southwest corners. These pavilions, and a wrought iron fence and gate set between them, will screen the monument area from the existing parking lot to the south. As proposed, landscaping will include existing lawn areas and trees and a new hedge on the north side of the park to visually soften the brick wall of an adjacent building (Building 243). An existing small monument along Sheridan Avenue will be retained. This project has an estimated cost of \$1.2 million and construction is expected to be completed by December 31, 2010.

The proposal is within the Fort Myer Historic District and is consistent with its Ceremonies Support land use designation within the 1996 Fort Myer Master Plan (the Department of the Army is currently updating their master plan for the base). The proposed commemorative work is on land under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Army and is not subject to the Commemorative Works Act. National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Coordination with the Virginia Historic Preservation Office is complete with a determination of No Adverse Effect. The Record of Environmental Consideration states that the project meets the criteria for Categorical Exclusion under the (c)(1) provision of Title 32, Part 651 Appendix B Section II List of Categorical Exclusions because construction of the monument will occur on a site where no more than five cumulative acres of surface will be disturbed. The proposed project's location in Fort Myer is outside the District of Columbia; consequently, the Commission does not have independent responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act or the National Historic Preservation Act in accordance with the Commission's Environmental and Historic Preservation Policies and Procedures.

Marcel C. Acosta
Executive Director