

# STAFF RECOMMENDATION



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NCPC File No. 7216

## PENTAGON RESERVATION CORRIDORS 2 AND 3 PEDESTRIAN SCREENING FACILITIES

Arlington County, Virginia

Submitted by the United States Department of Defense, Washington Headquarters Service

February 24, 2011

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### Abstract

The Department of Defense has submitted for approval preliminary and final site and building plans for two pedestrian screening facilities at Corridors 2 and 3 to the Pentagon. Corridors 2 and 3 are located along the southern portion of the Pentagon and connect to the employee parking lots to the south via two existing pedestrian bridges. The proposed employee screening facilities will replace existing temporary facilities that were first approved by the Commission in May 2006.

### Commission Action Requested by Applicant

Approval of preliminary and final site and building plans, pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1).

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### Executive Director's Recommendation

The Commission:

**Approves** the preliminary and final site and building plans for the Corridor 2 and 3 pedestrian screening facilities located at the Pentagon as shown on NCPC Map File No. 1.62(38.00)43268.

**Commends** the applicant for developing entrance screening facilities that respect and complement the historic nature of the Pentagon, incorporate state of the art screening technology, and allow for employees to efficiently enter and exit the building.

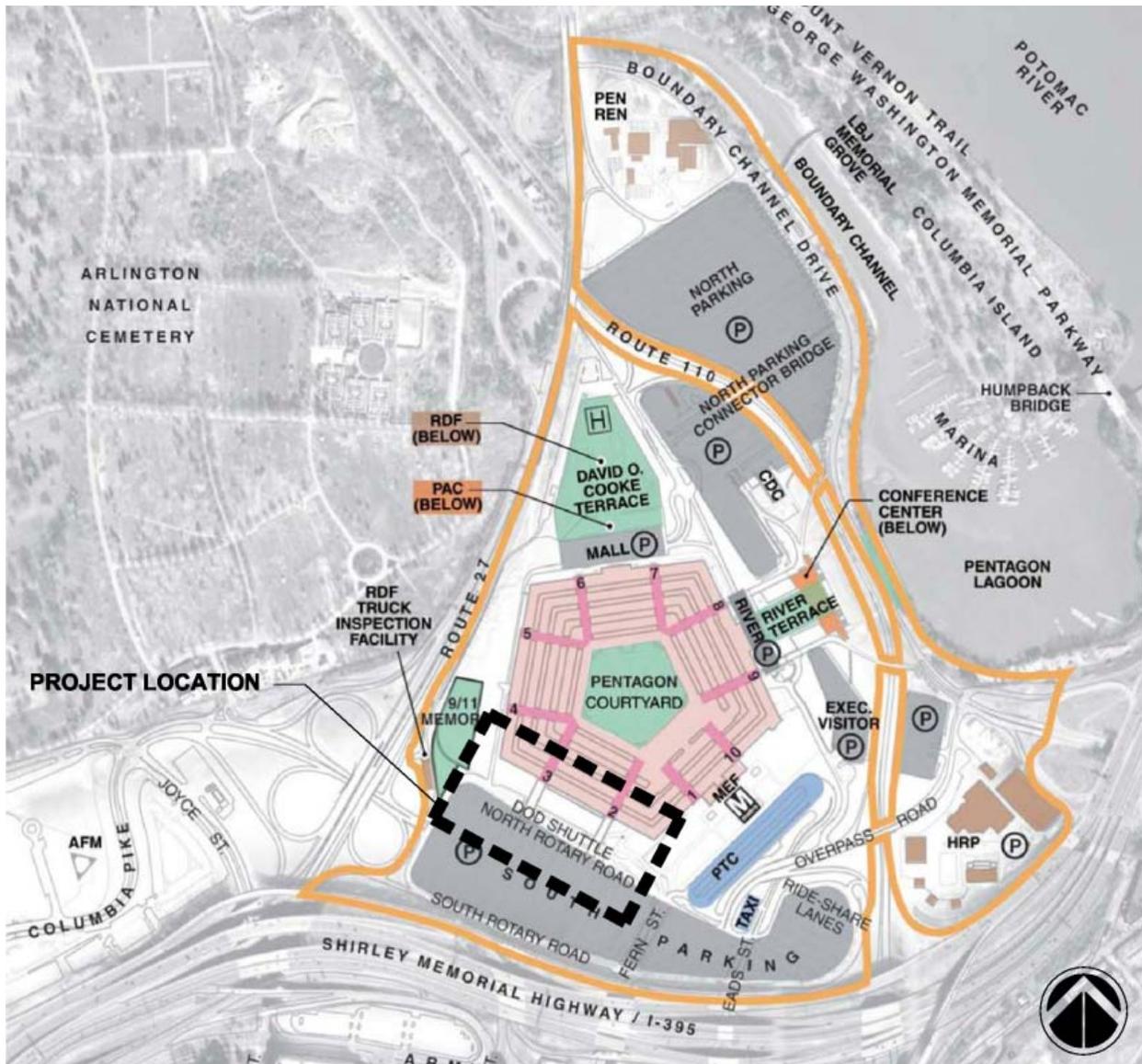
**Finds** that through consultation with NCPC and CFA the designs for the Corridor 2 and 3 pedestrian screening facilities have improved and appreciates the applicant's willingness to address concerns raised over the past few months.

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Site

The Pentagon Reservation, a 220-acre site, is located in the southeastern portion of Arlington County, Virginia bound by Arlington National Cemetery to the west, I-395 to the south and Boundary Channel and the Pentagon Lagoon to the east. The Pentagon is comprised of concentric buildings connected together by 10 corridors or hallways that are designated by number. Corridors 2 and 3 are on the southern portion of the building and lead to the employee parking lots located south of the Pentagon.



## Background

At its June 2005 meeting, the Commission approved the Pentagon Reservation Master Plan.

In May 2006, through delegated action of the Executive Director, NCPC approved four temporary pedestrian screening facilities at the Pentagon Reservation for a period not to exceed two years. According to the final delegated action report, the purpose of the prefabricated facilities was to improve weather protection for security personnel and visitors.

Finally, the Commission extended the approval of the Pentagon temporary pedestrian screening facilities at its meeting in September 2010 for two additional years. Staff has consulted on this screening project for over a year as part of a larger effort to replace all of the Pentagon's temporary screening facilities with permanent facilities.

## Proposal

The project will replace the existing temporary screening facilities with provide permanent screening facilities on the outdoor pedestrian bridges that lead to the entrances at Corridors 2 and 3 of the Pentagon. Entry points to the Pentagon at Corridors 2 and 3 are primarily employee entrances. The new facilities are designed to also accept and screen visitors when required.

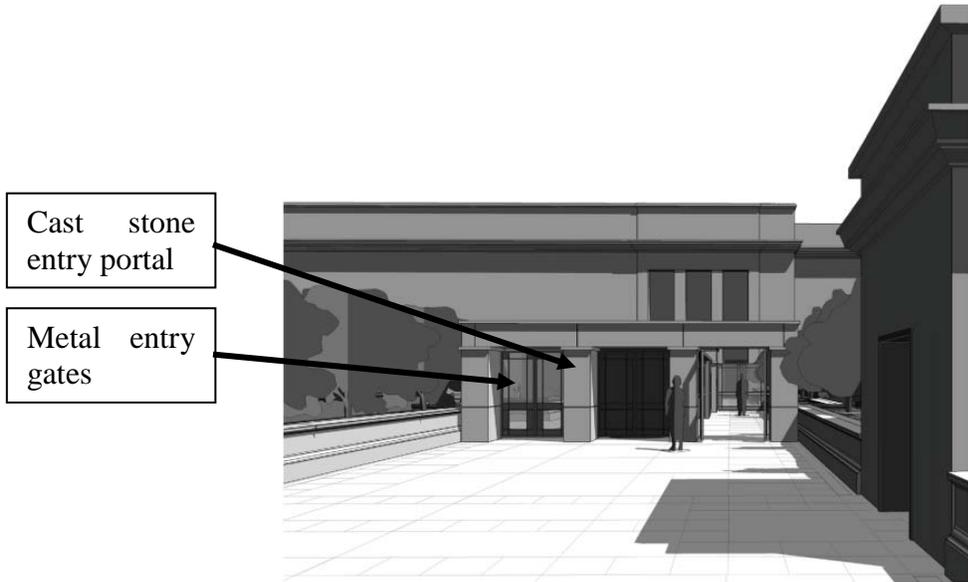
Multiple program needs and site constraints must be balanced to provide a functional and aesthetically pleasing design. For example permanent screening facilities elements that maintain a minimum standoff distance from the Pentagon building as well as provide adequate reaction time for security personnel are important considerations. Construction must avoid occupied spaces under the bridges as well.

## EXISTING CONDITIONS



The project consists of a cast stone entry portal with metal gates, several employee turnstiles, a police booth, a visitor screening area, and a small utility closet. A metal, curved roof will cover the entrance turnstiles and the security station. Several security doors will also be used for controlling the screening facility in times of an emergency. This entire screening facility will be located outside the stand-off distance as required by Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection specifications.

PROPOSED SCREENING FACILITY – FRONT PERSPECTIVE



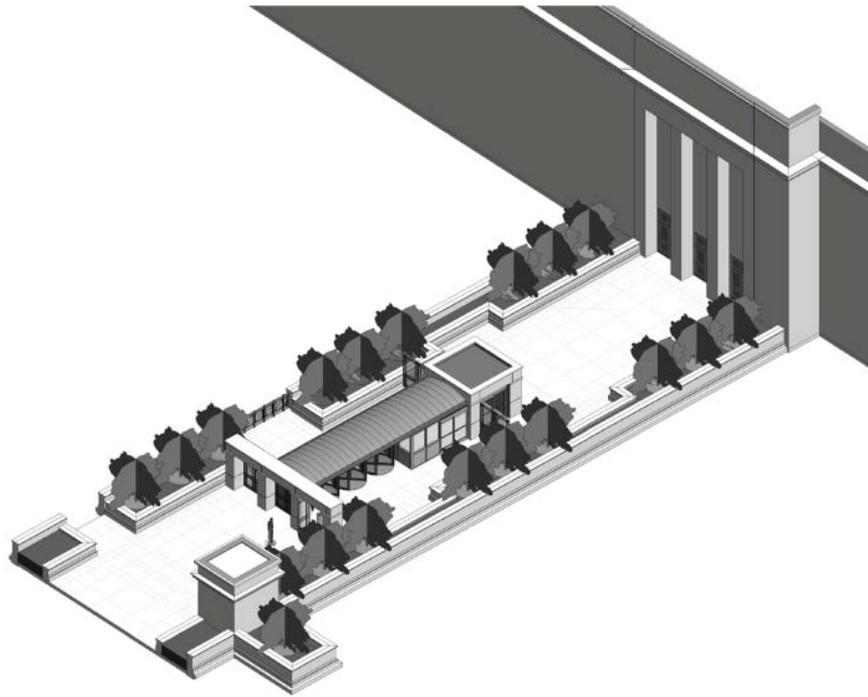
PROPOSED SCREENING FACILITY – PERSPECTIVE



The proposal incorporates state-of-the-art glass turnstiles that enable guards to individually view employees as they enter the screening facility. These turnstiles, gates and doors also allow for the pedestrian bridges to be fully closed off in the event of an outside threat or opened in case of an emergency inside the Pentagon itself.

Tan cast stone will be used as cladding for the main entrance portal as well as the utility closet area to complement the historic Pentagon façade.

### PROPOSED SCREENING FACILITY - AXONOMETRIC



#### Development Program

Architect: Bell Architects  
Construction: North Island Corporation  
Cost: \$2,994,000

#### PROJECT ANALYSIS

**Staff finds that through consultation with NCPC and CFA the designs for the Corridor 2 and 3 pedestrian screening facilities have improved and appreciates the applicant's willingness to address concerns raised over the past few months.** The proposed design is a complementary site element that fits well within the historic context of the Pentagon without calling attention to itself as a functional screening facility. The use of similar building materials

and colors as well as the use of gates and turnstiles enables this element to accomplish both the aesthetic goal of blending into its setting and the functional goal of screening employees and visitors alike.

There were a number of constraints for this project as well that shaped this project such as Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection requirements, historic context, and structural limitations of the bridges, and aesthetic and budget constraints. The final design successfully addresses all of these constraints and therefore staff recommends that the Commission **approve the preliminary and final site and building plans for the Corridor 2 and 3 pedestrian screening facilities at the Pentagon as shown on NCPC Map File No. 1.62(38.00)43268.**

Staff also recommends that the Commission **commend the applicant for developing entrance screening facilities that respect and complement the historic nature of the Pentagon, incorporate state of the art screening technology, and allow for employees to efficiently enter and exit the building.**

## CONFORMANCE

### Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital

This project is consistent with several elements of the Comprehensive Plan including policies in the Federal Workplace Element and the Preservation and Historic Features Element. The following are policies that are supported in the Federal Workplace Element:

- Consult with local agencies to ensure that federal workplaces enhance the design qualities and vitality of their communities. (p.50)
- Strive to create federal workplaces that engender a sense of pride, purpose and dedication for employees. (p. 53)

The following policies are supported regarding the Preservation and Historic Features Element:

- Agencies requiring physical perimeter security improvements should design such improvements in accordance with guidance included in the *National Capital Urban Design and Security Plan Objectives and Policies* adopted by the Commission on October 3, 2002. (p.55)
- Design security barrier lines and elements that complement and enhance the character of the area in which they will be located and that respect the historic context of the area when applicable. (p.56)

### Relevant Federal Facility Master Plan

DOD's requirement for the existing and proposed screening facilities post-date the most recent Pentagon Reservation Master Plan, approved by NCPC in June 2005. The Corridors 2 and 3 project is generally consistent with the master plan which indicates that there will be controlled pedestrian access in this part of the Pentagon Reservation. The project was referred to the Virginia State Historic Preservation Office, which determined that there would be "no effect" on historic resources.

### National Capital Urban Design and Security Plan Objectives and Policies

NCPC's National Capital Urban Design and Security Plan Objectives and Policies is a collection of guidelines intended to address planning and design issues associated with risk management strategies that impact the public realm. The guidelines apply to permanent and temporary perimeter security projects, and are intended to balance the need for perimeter security with the need to protect public space by keeping it open, accessible, and attractive. Applicants are encouraged to use these guidelines when it is deemed necessary to construct physical perimeter security. Furthermore, NCPC staff relies upon these guidelines to evaluate perimeter security proposals on "federally owned land within the District of Columbia and other public projects within the Central Area of Washington, D.C., and to make recommendations on federal projects in the National Capital Region."

Staff finds that the proposed project complies with NCPC's National Capital Urban Design and Security Plan Objectives and Policies with respect to DOD/WHS efforts to fully coordinate the project with NCPC and others.

### National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

The applicant has submitted a "Record of Environmental Consideration" indicating that the project can be categorically excluded from further environmental documentation pursuant to the provisions of NEPA, and the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations. The applicant has concluded that the project does not or does not significantly alter floodplains, wetlands, cultural resources or air quality and operation of the permanent pedestrian screening facilities will not have a significant environmental impact. NCPC does not have a NEPA responsibility for federal projects outside the District of Columbia.

### National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)

The Virginia State Historic Preservation Office reviewed this project and issued a finding of no effect in a letter dated January 10, 2011. NCPC does not have an NHPA responsibility for federal projects outside the District of Columbia.

## CONSULTATION

### Commission of Fine Arts

The Commission of Fine Arts approved the concept design for the new pedestrian screening facilities for Corridors 2 and 3 at its January 20, 2011 meeting. CFA also recommended that the applicant clarify the relationship of the entrance portal structures to the Pentagon and suggested the applicant consider limestone rather than cast stone and use masonry detailing to reflect the language and profiles of either the Pentagon or the existing bridges.