

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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NNCPC File No. 6551



WALTER REED ARMY MEDICAL CENTER, MAIN SECTION
MILITARY AMPUTEE TRAINING CENTER
14th and Fern Streets, NW
Washington, DC

Submission by the Department of the Army

December 22, 2004

Abstract

The Department of Army proposes to construct a state-of-the-art ambulatory care program pertaining to ambulatory medical care at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Main Section. Specifically this effort is to establish medical services for amputee patients which the Army has found to be in a significant high demand from the current theaters of conflict. The submittal provides the design documentation for the development of a three level, moderately sized, clinic and therapy center which is devoted to advance training of significantly wounded amputee patients.

Commission Action Requested by Applicant

Approval of preliminary and final site and building plans pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 8722(d) and Section 5 of the National Capital Planning Act (40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1)).

Executive Director's Recommendation

The Commission:

Commends the Department of the Army for designing a unique yet compatible new building within the Walter Reed Army Medical Center campus exhibiting a sustainable greenscape roof design and advanced therapeutic exterior spaces.

Approves the preliminary and final site and building plans for the Military Amputee Training Center, as shown on NCPD Map File No. 62.10(38.00)-41512, with the condition that the previously approved temporary modular structure is to be removed upon the completion and opening of the Military Amputee Training Center.

Requires that the Army provide fully completed design documentation, including all site development and storm water management plans, and exterior material samples to the Commission when that information is available to verify accomplishment of the project design.

Delegates to the Executive Director approval of any necessary project revisions in completing the record design documents, if revisions occur in that information—when compared to the current review materials.

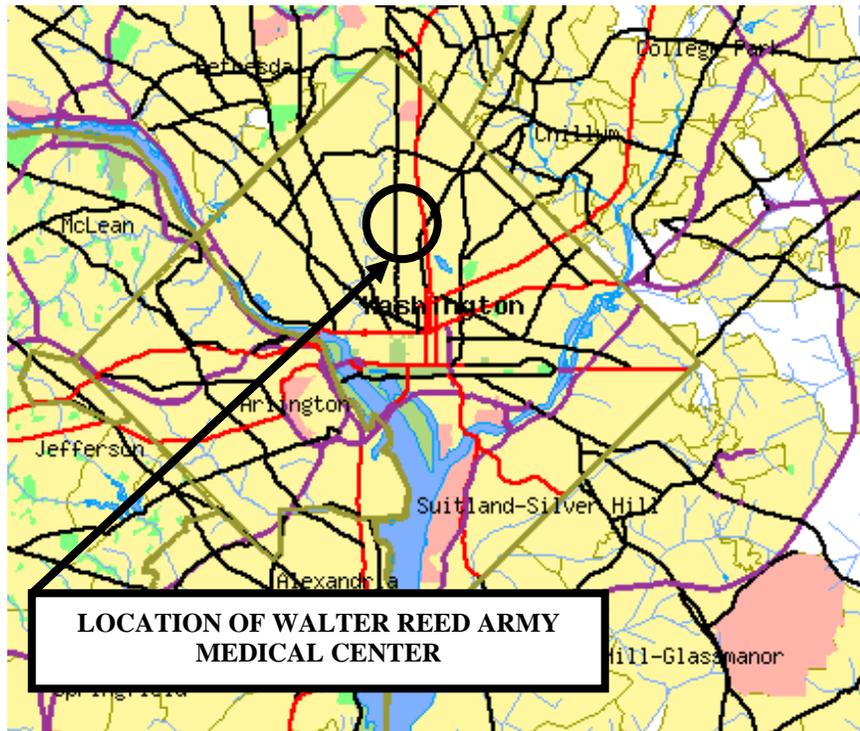
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Department of the Army plans to upgrade and expand its ambulatory care program pertaining to treat modalities and ambulatory care services provided at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Main Section. Specifically this effort is to address amputee patients which the Army has found to be occurring in a significant and increasing number, because of improvements in the 21st century soldier equipment utilized in the current theaters of conflict. As a result of improved body armor, significant injuries that affect extremities have demonstrated survivability, but with high secondary impact to ambulatory abilities. Doctors are treating increasingly severe wounds to unprotected areas--arms, legs and face. The extent and impact of the injuries has been found to require new and advanced treatment protocols which are being further advanced by special medical personnel at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

The submittal provides the preliminary and final design for the development of a three level, moderately sized, therapy and clinic center which is devoted to advance training of wounded amputee patients and returning them to physical, psychological, and emotional capabilities.

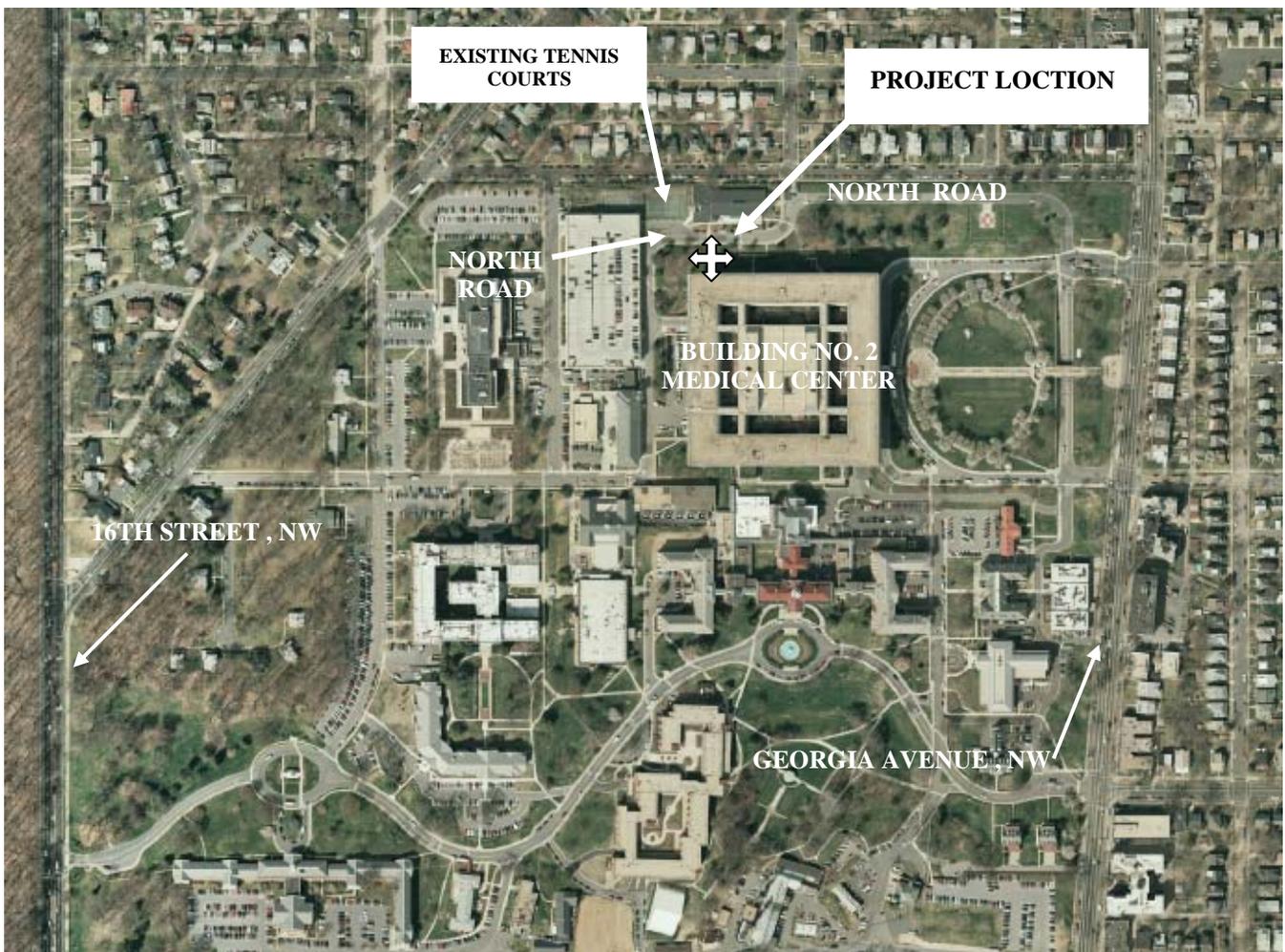
The preliminary and final site and building plans provide for an essentially underground or recessed addition to the northwest corner of



REGIONAL LOCATION

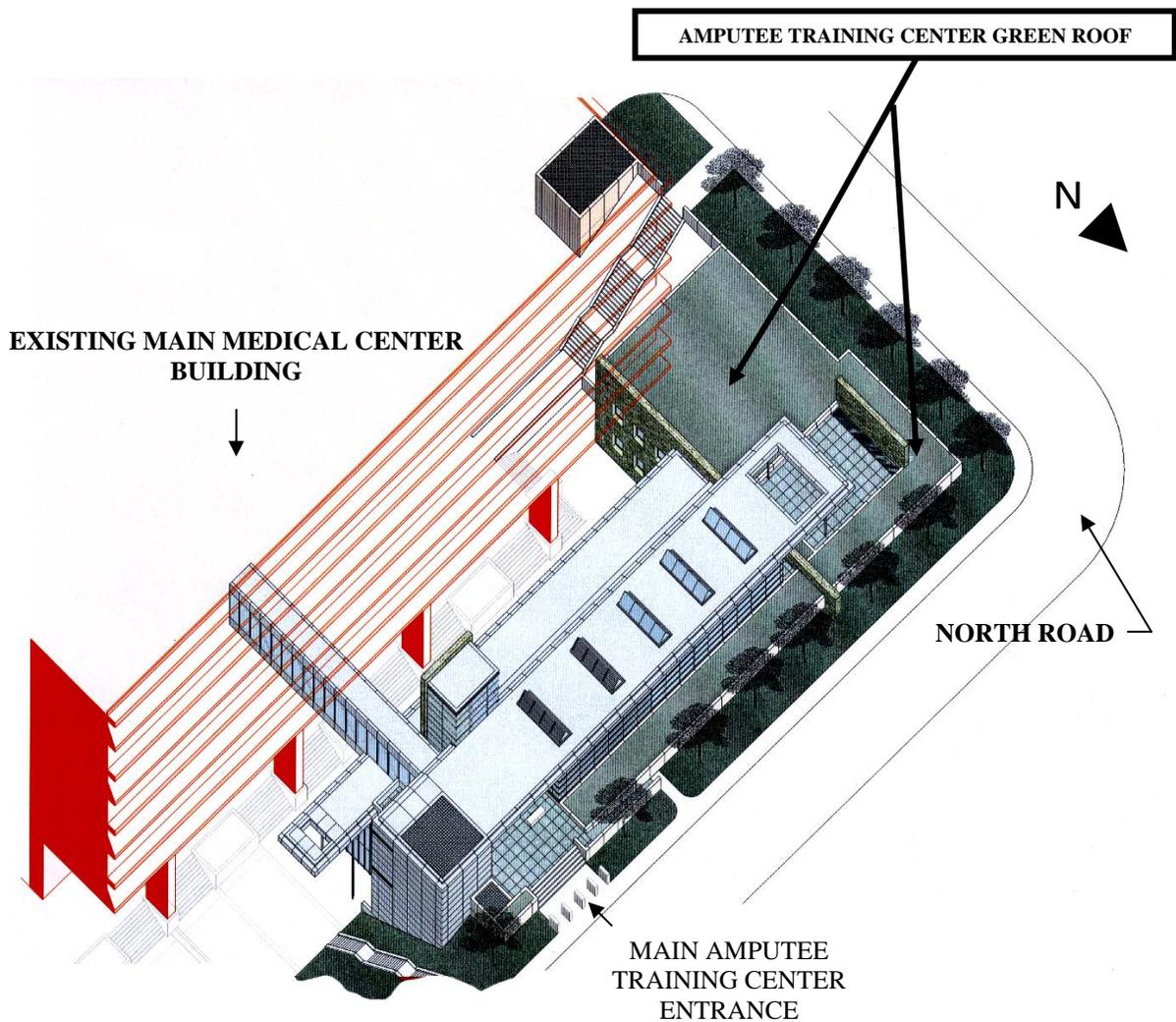
Building 2, (medical center) between the Parking Garage and Building 88 (an existing gymnasium). The north perimeter road would be maintained and serve as an access drop-off area for the surface entrance to the Military Amputee Training Center.

The final design of the center building consists of 29,000 gross square feet of new medical space that at its lowest level is comprised of a partial open gymnasium and clinic spaces, along with administration and office areas. The second level is built to serve as occupational therapy space, advance body training areas, and a running track situated above the lower level gym. Administrative space would also exist at the second level, which is below the ground surface and exhibits a greenspace roof.



**AERIAL VIEW OF WALTER REED MEDICAL CENTER CAMPUS
INDICATING PROJECT LOCATION**

The third level contains the entry doors to the below grade spaces and also reveals the open clearstory space of various clinic spaces and the high gymnasium roof. This level also has the direct corridor breezeway that is enclosed with glass that connects to the main medical center at the third floor, and a healing garden area at the west outdoor spatial area and rehabilitative exterior training areas at the east end of the site.



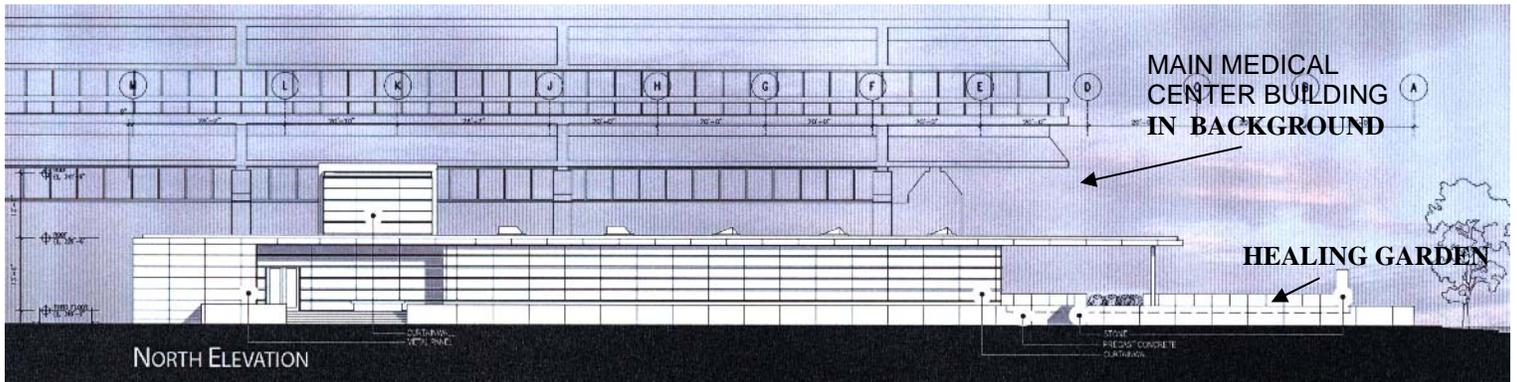
AXONOMETRIC VIEW OF MILITARY AMPUTEE TRAINING CENTER

Background

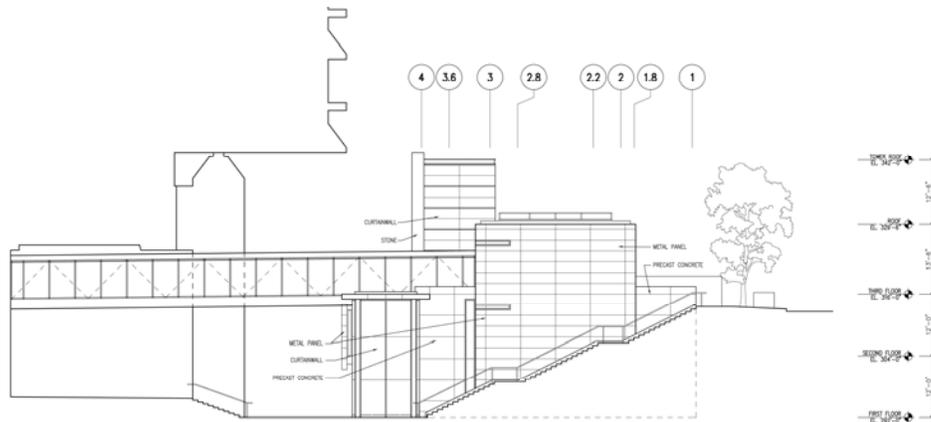
At the February 5, 2004 Commission meeting, the Commission approved the preliminary site and building plans for the Military Amputee Training Center. In addition, the Commission noted the following:

- Commended the Department of the Army for designing a unique yet compatible new building within the Walter Reed Army Medical Center campus exhibiting a sustainable greenscape roof design which assists in harmonizing the structure in close proximity to the main hospital building.
- Approved the preliminary and final site and building plans for the interim Amputee Advance Training Center modular building, with the condition that the structure is to be removed upon the completion and opening of the permanent Amputee Advanced Training Center, and
- Requested that the Walter Reed Army Medical Center design team apply the U.S. Army SPiRiT building certification program to the building design effort if possible.

The Army has developed the project planning utilizing the goals and objectives of the SPiRiT building certification program and is awaiting a final certification rating.



NORTH ELEVATION



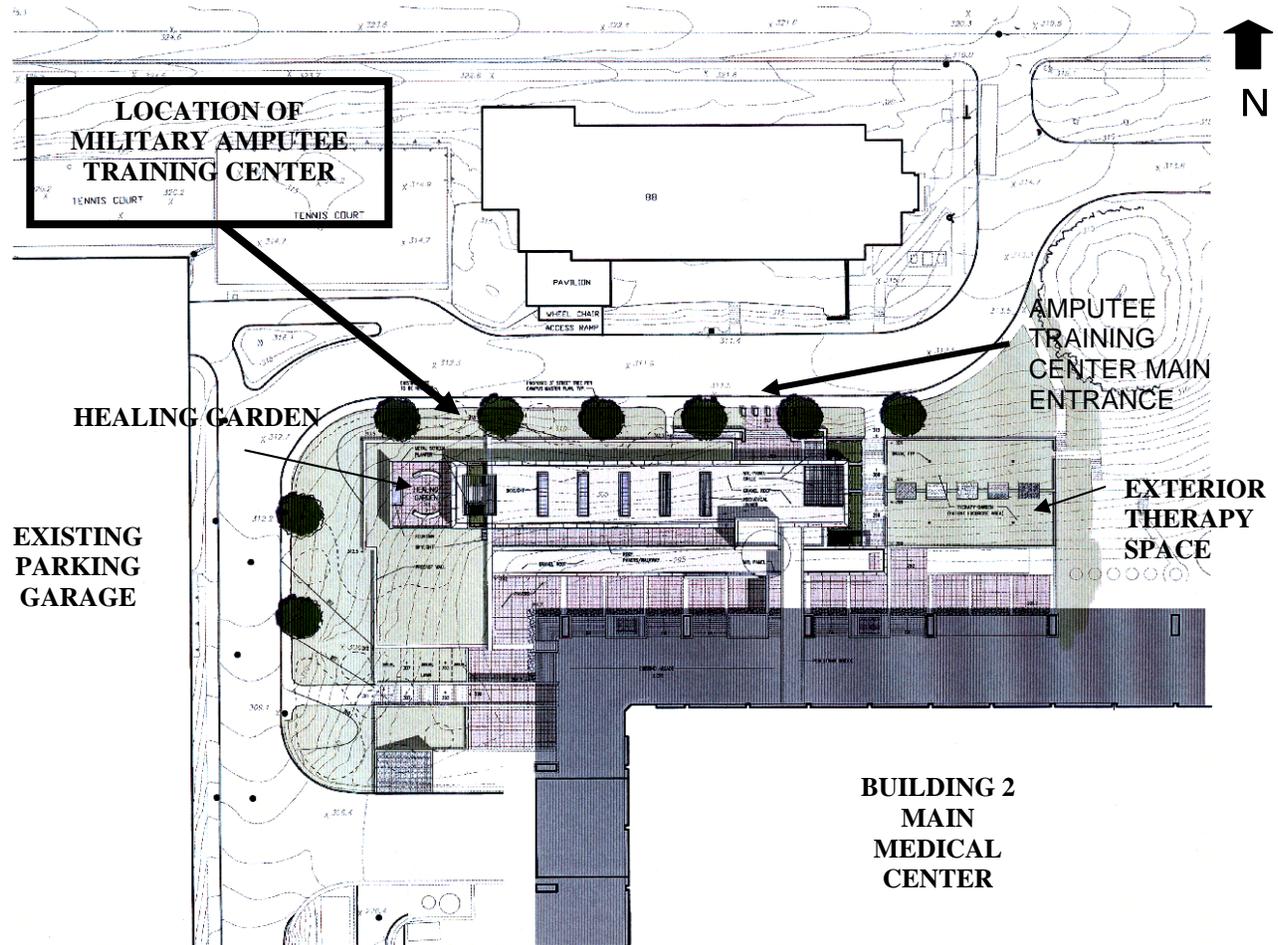
EAST ELEVATION



EAST - WEST BUILDING SECTION

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Applicant: Department of the Army
Architect: The Smith Group, Architect and Engineers
Washington, DC
Cost: \$10 Million
Schedule: Amputee Training Center building construction will be complete by late 2005 or early 2006.



MILITARY AMPUTEE TRAINING CENTER FINAL SITE PLAN

COORDINATION

Coordinating Committee

The Coordinating Committee reviewed this item at its meeting on January 14, 2004, and forwarded the proposal to the Commission with the statement that the project has been coordinated with all agencies participating. The participating agencies were NCPC, the Department of Housing and Community Development; The District Office of Planning, the General Services Administration and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

Community Participation

From March 2004 through late November 2004 Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANC) 4A and 4B have been informed and have commented on the proposed project. Several objections have been raised at various times regarding the temporary structure and its physical appearance. The Army has added additional vegetation to provide offsite screening to address the concern, and fewer objections have been recently noted by the Medical Center Command.

No major objections have been expressed by the ANCs regarding the permanent Amputee Training Center final design.

PROJECT ANALYSIS

Executive Summary

Staff **recommends approval of the preliminary and final site and building plans** for the Military Amputee Training Center, with conditions. The Amputee Training Center plans indicate an advanced and commendable site compatible design and commendable structure design. The initial preliminary and final design is a supportable example of utilizing a sustainable design philosophy, which has been further developed, and will serve to reduce negative impacts on the environment and develop a significant medical clinic that meets the health management requirements of all future occupants. Such an integrated approach positively impacts all phases of a building's operation and the staff commends the Army's approach to this project.

The staff notes, however, because of the nature of the design/build effort to expedite the project construction; the staff has agreed with the Army project team that full completed design documentation must be provided to the Commission when that information is available to verify accomplishment of the project design in accordance with the currently submitted project documentation and its depicted characteristics. Staff recommends the Commission delegate to the Executive Director any final approval of the project record design documents, if any minor and necessary revision to the Commission approved project design occurs—when compared to the current review materials. Additionally, the Army project team is also reminded by staff that the temporary structure, approved by the Commission in February 2004 is to be removed upon completion and opening of the Military Amputee Training Center.

CONFORMANCE

Master Plan Compliance

In April 2003 the Commission approved a revised master plan for the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Main Section, with conditions. None of the conditional issues are pertinent to the necessary Amputee Training Center because no additional staff or vehicle parking is proposed by the Army in its planning of the project. The master plan does highlight the mission of the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Main Section, is to meet new health care needs, to provide better service to Department of the Army and eligible personnel and to meet medical

research and development requirements. The approved Plan allows the land use adjacent to the main medical center to be related to the medical center mission or support of that objective. The Amputee Advanced Training Center, as an addition that maintains activities of a medical and rehabilitation nature, fulfills that requirement and is consistent with the Plan and its land use designation.

National Environmental Policy Act

In conformance with its NEPA compliance procedures, the Department completed a determination that the proposal is a Categorical Exclusion. Staff review and determination finds the submitted project information conforms to the Categorical Exclusion criteria of NCPC.

National Historic Preservation Act

The D.C. State Historic Preservation Office concurred with WRAMC that the training center and the interim building would have no adverse effect on the historic qualities of the Walter Reed campus. The final project location occurs outside the historic district of the Medical Center.

Federal Capital Improvements Program

The Military Amputee Training Center project is not included in the Federal Capital Improvements Program, Fiscal Years 2005-2010 adopted by the Commission on September 9 2004. The emergency nature and changing military response to provide improved services to meet the high priority initiative determined funding from various contingency programs within the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Comprehensive Plan

The proposed project and related changes are consistent with the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital. The Federal Facilities element designates the Walter Reed Army Medical Center as an installation for medical, research development, and testing facilities.