

# STAFF RECOMMENDATION

NCPC File No. 5854

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## BOLLING AIR FORCE BASE SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS AT MAIN GATE Washington, D.C.

Submitted by the Department of the Navy

April 27, 2006

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### Abstract

The Department of the Navy has submitted preliminary and final site and building plans for security enhancements at the Main Gate of Bolling Air Force Base. The main gate, on MacDill Boulevard, currently has a high brick perimeter wall, low brick walls parallel to the sidewalks on MacDill Boulevard, a guard booth and check stations at incoming traffic lanes, and bollards and wedge barriers in the traffic lanes beyond the main gate. The proposal includes the construction of a canopy over the traffic lanes, new identity check stations, a new guard house, and an overwatch house and new wedge barriers and bollards in the traffic lanes beyond the check stations. A pullover lane will be added next to the identity check stations. Steel gates will be installed across the MacDill Boulevard entrance between the sections of the brick perimeter walls, and the low brick walls along MacDill Boulevard will be reconstructed for greater strength.

### Commission Action Requested by Applicant

Approval of preliminary and final site and building plans pursuant to Section 610(a) of Public Law 93-166.

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### Executive Director's Recommendation

The Commission:

**Approves** the preliminary and final site and building plans for the security enhancements to the Main Gate at Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, DC, as shown in NCPC File No. 84.21(38.40)42013.

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Site

The proposed project site is at the Main Gate of Bolling Air Force Base in Southwest Washington, between South Capitol Street and Brookley Avenue.

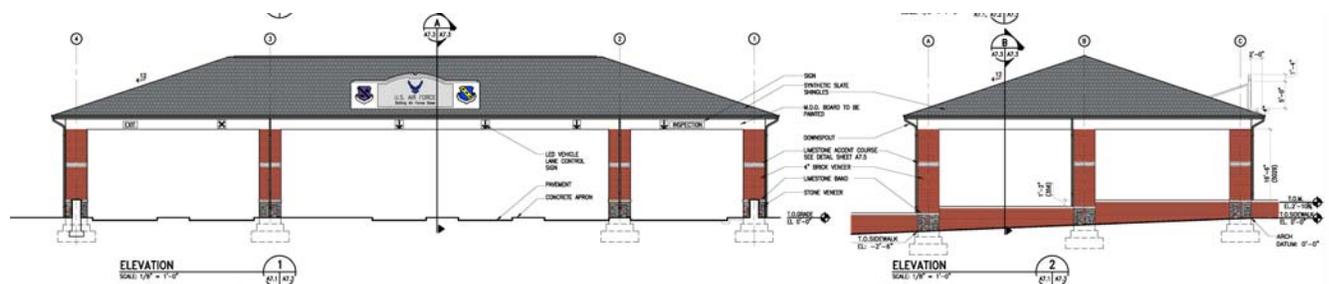
Background

The Department of the Navy (Navy), on behalf of the Department of the Air Force, has submitted preliminary and final site and building plans for security enhancements at the Main Gate to Bolling Air Force Base. The stated purpose of the project is to improve the flow of traffic during peak hours and to bring the Main Gate into compliance with Department of Defense criteria for an entrance control facility.

Proposal

The construction plans include a roofed canopy (measuring 130 feet in length, 62 feet in width, and 27'6" in height to the top ridge of the roof) to cover guard activities across six traffic lanes of MacDill Boulevard. The canopy is composed of brick piers with limestone bands, stone veneer, and a hipped roof with synthetic slate shingles. Underneath or in front of the canopy, five identity check stations measuring 5 feet by 11 feet will be constructed next to incoming traffic lanes. A brick and stone veneer guard house measuring 21 feet by 44 feet will replace the current guard house. Beyond the canopy (farther inside the base), near the intersection of MacDill Boulevard and Brookley Avenue, an overwatch house measuring 10 feet by 10 feet will be constructed, and current barriers across the traffic lanes will be replaced with bollards and vehicle wedge barriers. The low brick walls that currently line MacDill Boulevard inside the sidewalks will be rebuilt to be strengthened. At the base entrance, facing South Capitol Street, the high brick perimeter wall will be retained, and a decorative steel gate of the same height (8'6") will be installed, along with pedestrian turnstiles at the sidewalk.

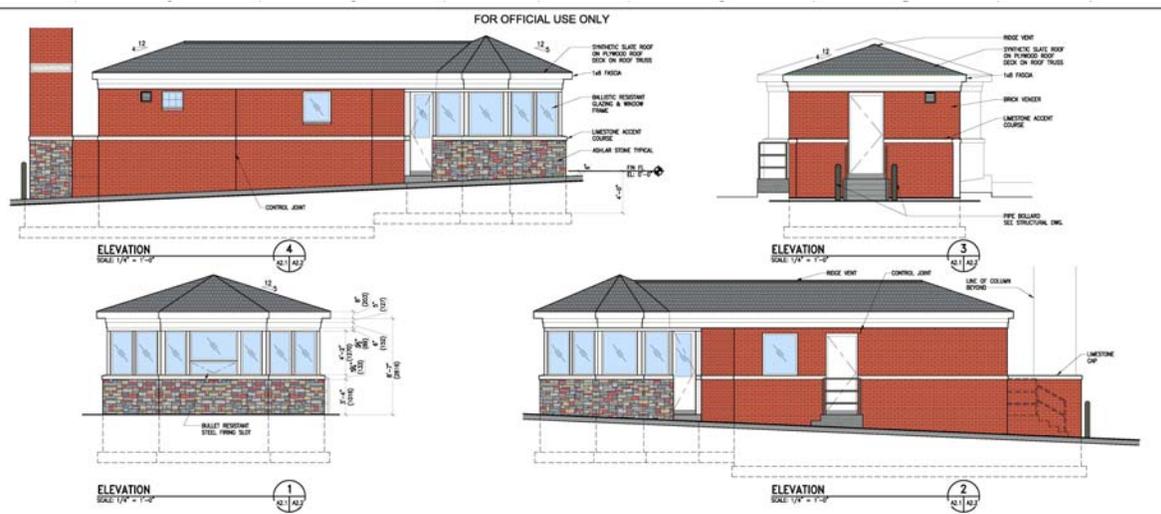
The architectural vocabulary for all of the proposed structures—the canopy, the guard house, the identity check stations, and the overwatch house—are brick with limestone trim and are intended to be consistent with the brick buildings at Bolling Air Force Base.



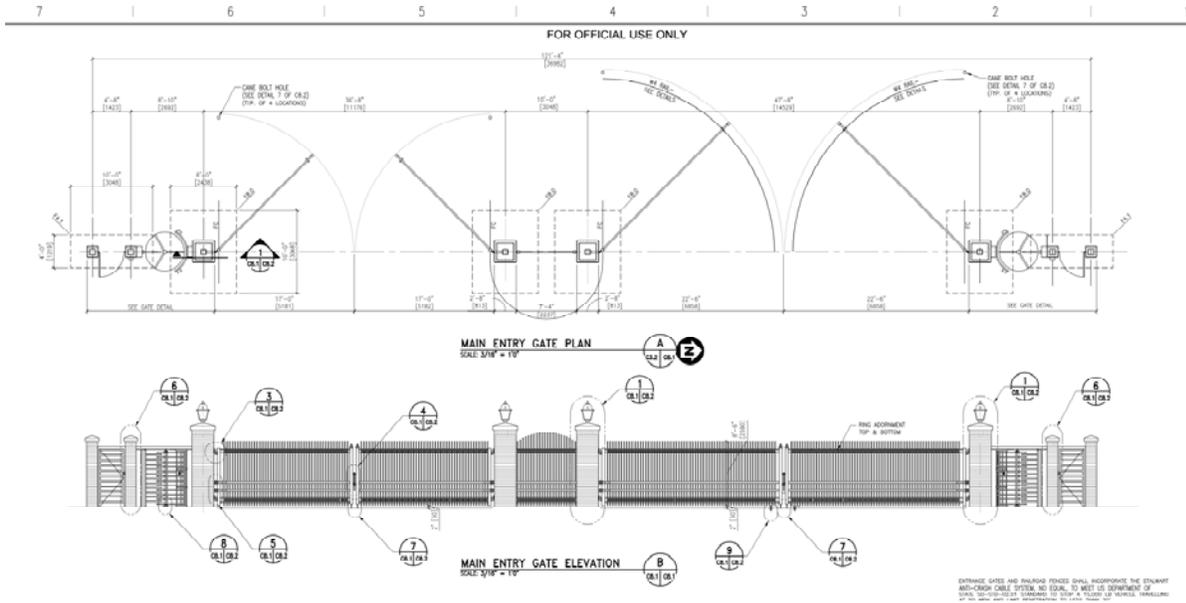
Elevations of proposed canopy to be constructed across MacDill Boulevard, above guard house and some identity check stations.



Site plan showing proposed security features on MacDill Boulevard at Bolling AFB Main Gate



Proposed guard house (four elevations)



Proposed decorative steel gate and brick piers across MacDill Boulevard; turnstiles at right



Rendering of proposed canopy, identity check stations, guard house, and pull-over lane at right.

## PROJECT ANALYSIS

The proposed security enhancements continue the same function already in place at the Main Gate of Bolling Air Force Base while adding identity check stations to improve the efficiency of the vehicle and visitor check. MacDill Boulevard will have three incoming traffic lanes, plus a pull-over lane, as well as two outgoing lanes. The proposed structures are designed in a similar red-brick-and-limestone vocabulary as other buildings at Bolling Air Force Base. The entrance gate, which is the element most visible to the public driving on South Capitol Street, is a decorative steel gate at the same height as the brick perimeter wall. Security elements such as bollards and wedge vehicle barriers are located within the base, beyond the vehicle check, near the intersection of MacDill Boulevard and Brookley Avenue.

## CONFORMANCE

### Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital: Federal Elements

Staff has determined that the project, which is an upgrade of current physical security structures and functions at the Main Gate of Bolling Air Force Base, is consistent with the Federal Elements of the Comprehensive Plan.

### National Environmental Policy Act

Pursuant to the regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act, the Department of the Air Force provided the Navy its conclusion that the project was evaluated for NEPA compliance by the Department and that a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was determined, based on Air Force environmental review standards after preparing and issuing an Environmental Assessment.

Staff has independently reviewed the submitted project information and has determined the project is a categorical exclusion in conformance with the NCPC requirements under §8(C)(21) of the Commission's Environmental and Historic Preservation Policies.

### National Historic Preservation Act

The Department of the Air Force initiated consultation with the D.C. State Historic Preservation Office because the Main Gate is within the National Register-eligible Bolling Air Force Historic District, as are the buildings on either side of the entrance. The 106 consultation was concluded without agreement on the effects and how to resolve them. Design modifications to the canopy were made as a result of a meeting with NCPC and CFA staff. Staff concurs with the recommended design modifications, which were incorporated in the submitted plans.

## COORDINATION

### Coordinating Committee

The Coordinating Committee reviewed this item at its meeting on April 12, 2006 and forwarded the proposal to the Commission with the statement that the project had been coordinated with all

agencies participating. The participating agencies were NCPC; the District of Columbia Office of Planning; the D. C. Fire Marshall, and the D.C. Department of Transportation.

Commission of Fine Arts

The Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) did not approve the project at its April 20, 2006 meeting, asking for a redesign of the canopy.