



Commission Action

May 3, 2018

PROJECT New Security Fence Joint Base Myer – Henderson Hall Arlington, VA	NCPC FILE NUMBER 7925
SUBMITTED BY United States Department of Defense Department of the Army	NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER 1.61(38.40)44728
REVIEW AUTHORITY Advisory per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1)	APPLICANT'S REQUEST Approval of preliminary site development plans
	ACTION TAKEN Approved preliminary site development plans with comments

The Commission:

Approves the preliminary site development plans for the proposed fence between Joint Base Myer - Henderson Hall and Arlington National Cemetery with the exception of the Selfridge and Memorial Chapel Gates, which need additional design refinements.

Notes that Arlington National Cemetery is a Historic District on the National Register and Fort Myer is a National Historic Landmark and contains several historic properties.

Fence Design and Alignment

Finds that the submission includes sufficient information to justify the distance between the proposed security fence and the historic wall located at the boundary of the Arlington National Cemetery and Joint Base Myer – Henderson Hall. The proposed separation of approximately ten feet protects the historic setting of the wall, minimizes unusable space between the wall and the fence, and allows for appropriate sight lines for security personnel.

Notes that Arlington National Cemetery, who owns the historic wall, does not want the new security fence to be on or immediately adjacent to the existing wall, piers, and gates, to maintain its historic integrity.

Finds that the Army has refined the fence alignment in response to the Commission's comments to navigate existing trees more gracefully.

Entrances

Notes that there are five existing entrances into the base along the historic wall. The Old Post Chapel, Hobson, and Selfridge entrances are defined by historic piers. All of the entrances currently include a metal gate; however, only the gate at the Old Post Chapel entrance is historic.

Notes that the proposed security gates cannot be incorporated into the existing wall and piers, because they are the property of Arlington National Cemetery.

Finds that while the proposed security fence and slide arm gates have a negative visual impact on the historic entrances, there is an opportunity to minimize the impacts by creating more defined entrances through the design of the fence and gates.

Provides the following comments and requests for each of the entrances:

Old Post Chapel Entrance

Notes the Old Post Chapel entrance is next to the Old Post Chapel, which is a public location that accommodates four daily funeral services and includes a caisson, up to 70 cars, and several buses. The existing gate is historic and will remain.

Notes that staff has considered two alternatives for this entrance (bollards and the slide arm gate) and provides the following comments:

Finds that the proposed slide arm security gate will have a negative impact on views of the historic gate, wall and piers in the closed position; however, this will only occur at night.

Finds that because the historic gate (which provides anti-climb security) will remain, there is an opportunity to address anti-ram security through the use of retractable bollards between the two piers, minimizing impacts on the historic wall, piers, and gate.

Notes that the Army has indicated that retractable bollards will not work because of maintenance and operational concerns, citing previous experiences with hydraulic bollards on the Fort Myer base.

Finds that due to the high public use of this area for ceremonial funerals multiple times a day, it is important that the entrance remain consistently operational and that there would likely be fewer maintenance issues associated with the proposed slide arm gate.

Finds that while the proposed slide arm security gate has a negative impact on views of the historic gate, wall and piers when closed, the impacts are significantly reduced when open.

Supports the Army's proposed slide arm security gate at the Old Post Chapel Entrance, recognizing that bollards are an aesthetically better option, however, the slide arm security gate provides the reliability needed for this public entrance.

Selfridge and Memorial Chapel Entrances

Notes that the Selfridge entrance is located approximately 1,200 feet from the Old Post Chapel entrance next to the Bakers Creek Memorial. The entrance is defined by two historic piers, an existing gate which is not historic, and is used primarily by employees accessing Arlington

National Cemetery. The security gate will normally be closed and only accessible with a keypad. This gate accommodates approximately 200 cars per day.

Notes that the Memorial Chapel entrance is located in a highly visible area adjacent to Carpenter Road, which is the main roadway on the campus. The existing gate, which is not historic, is used infrequently (approximately once a month) for large funerals at the chapel. It will be replaced by the new security gate which will remain closed and only accessed when needed.

Notes that both entrances need an anti-ram and anti-climb security gate.

Notes that the proposed security fence and gates cannot be placed within existing piers or attached to the historic wall, which is under the jurisdiction of Arlington National Cemetery.

Finds that the proposed gate design for both entrances is not a clearly defined gateway similar to the entrance in the historic wall. As proposed, there is no differentiation between the security fence and the gate.

Requests the Army consider the use of piers, posts or other elements to clearly frame the gates, and explore additional design details that will help differentiate the gates from the proposed fence.

Millennium Entrance

Notes the Millennium entrance is not located in a highly visible area and will be closed except for use by emergency vehicles. The existing stone wall in this area is not historic.

Supports the proposed security gate in this location.

Hobson Entrance

Notes that the Hobson entrance is permanently closed and the security fence will continue without a gate at this entrance.

Supports the continuous fence at this entrance because the area in front of the gate will be landscaped.

Views

Notes that the Army has submitted a viewshed study that includes photo-simulations of the project, from various points inside the base and from Arlington National Cemetery.

Commends the Army for conducting a thorough viewshed study to understand the impacts of the project on important nearby historic resources.

