

Where are we now?

Site selection: A new site selection has begun for the project. The Army is requesting site suggestions from the community. The criteria for these sites requires:

- the site must be in the Middletown City limits
- The site must be approximately 25 acres
- The site must be available.

Site suggestions must be submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or the City of Middletown by Sept. 8, 2008.

Sites may be submitted via e-mail or telephone to:

- Joe Redlinger, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Diane McCartin, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Todd Hornback, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Bill Warner, City of Middletown

Please provide an exact address and general location with the submitted site.

Why changing requirements for this projects?

With the National Guard engineering unit removed by the Connecticut Governor, the project scope has changed. These changes include lower numbers for personnel, acreage and costs.

Will there be fencing?

There will be minimal fencing on the project. The vehicle maintenance building will be fenced for security as well as the parking for the Military Equipment Parking. This section will be in the back of the facility. Fencing will not be in the front of the facility.

What about setbacks? Will you meet the city requirements?

Traditionally, setbacks for city developers require approximately 50 feet. The setback for this facility will be at least 100 feet.

Cost

Cost of the project?

With the National Guard engineering unit removed from the project, project cost has changed and may fluctuate during the process. The original programmed cost was \$68 million. The current cost is expected to be approximately \$57 million but may be when the final budget documents are approved.

Can state funds be used for clean up for a site connected to this project if the site is a brownfields?

Yes, state funds can be used for environmental cleanup for a project site. The clean up must meet project schedule and the cost restraints if state funds do not cover all the environmental cleanup costs.

Can project requirements change in the future?

Project requirements can change. We do not expect, nor intend for them to change. The project will provide computer simulation training. Other reserve centers offer live training which is not planned or expected at this site. The reserve centers in this area have operated for an average of 50 years and have not changed mission requirements for the centers.

BRAC

Do you have a legal opinion on BRAC?

BRAC is law and we as a federal agency must follow the law. The Army has stated the Army does not release documentation on legal opinions. Army typically withholds its legal opinions under the attorney-client and attorney work-product privileges under FOIA, Exemption 5, which protects the agency decision making process.

The BRAC wording for reserve centers has included three statements:

- ...be built within the city limits of ...
- ...be built in the vicinity of...
- ...be built adjacent to...

Experience with reserve centers across the nation has been consistent with the BRAC Law interpretation. The Army must follow the wording exactly.

What about the BRAC Law language, “to be built within the city limits of ...if a suitable site can be found”?

This language protects the federal government from the requirement to build the facility if a suitable site cannot be found within the city limits. If a suitable site cannot be found within the city limits, the BRAC funds cannot be used to construct the project outside of the city limits and the project is cancelled.

Who do I contact if I disagree with the BRAC Law language?

The Army does not have the authority to change the BRAC law language. Contact your Congressional representatives.

Schedule

The Army has described the schedule as “aggressive.” What does this mean?

BRAC Law requires the project to be completed by September 2011. To meet this deadline, the Army must follow a schedule with little room to stray from the process.

Will the aggressive schedule impact the environmental studies?

No. All federal and state laws for the Middletown Armed Forces Reserve Center will be followed. The schedule is compact for the project but no shortcuts will be taken in the environmental surveys or investigations. We must follow all required laws.

To meet this aggressive schedule, work must be tiered. This requires, more resources targeted to the project. The strict environmental process may be ongoing at several sites to assure all required laws are followed closely. Project engineering studies may be done at several sites to assure project can be designed for these sites incorporating all environmental requirements.

Community involvement

What is the role of the representative on the Mayor's liaison/committee?

We value the cooperative effort of this team. The representative will provide valuable information in the decision-making process. The individual will serve as a liaison to the community and the Mayor's committee comprised of other community members.

What is the Army commitment to the community?

We are committed to working with the community. These are our commitments to the community:

- We have invited city environmental representatives to be on site during environmental studies on site; the first opportunity will be on the Boardman Lane survey for box turtles and sedge grass
- We have invited the Mayor's office to form a committee of community members with a designated liaison to participate in the site selection process
- We have created a website for questions and answers and site suggestions from the community. As we can verify the availability of the suggested sites, the sites will be listed on the website and available for comments. Comments will be posted with each site.
- We have held three public meetings to update the community on the project and will host public meeting during the process to include a meeting after the site is selected and during the National Environmental Policy Act public comment period
- We want to be available for questions comments through the website, Mayor's Office and direct contacts to the Army via telephone and e-mail

How do I contact the Corps with questions, comments or site suggestions?

Diane McCartin, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Phone: 502-315-6853

E-mail: Diane.E.McCartin@usace.army.mil

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