



Welcome

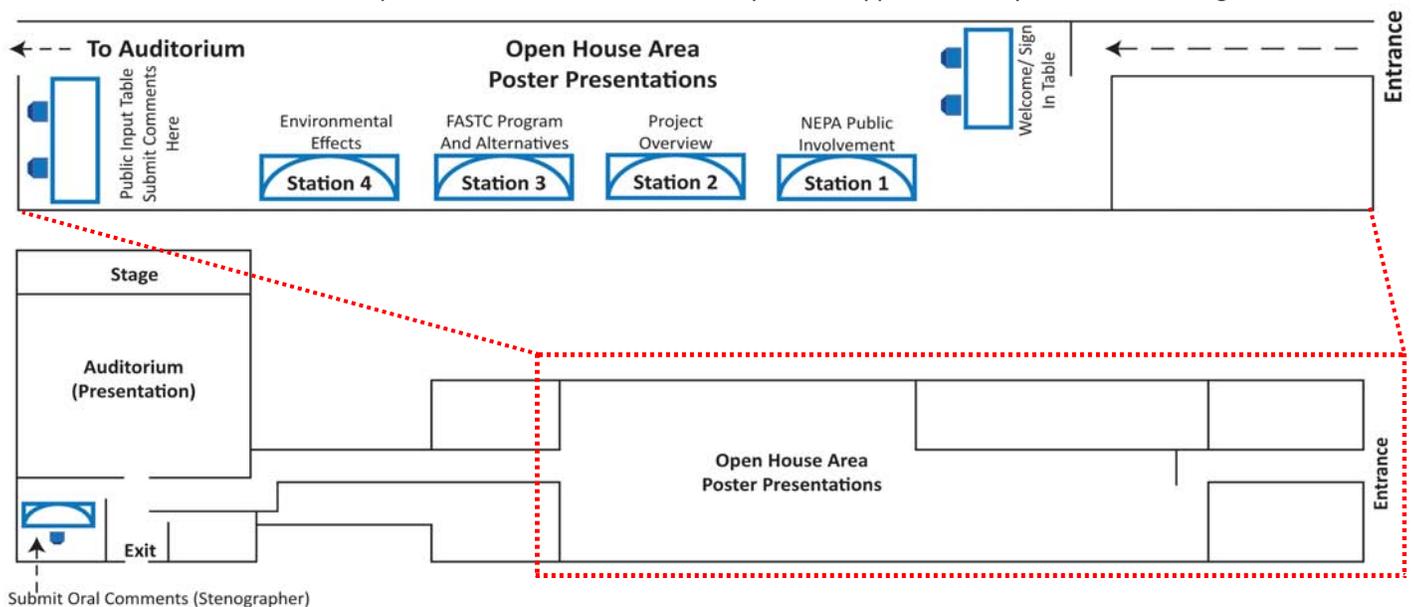
The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) welcomes you to this public meeting concerning the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the U.S. Department of State (DOS) Foreign Affairs Security Training Center (FASTC) in Nottoway County. GSA has prepared the Draft EIS in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The Draft EIS analyzes and assesses the environmental effects of site acquisition and development of FASTC on four adjacent parcels of Nottoway County’s Pickett Park and the Virginia Army National Guard’s Maneuver Training Center at Fort Pickett. DOS and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and U.S. National Guard Bureau are cooperating agencies in this Draft EIS.

What is GSA proposing?

GSA is proposing to acquire a site and develop the DOS, Bureau of Diplomatic Security (DS) FASTC. The purpose of FASTC would be to consolidate existing geographically dispersed training functions at a single suitable location. This would improve training efficiency and enhance training operations for a wide array of DOS law enforcement and security disciplines for the protection of diplomats and U.S. embassies abroad. The FASTC program would include driving tracks, mock urban environments, firing and explosives ranges, classrooms, simulations labs, administration, dormitories, dining facilities, and supporting infrastructure. The proposed construction would occur between 2014 and 2020.

What is the purpose of this Public Meeting?

The purpose of this public meeting is to inform you about GSA’s proposal, explain the NEPA process and the associated Draft EIS analysis, and to receive your comments on the Draft EIS. GSA and DOS representatives are here to answer your questions. There are poster displays located in the open house area that address: how you can participate in the NEPA process, an overview of the FASTC project, the FASTC program and build alternatives, and environmental effects. There is a table with comment forms for writing your comments, or you may speak with a stenographer who will record your comments. **There will be a presentation at 7:00 pm followed by a brief informal question and answer session in the auditorium.** The open house continues until 8:30 pm. The approximate layout of the meeting is shown below.



General Room Layout for Public Meeting, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
(Actual layout may differ)

Please Sign In

This is Your Opportunity to Provide Comments on the Draft EIS
(see page 3 for details)

For more information, please visit the project website at: www.state.gov/recovery/fastc

Why is GSA proposing this action?

A 2008 report to Congress identified a need for a consolidated DS training facility to improve training efficiency and provide priority access to training venues that meet current facility and efficiency standards.

Why is this project happening in Nottoway County?

GSA and DOS evaluated 41 alternative sites within 220 miles of DS/DOS headquarters in Arlington, VA. Only the Nottoway County site at Fort Pickett and Pickett Park in combination met suitability criteria.



DOS security training

Why has GSA prepared this Draft EIS?

The Draft EIS is a tool to be used by government decision makers. It examines and documents the potential impacts to the environment and the local community from a proposed action and possible alternatives to the action. The Draft EIS is a part of the NEPA process. The purpose of NEPA is to ensure that federal agencies consider environmental factors along with other factors in the decision making process.

What alternatives did the Draft EIS evaluate?

A range of alternative layouts for development of the proposed FASTC on the Fort Pickett/Pickett Park parcels and the no action alternative (FASTC is not developed) were evaluated. Each alternative was analyzed for functionality according to the needs of the FASTC program and potential impacts on the human environment. The analysis culminated in two build alternatives that were presented to the public during the scoping period in October 2011. Since that time, Build Alternative 1 and Build Alternative 2 have been refined to minimize environmental impacts and include recommendations from the GSA Design Excellence program.

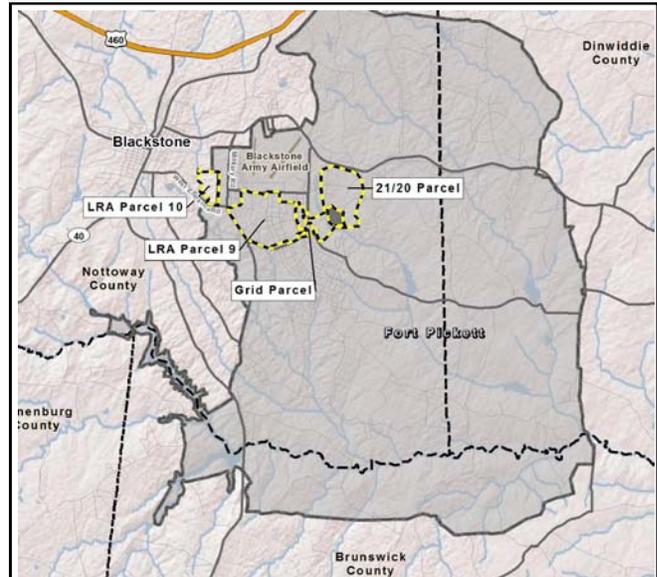
Build Alternative 1: The main campus, firing ranges, and explosives ranges would be located on Parcel 21/20. The driving tracks and mock urban environments area would be on Nottoway County Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA) Parcel 9.

Build Alternative 2: The firing ranges and explosives ranges would be located on Parcel 21/20, and the driving tracks would be on LRA Parcel 9. The Grid Parcel would be utilized for the mock urban environments area and the main campus would be on LRA Parcel 10.

What is the preferred alternative?

Build Alternative 2 is the preferred alternative because it best meets the programmatic needs of the FASTC program and the guiding principles of GSA Design Excellence while minimizing environmental impacts. Four parcels comprise the preferred alternative site (shown on page 4):

1. Fort Pickett Parcel 21/20 (570 acres)
2. LRA Parcel 9 (725 acres)
3. Fort Pickett Grid Parcel (74 acres)
4. LRA Parcel 10 (135 acres)



What are the findings of the environmental impact analysis?

The Draft EIS identifies the reasonably foreseeable beneficial and adverse environmental impacts of the alternatives. The *context and intensity* of adverse impacts are considered to determine if they are **significant**, meaning they severely impact the environment and/or violate laws, regulations or policies. Measures would be considered to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse impacts.

This Draft EIS determined that with impact minimization and mitigation there would be **no significant direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts** to most areas evaluated. There would be **no adverse impacts** on climate or cultural resources and there would be **minor or moderate impacts** on topography, geology, soils, water resources, biological resources, air quality, noise, land use and zoning, socioeconomics, recreation, utilities, public health and safety, visual qualities, and hazardous substances. The Draft EIS determined there would be **significant impacts** to traffic and **beneficial** economic effects.

How do we define impacts?

Context and Intensity or Severity

Beneficial or adverse; minor, moderate, or significant

How the Impact Occurs

Direct — same time and place as the project

Indirect — separated by time and/or place

Cumulative — considered with other projects that impact the same resources

Findings of the Draft EIS Technical Studies

Economic and Fiscal: 1,500 new permanent direct and indirect jobs; 938 temporary construction jobs; 1,292 new residents primarily in Chesterfield and Nottoway Counties; \$1.1 million net revenue increases in Chesterfield County; \$1.2 million net revenue increases in Nottoway County; net revenue increases also in Dinwiddie, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, and Prince Edward Counties; \$117.9 million peak construction economic output in 2017; \$131.2 million annual operations output; most economic benefit realized in Chesterfield and Nottoway Counties.

Cultural: Build Alternatives 1 and 2 would have no adverse effects under the NHPA on National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-eligible or potentially eligible historic properties. Archaeological surveys identified six sites potentially eligible for the NRHP, but all sites would be avoided by both alternatives; therefore no adverse effects would occur. GSA has initiated consultation with VA Department of Historic Resources on this finding of effects, and the results will be incorporated in the Final EIS.

Air Quality: The analysis determined construction and operational emissions of Build Alternatives 1 and 2 would not have a significant impact on the local or regional air quality.

Noise: Build Alternatives 1 and 2 are predicted to generate limited additional noise in the surrounding community beyond the existing noise from Fort Pickett operations. Blackstone residents are likely to notice an increase in the overall number of explosive events heard, but only an average of 1.2 additional explosive events per week. The additional peak noise events would be most noticed in the vicinity of the northwest boundary of Fort Pickett; however, the infrequency of these events would result in

a low risk that residents would be adversely impacted.

Traffic: Three intersections would be adversely impacted with the addition of 3,500 vehicle trips per day in 2020: Cox Road/Yellowbird Road at U.S. 460; Military Road at Darvills Road (VA 40); and West Entrance Road/8th Street at South Main Street. Delays would likely occur at the Main Gate and on Military Road within Fort Pickett. Mitigation would be considered in consultation with VA Department of Transportation, Nottoway County, Blackstone, and VA Army National Guard.

Wetlands: 106 acres of wetlands and streams were mapped on the proposed site parcels. Build Alternative 1 would result in adverse filling and clearing impacts to 6.5 acres of wetlands, including 564 linear feet of streams. Build Alternative 2 would impact 7.1 acres of wetlands, including 426 linear feet of streams. Wetland permits would require compensation for these impacts. This would most likely include the purchase of credits from a wetland mitigation bank and/or payment of a fee to VA Aquatic Resources Trust Fund for the preservation of other wetlands.



Public Involvement and Participation

Will my comments be considered?

- Comments received during the Draft EIS review and comment period (**October 26 -December 10, 2012**) will be considered and addressed in the Final EIS
- Your input helps GSA identify key environmental concerns and arrive at the best possible decision. The final decision will be announced in a Record of Decision

Participate Today

- Your comments are an important part of the NEPA and NHPA processes and will contribute to the successful completion of the Final EIS



Ways to comment on the Draft EIS until December 10, 2012

- 1) **Provide written or oral comments tonight (recorded by a stenographer)**
- 2) **Submit comments via email to : FASTC.info@gsa.gov**
- 3) **Mail your comments to:**

**Ms. Abigail Low, Project Manager
U.S. General Services Administration
20 N 8th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107**

Preferred Alternative

