

# Foreign Affairs Security Training Center (FASTC)



## U.S. General Services Administration U.S. Department of State

Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement for  
U.S. Department of State  
Foreign Affairs Security Training Center  
Nottoway County, Virginia

**Public Information Meeting January 26, 2015, 7–8 p.m.**

# Format of this Public Information Meeting

- This presentation will be followed by an informal question and answer session
- Informational posters are on display
- Representatives from GSA and DOS are available to explain the proposed project, answer questions, and receive your comments
- Formal written comments on the Supplemental Draft EIS may be submitted tonight or by February 23, 2015



# Presentation Overview

- Background & Status of FASTC
- Build Alternative 3
- Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Process
- Supplemental Draft EIS Release and Public Comment Period
- Supplemental Draft EIS Findings
- Path Forward



# GSA and DOS Project Management

- The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) is responsible for conducting environmental studies, acquiring sites and providing construction procurement, construction management, commissioning, and other services necessary to complete the FASTC project.
- The U.S. Department of State (DOS) performed Master Planning studies for the project and coordinates with GSA during environmental studies, construction procurement, construction management and commissioning. GSA led the Master Plan update effort.



# U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Diplomatic Security (DS)

## Mission Statement:

*“The Bureau of Diplomatic Security provides a secure platform for the conduct of U.S. foreign policy.”*

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- The State Department carries on the business of the American government and its people at more than 275 locations, many in challenging security environments where key U.S. national security interests are at stake.
- Adequate and systematic security training is necessary to protect our personnel and facilities overseas.

# U.S. Department of State

## FASTC Project Purpose and Need

- FASTC would fill a critical need, identified in the 2008 report to the U.S. Congress and re-affirmed by two independent panels in 2013, for a consolidated security training facility.
- Current hard skills training is conducted at multiple contracted locations creating inefficiencies.
- Consolidation is needed to improve training efficiency and provide priority access to training venues.
- Establish a facility from which to conduct hard skills training focused on embassy security to meet increased demands for well-trained personnel.
- Train 8,000 to 10,000 students per year.

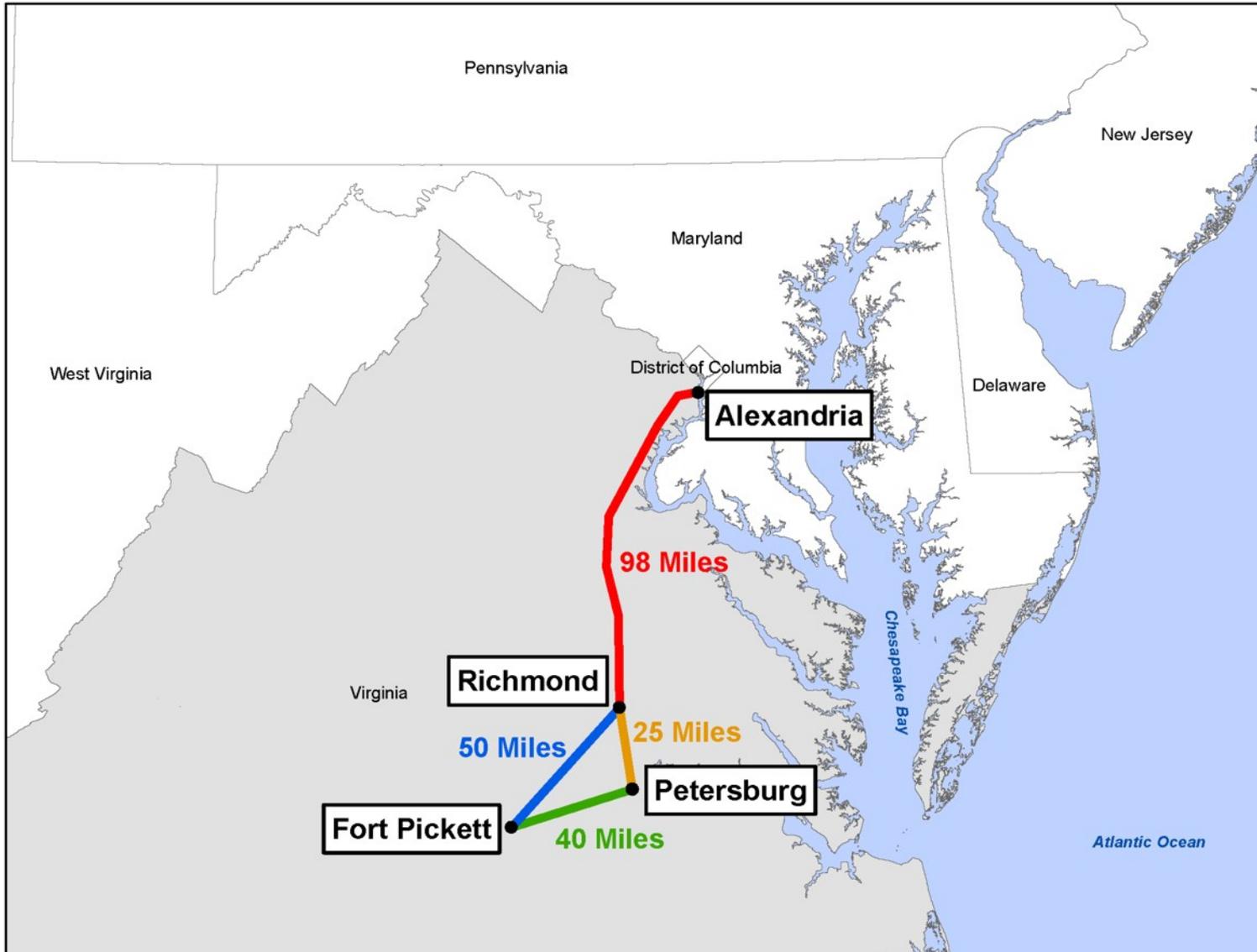


# Chronology

- July 2011 - Selected Fort Pickett and began Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Master Planning efforts
- October 2012 – Released Draft EIS for full scope FASTC
- December 2012 – Completed Master Plan for full scope FASTC
- February 2013 – DOS decision to reduce scope of FASTC to hard skills only
- Early 2013 – Project activities placed on hold while additional due diligence conducted
- April 2014 – Administration decision to move forward at Fort Pickett



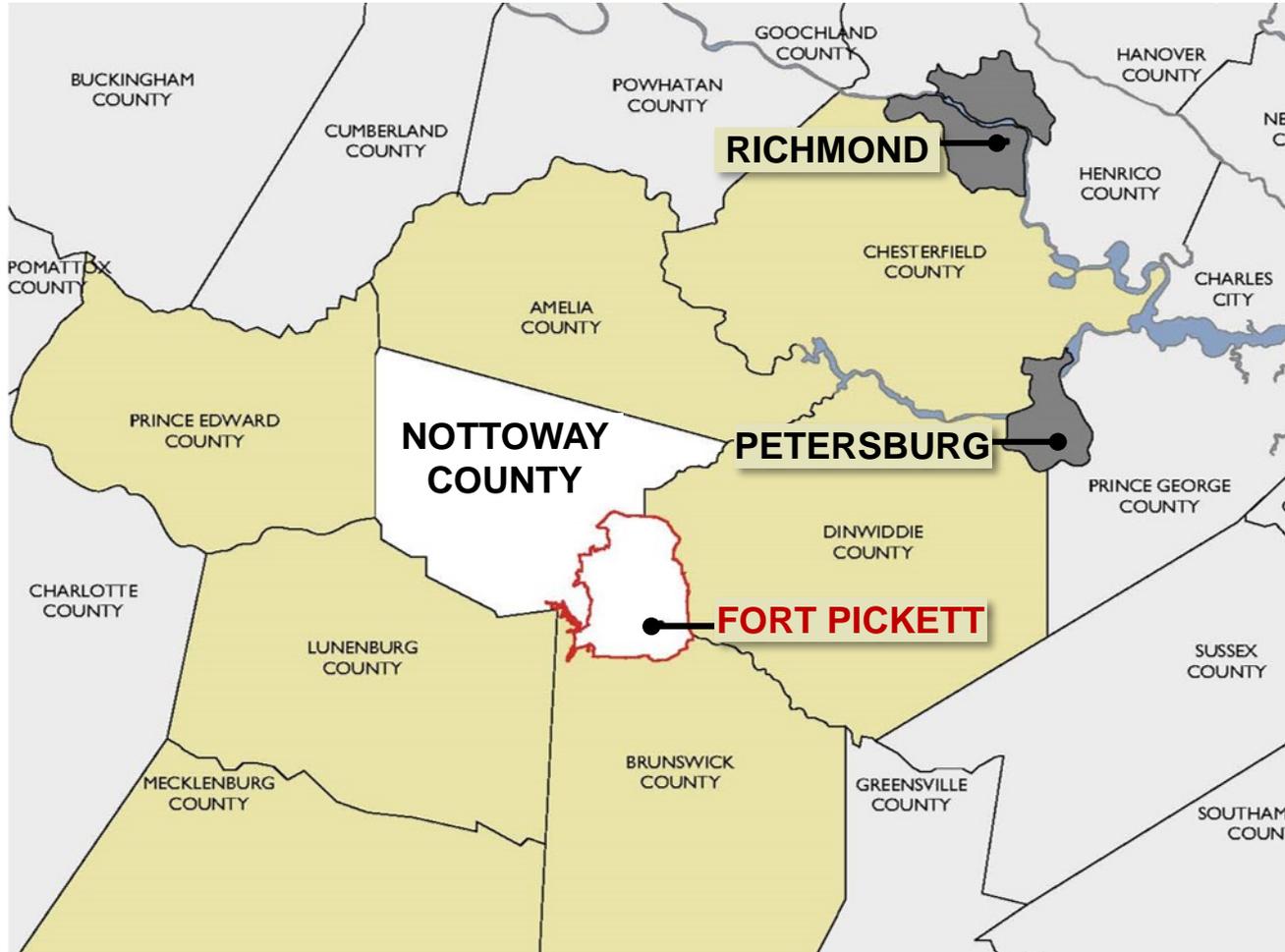
# FASTC Location



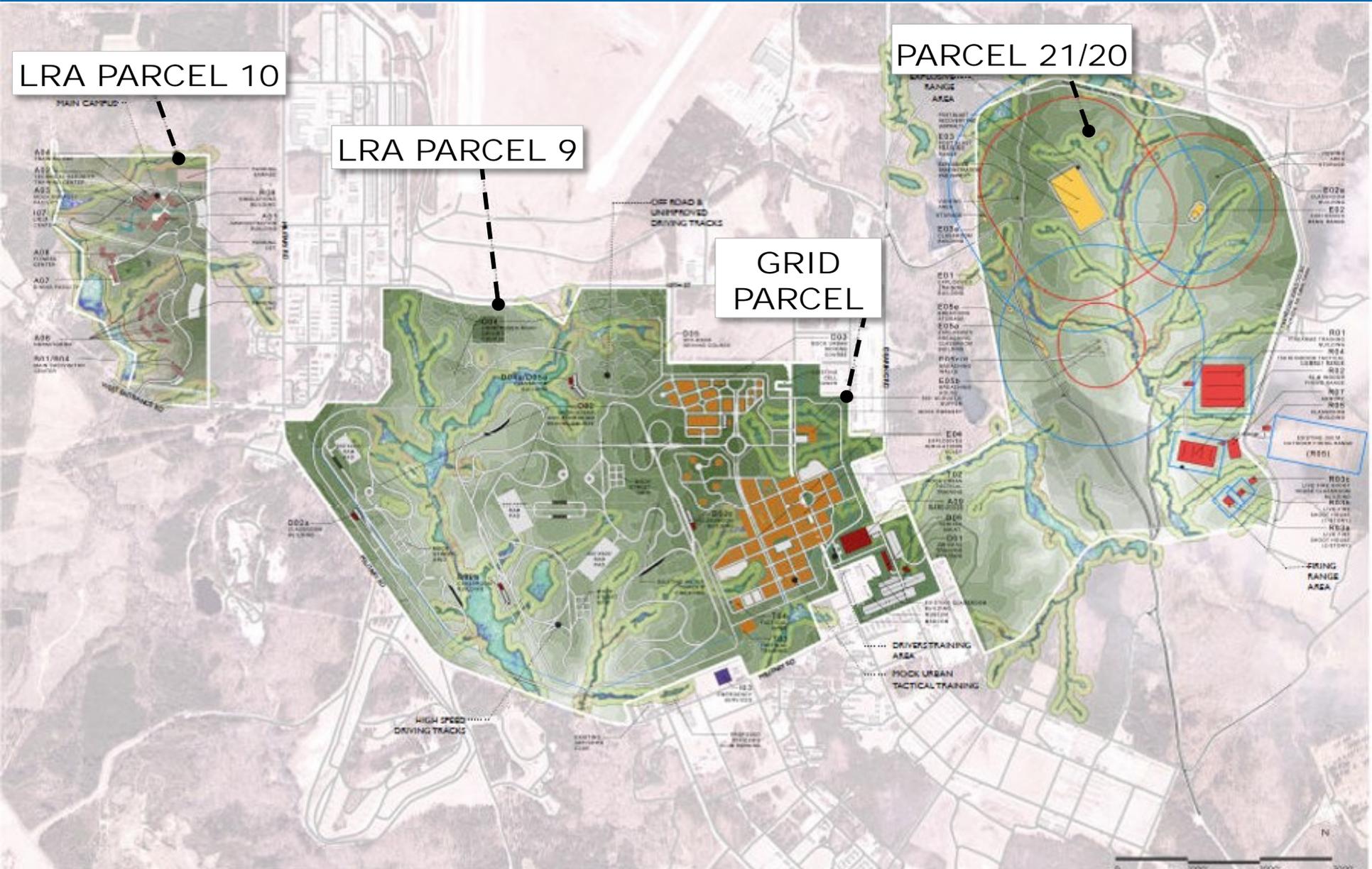
# FASTC Location

## LEGEND

-  Surrounding Counties
-  Outlying Counties
-  Urban Areas
-  Nottoway County
-  Fort Pickett



# Original Full Scope Build Plan Project Has Been De-Scoped



LRA PARCEL 10

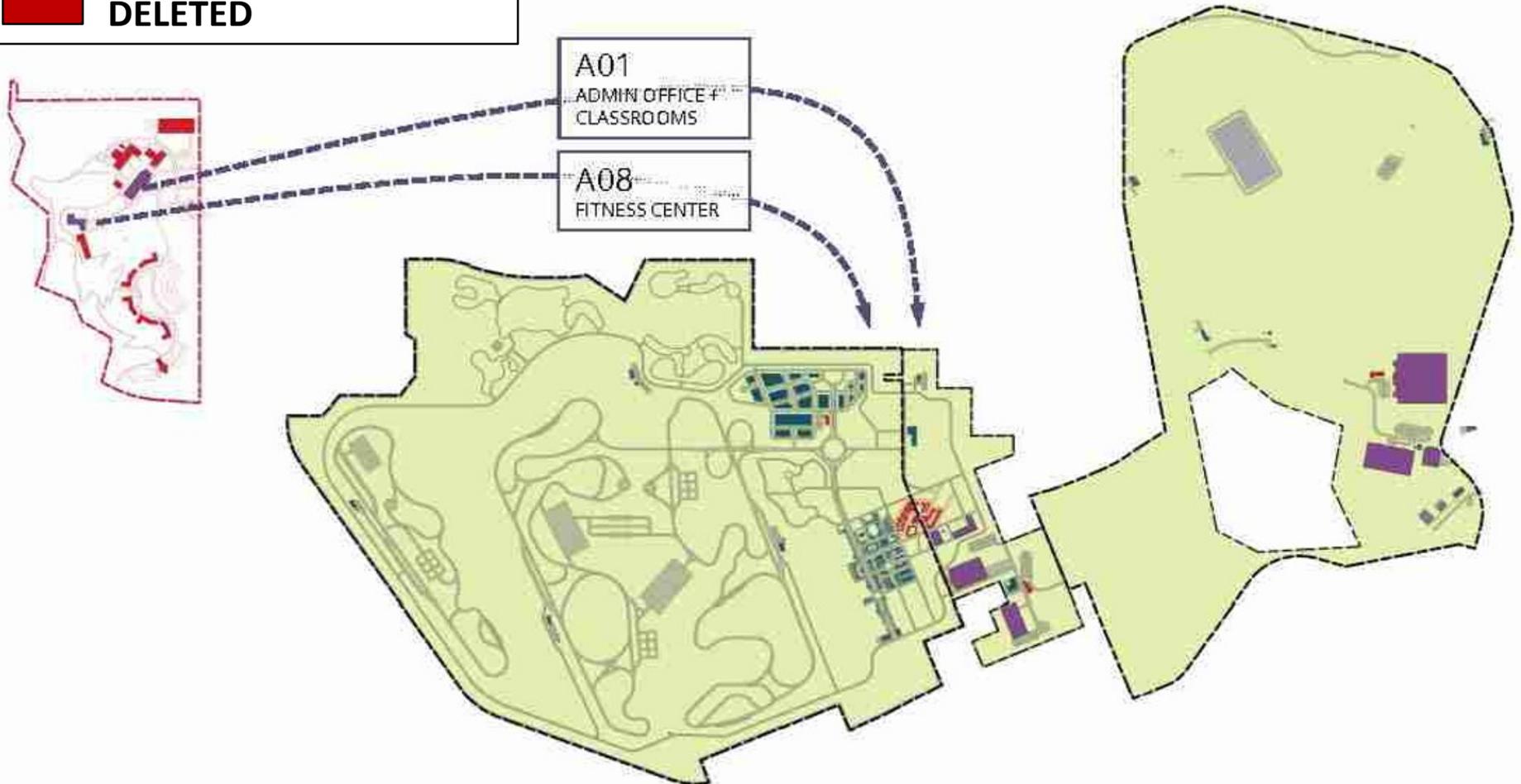
LRA PARCEL 9

GRID PARCEL

PARCEL 21/20

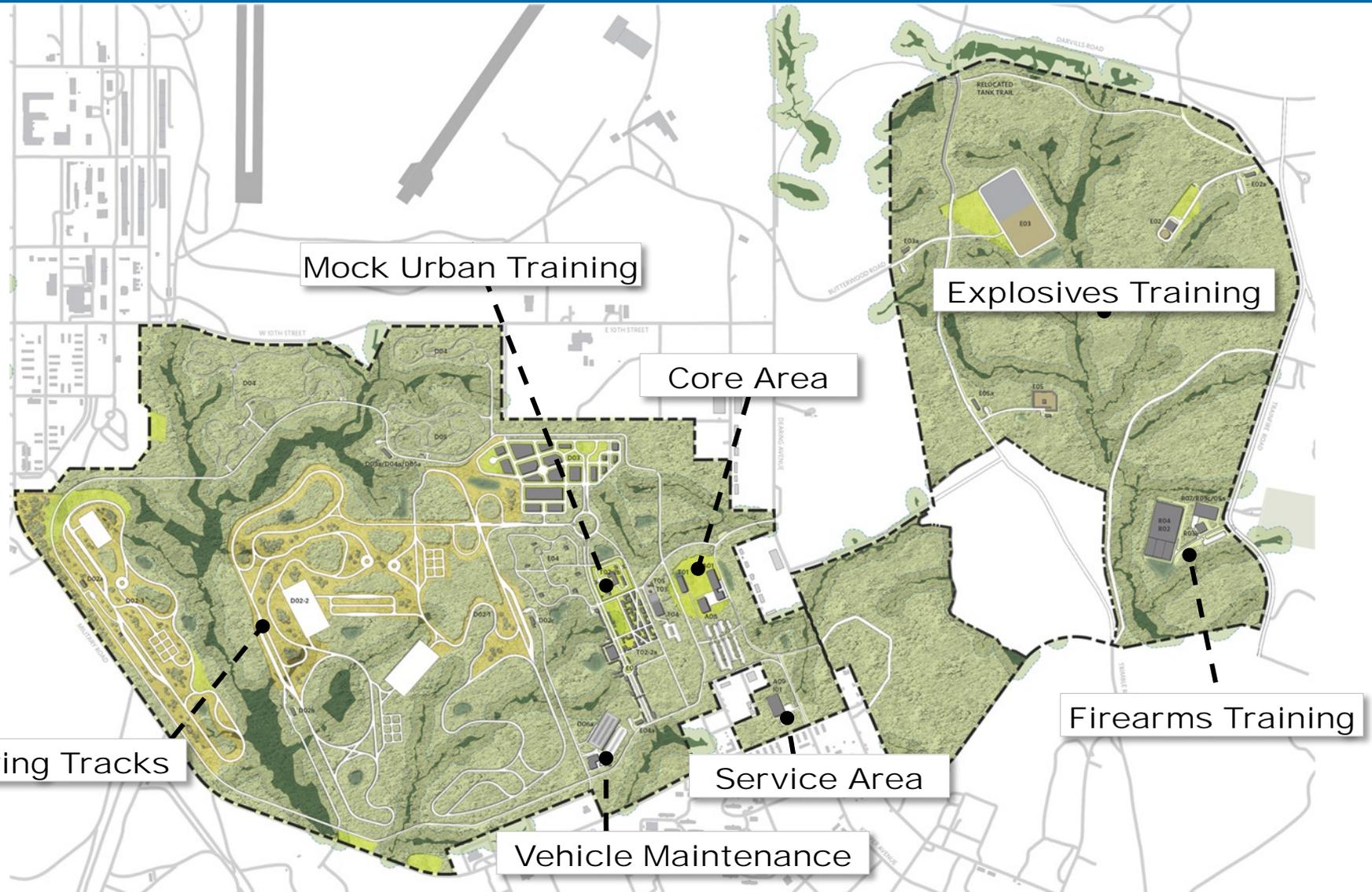
# Reduced Scope

- NO PROGRAM CHANGE
- REVISED PROGRAM
- DELETED



# FASTC Revised Master Plan

## Completed September 2014



# Current Scope FASTC Activities

## Hard Skills Training

- Driving Tracks
- Indoor/Outdoor Firing & Explosive Ranges
- Mock Urban Environment
- Weapons & Explosives

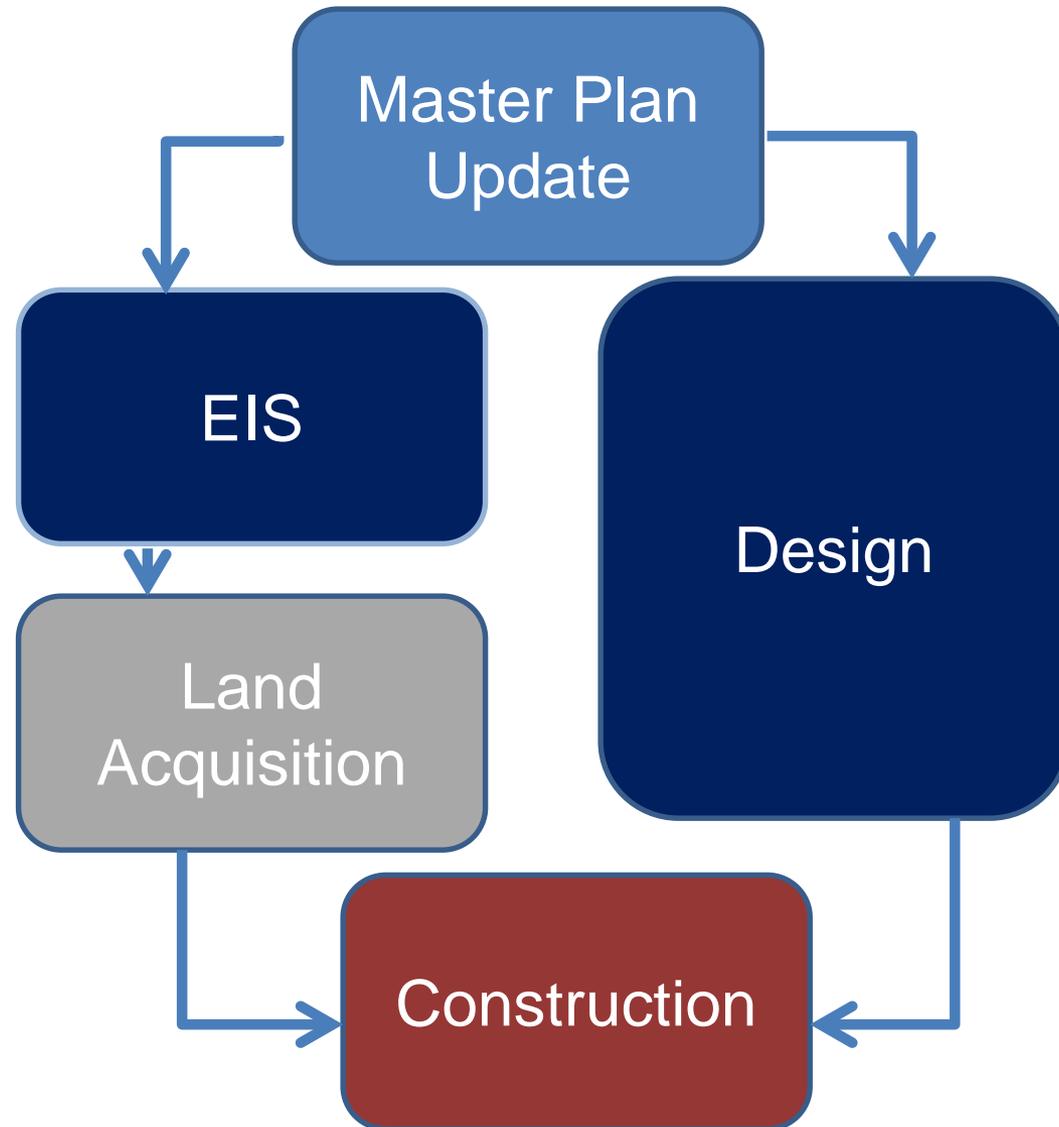
## Infrastructure

- Power, Water, Sanitary Sewer
- Buildings and Grounds
- Telecommunications
- Logistics Support

## Support

- Classrooms
- Administrative Offices
- Fitness Center

# Critical Path



# Critical Path – Master Plan Update

- In September 2014, the FASTC project team completed evaluation of the 2012 Master Plan against the DOS realignment of the project to a hard skills only training facility, and have updated the Master Plan to reflect the necessary changes.
- The 2014 Master Plan Update serves as the basis for NEPA studies and design activities moving forward.



# Critical Path – NEPA / EIS

- A Supplement to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was completed between September 2014 – January 2015.
- Completion of the Final EIS is anticipated Spring 2015 and will be done concurrently with the design of the facility.
- The EIS process continues to emphasize public involvement.



# Critical Path – Design

- A/E commenced design services on October 31, 2014.
- Project will be Design-Bid-Build.
- 5 design packages are being prepared by the A/E.
- Design packages range in size from \$20M - \$150M.
- Some design packages may be combined in a single construction contract depending upon funding availability.

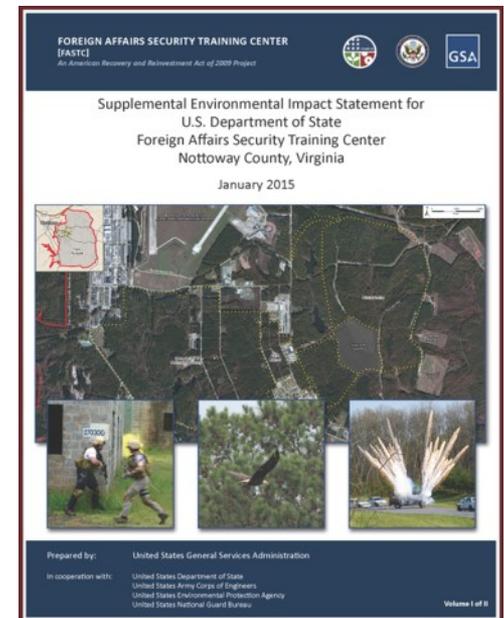


# Project Activities

- Master Plan Update
  - June 2014 – September 2014
  - 100% complete
- NEPA Supplemental EIS/Final EIS/Record of Decision
  - September 2014 – Spring/Summer 2015
  - 65% complete
- Design
  - October 2014-January 2016
- Construction Procurements
  - Begin Process in January 2015
  - Award first Construction Procurement in July 2015

# What Is Addressed in the Supplemental Draft EIS

- The purpose of the Supplemental Draft EIS is to address changes to the proposed action relevant to environmental concerns and assess new circumstances and information relevant to potential environmental impacts.
- Based on adjustments made to the proposed FASTC scope of requirements, a Master Plan Update was prepared in 2014 that modifies the previous build alternatives evaluated in the 2012 Draft EIS.
- Description of the Build Alternative 3.



# Environmental Studies

## ■ What Was Evaluated?

- Climate
- Topography, Geology, and Soils
- Water Resources
- Biological Resources
- Air Quality
- Noise
- Land Use and Zoning
- Recreation
- Utilities and Infrastructure
- Public Health and Safety
- Aesthetic and Visual

## ■ Technical Studies Updated

- Cultural Resources/NHPA
  - Archaeological Surveys
  - Architectural Surveys
- Socioeconomics
  - Economic & Fiscal Impacts
- Hazardous Substances
- Traffic and Transportation

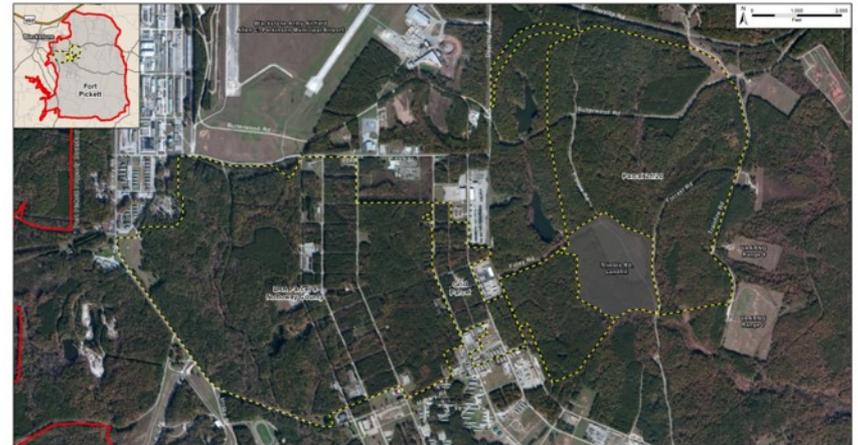
## ■ New Technical Study

- Bat Survey



# Environmental Findings Summary

- Beneficial socioeconomic impacts to Nottoway County, Chesterfield County, and six adjacent counties
- Direct and indirect adverse impacts to wetlands, streams, and forest
- Impacts to a potential federal threatened bat species
- Impacts to traffic, noise, hunting, and utilities are not significant
- Details are available in the Supplemental Draft EIS



# Minimization of Impacts Included in Supplemental Draft EIS

- LEED Silver design - energy efficiency, impact reduction
- Relocation assistance for affected residents and businesses
- Shuttle buses to reduce traffic
- Hunting area access whenever possible
- Reduce clearing and grading to extent feasible
  - Re-establish native plants and plant community connections
  - Retain vegetation as visual buffer
- Best management practices (BMPs) and low impact development (LID) measures to avoid erosion, sedimentation, stormwater changes, and water quality impacts
- Design modifications to reduce wetland and stream impacts
- Water application and vegetation buffers for dust control
- Gates, signage, and containment of hazards for safety

# Mitigation Under Consideration

- GSA Urban Development/Good Neighbor Program – local coordination to maximize positive impacts
- DOS Community Liaison/Outreach program
- Avoid tree clearing to extent possible during northern long-eared bat maternity season and migratory bird nesting season
- Treatments or filtration systems for explosives ranges
- Additional impact analysis for any project changes, if needed



# Commenting on the Supplemental Draft EIS

- 45-day Comment Period: January 9 – February 23, 2015
- Comments can be submitted three ways:
  - Via the FASTC email address: [FASTC.info@gsa.gov](mailto:FASTC.info@gsa.gov)
  - Provide written comments during the public information meeting tonight
  - Mail a comment form or letter to: Ms. Abigail Low  
GSA Project Manager  
20 N 8th Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19107
- Written comments postmarked by February 23, 2015 will be responded to in the Final EIS and become part of the official public record



# FASTC EIS Milestones

Notice of Intent to Prepare Supplemental Draft EIS  
(September 3, 2014)

30 Day Public Comment Period  
(September 3 - October 3, 2014)

Supplemental Draft EIS Available to Public  
(January 9, 2015)

We are here → 45-Day Public/Agency Comment Period and Public Meeting  
(January 9 – February 23, 2015)

Final EIS Available to Public – 30-Day Review Period  
(Spring 2015)

Record of Decision  
(Spring/Summer 2015)

# EIS Next Steps

- Final EIS Issued Spring 2015
  - After Final EIS is released, there is a 30 day review period
  - Only new comments not previously received or responded to in the Final EIS are addressed
- Record of Decision Published: Spring/Summer 2015
  - Details of the Government's official decision (*i.e.*, whether or not to move forward with project)

# Contact Information

Please contact us with any questions or comments about the FASTC project:

- FASTC Phone line: 215-446-4815
- FASTC E-mail: [FASTC.info@gsa.gov](mailto:FASTC.info@gsa.gov)
- FASTC Website: [www.state.gov/recovery/fastc/](http://www.state.gov/recovery/fastc/)



# Project Contact Information

## Abby Low, Project Manager

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# Questions & Answers

Thank You For  
Joining Us Tonight

