Environmental Assessment for the Center for Cyber Security Studies at the United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland

Open House Public Scoping Meeting
February 5, 2014
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Scoping is your opportunity to provide comments to help us improve our analysis
Welcome to the Scoping Meeting

The Department of the Navy (Navy) proposes to construct and operate a new academic building to house the Center for Cyber Security Studies (CCSS) at the United States Naval Academy (USNA) in Annapolis, Maryland. The proposed CCSS building of approximately 206,000 square feet would provide dedicated classrooms, laboratories, faculty offices, and secure project spaces for the new cyber curriculum. The proposed project also includes construction of a supporting parking garage. The Navy will prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential environmental effects of this proposed project. Navy and USNA representatives are here to explain the proposed project and alternatives, describe the environmental impact analysis process and related timeline, and answer general questions you might have about these items. An area has been set aside within the main meeting room to provide you with an opportunity to write and submit your comments, or to speak with a stenographer who will record your comments.

What is the purpose of this Public Scoping Meeting?

Scoping is an early and open process where the public is invited to help identify issues to be studied in the EA. The purpose of this scoping meeting is to inform you about the proposed project, explain the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the associated environmental impact analysis, and solicit your comments and concerns related to the proposed action and alternatives.

Please review the displays located throughout the open house, and then provide us with your comments. The approximate layout of the room is shown below.

General Room Layout for Open House Public Scoping Meeting
(Actual layout may be different)
What is the Center for Cyber Security Studies?

The newly defined domain of cyberspace presents unique and different challenges for Navy and United States Marine Corps operations. Future naval officers must be well-educated in cyber security to defend against today's cyber threats. On December 9, 2009, the Superintendent of the USNA established the Center for Cyber Security Studies as the Navy's sole undergraduate organization in cyber education and research. Its mission is to:

- Enhance the education of midshipmen in all areas of cyber warfare
- Facilitate the sharing of expertise and perspectives in cyber warfare from across the USNA
- Enhance interdisciplinary research in cyber warfare
- Disseminate information, harmonize efforts, and shape a common framework for cyber warfare related efforts at USNA

In support of these objectives, the USNA developed a five-year plan for the development and growth of the CCSS, and a curriculum plan for cyber instruction at the USNA. The CCSS curriculum plan includes:

- Two mandatory core courses for all Midshipmen
- Development of a cyber operations major
- New curricula in other departments with synergistic cyber-related material

The CCSS will ensure the Midshipmen are provided a state-of-the-art cyber education aligned and integrated with the needs of the Navy and United States Marine Corps.
What is the Navy proposing?

The Navy is proposing to provide dedicated and secure space for the cyber curriculum at the USNA, inclusive of a supporting parking garage. A new approximately 206,000 square foot multistory building would be constructed to house the CCSS as well as three existing academic departments that would comprise the focus of the cyber curriculum: Computer Sciences, Electrical and Computer Engineering, and Weapons and Systems Engineering. The CCSS building would contain:

- Classrooms
- Teaching and research laboratories
- Lecture halls
- Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF)
- Study rooms
- Offices
- Observatory
- Rooftop multipurpose space

The project also includes construction of a multi-level, concrete parking garage. The project would implement practical energy efficient and sustainable design and construction solutions.

Why is the Navy proposing this action?

The proposed action is needed to address current shortfalls in academic instruction space to support the CCSS program. A lack of applied instruction, or project-based learning (PBL) space, in which students learn from individual or small-group, hands-on projects, accounts for a significant portion of the shortage of academic instruction space at the USNA. PBL is particularly important in the cyber curriculum because it enables students to get hands on experience with the computer, electrical, and systems technology used to create cyber offensive and defensive strategies. In addition, adequate PBL space is a critical resource in supporting the USNA's requirement to graduate 65 percent of each class in a science-technology-engineering-mathematics (STEM) field.

Effective implementation of the cyber curriculum also demands secure project spaces. No existing building at the USNA includes a Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF) for handling classified information. Without PBL learning spaces and a SCIF, a full offering in cyber curriculum is not possible, and the Midshipmen would receive primarily theoretical training, as opposed to practical, real-world training.

Due to the proposed construction of the CCSS building on an existing parking lot, the proposed action is also needed to address the loss of parking. The parking garage is needed to accommodate the growth in the parking requirement for cyber-related staff and replace the loss of parking for construction of the project.
When will construction occur?

Project construction is anticipated to begin in early or mid-2015 with the parking garage. Construction of the CCSS building would begin after the parking garage is completed and would take approximately two years, beginning in late 2016 and finishing in late 2018. After construction of the CCSS building is completed, the computer sciences, electrical and computer engineering, and weapons and systems engineering departments would relocate to the CCSS building, and their vacated spaces would be back-filled primarily with PBL laboratories to address the shortfall of academic instruction space at the USNA.

What alternatives will be evaluated?

The CCSS EA will evaluate alternatives for the CCSS and parking garage, including taking no action. Two action alternatives achieve the program requirements for construction of the CCSS building, and three action alternatives could accommodate the requirements for the parking garage. The following table describes the alternatives.

### Alternatives to be Evaluated in the CCSS EA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alternative</th>
<th>Location Description</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CCSS Building Alternatives</strong></td>
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| **1A – Waffle Lot** | Existing parking lot known as the Waffle Lot | • 206,000 square feet  
• Plinth base plus five stories  
• Triangular building configuration to mirror that of the Waffle Lot site |
| **1B – Alumni Hall** | Lower lot of existing parking lot known as the Alumni Hall Lot | • 216,000 square feet  
• Five stories  
• Rectangular building configuration |
| **Parking Garage Alternatives** | | |
| **2A – Alumni Hall** | Upper and lower lots of existing parking lot known as the Alumni Hall Lot | • Two levels  
• Up to 400 parking spaces (net gain of up to 27 parking spaces) |
| **2B – Firehouse Site** | Undeveloped site covered with grass adjacent to USNA Fire Station | • Four levels  
• Up to 600 parking spaces (net gain of up to 413 to 449 parking spaces) |
| **2C – Lawrence Field** | Site of two baseball/softball fields known as Lawrence Field | • Two levels  
• Up to 600 parking spaces (net gain of up to 413 to 449 parking spaces)  
• Relocate ball fields to top of parking garage |
| **No Action Alternative** | | |
| **No Action** | A building for the CCSS and a parking garage would not be constructed at the USNA. This alternative does not meet the purpose and need; however, it is included to provide a baseline for comparison and analysis of alternatives. |
What is the Center for Cyber Security Studies (CCSS)?

- Established by the Superintendent, United States Naval Academy (USNA)
- Primary Mission is to enhance the education of Midshipmen in cyber warfare
- Develop and administer cyber curriculum at USNA

What is the Proposed Action?

- Construct and operate a 206,000 square foot building for the CCSS and a parking garage at the USNA

Objectives

- Provide dedicated classrooms, laboratories, faculty offices, and secure project spaces to effectively implement the cyber curriculum
- Alleviate current shortfalls in academic instruction space
- Meet parking requirements

General Design Features

- CCSS Building
  - Five stories
  - Contemporary design of concrete, metal, and glass
  - Size, scale, massing, and color compatible to adjacent buildings
  - Energy efficient and sustainable building systems and technology

- Parking Garage
  - Multi-level garage
  - Concrete structure

Construction Schedule

- Early or mid-2015 – Begin construction of parking garage
- Late 2016 – Begin construction of CCSS building (two-year process)
The EA will evaluate two alternatives for the CCSS building, three alternatives for the parking garage, and a No Action Alternative.

**CCSS Building Alternatives:**
Alternative 1A - Waffle Lot
  - Building configuration would mirror triangular site

Alternative 1B - Alumni Hall Lot
  - Rectangular building configuration

**Parking Garage Alternatives:**
Alternative 2A - Alumni Hall Lot
  - Two-level parking garage (up to 400 spaces)

Alternative 2B - Firehouse Site
  - Four-level parking garage (up to 600 spaces)

Alternative 2C - Lawrence Field
  - Two-level parking garage (up to 600 spaces); relocate athletic fields on top of garage

**No Action Alternative**
  - The Navy would not construct the CCSS building and a parking garage
Why is the Navy preparing an EA?

As part of our compliance with NEPA, the Navy is preparing an EA to assess the potential environmental effects of the proposed project. NEPA is the national charter for promoting productive harmony between humans and the environment and minimizing the impacts of federal actions. This law requires all federal agencies to consider potential environmental impacts of their proposed actions and reasonable options in making decisions about those actions. With public involvement and environmental analysis, the NEPA process helps the Navy arrive at the best possible informed decision.

Informed decisions are based on a candid and factual presentation of environmental impacts. These facts will come from collecting information on the areas and resources affected by the proposed action, and then identifying the type and extent of potential impacts that may result from the proposed action. For this project, the Navy will analyze potential impacts to:

- Historical and cultural resources
- Compatible land use
- Coastal resources
- Air quality
- Water resources (floodplains, stormwater, wetlands)
- Construction noise
- Transportation & traffic
- Infrastructure & utilities
- Socioeconomics
- Fish, wildlife, & plants
- Topography, geology, & soils
- Hazardous materials & solid waste

Public Involvement in the NEPA Process

The Navy invites public participation during the scoping process to help understand community-specific issues and concerns on the proposed action and alternatives. Scoping comments help the Navy determine the issues and concerns to analyze in the preparation of the EA. No decisions about the proposed project have been made and the impact analysis has not yet started.

The public will have a second opportunity to participate in the NEPA process by commenting on the Draft EA. The release of the Draft EA will be announced in The Capital. All comments on the Draft EA will be addressed in the Final EA.
Section 106 Process

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires federal agencies to consider the effects of their undertakings on historic properties. A historic property is any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The identification of historic properties, analysis of potential effects, and consultation is often a critical path element in managing an environmental review project.

The Navy will be coordinating compliance with Section 106 with NEPA review. Section 106, like NEPA, requires the federal agency to seek the views of the public. Additionally, Section 106 requires the federal agency to consult with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and other consulting parties. For this project, the Navy will consult with the following parties concerning project effects to historic properties: Maryland Historical Trust (the SHPO); Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; National Park Service; City of Annapolis Historic Preservation Division; other consulting parties (if identified).

The subject of consultation is expected to focus on the design of the CCSS building and parking garage and their potential effects to the historic character and views of the USNA National Historic Landmark (NHL) district and Colonial Annapolis NHL Historic District. Section 106 includes special requirements to minimize harm to an NHL that may be adversely affected by an undertaking.

The design of the CCSS building and parking garage are in the preliminary design stage. Early conceptual drawings depict a contemporary-style building, with primary facades constructed of concrete, glass, and metal to reinforce the function of the building as a state-of-the-art center of a modern, high-tech curriculum. Nonetheless, the size, scale, massing, and color of the CCSS building is related to those of adjacent historic buildings. Early design studies of the parking garage have focused on limiting the height of the facility.
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process

- NEPA is the national law that requires all federal agencies to evaluate potential environmental impacts of any major actions they may propose and to inform and involve the public in the decision-making process.

- Findings will be published in a study called an Environmental Assessment (EA), which will include:
  - Purpose and Need
  - Proposed Action and Alternatives
  - Existing Conditions
  - Evaluation of Impacts

- A Draft EA will be made available for public review and comment before any decision is made or actions taken.

- Your input during the Public Scoping period (February 5 – March 7, 2014) will assist in identifying key environmental concerns that need to be evaluated.

What is Important to You?

- Community
  - Economic effects
  - Transportation/traffic

- Cultural Resources
  - Historic districts
  - Archaeological resources

- Water and Coastal Resources
  - Floodplains
  - Stormwater management
  - Waterways

- Construction noise
What is Section 106?

- Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires federal agencies to consider the effects of their undertakings on historic properties.

- A historic property is any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places.

- The federal agency must consult with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and other interested parties.

What is the Section 106 Process?

- The Section 106 process consists of four steps:
  1. INITIATE the process
  2. IDENTIFY historic properties
  3. ASSESS adverse effects
  4. RESOLVE adverse effects

- In Step 1, the federal agency determines the undertaking, notifies the SHPO and identifies other Consulting Parties, and coordinates the Section 106 process with other reviews (NEPA).

- In each of Steps 2 through 4, the federal agency consults with the SHPO and other Consulting Parties and involves the Public.

Historic Properties

- The proposed project is within the USNA National Historic Landmark (NHL) district, and is adjacent to the Colonial Annapolis NHL Historic District.

- In compliance with Section 106, the federal agency must minimize harm to an NHL that may be adversely affected by an undertaking.

Section 106 Consultation for the CCSS

- The Navy will coordinate the Section 106 process in tandem with the NEPA process.

- The Navy will consult with the Maryland Historical Trust (the SHPO), Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, National Park Service, City of Annapolis Historic Preservation Division, and other consulting parties (if identified).

Conceptual Design Rendering of the Proposed CCSS Building

This rendering is preliminary and intended to illustrate concepts to facilitate stakeholder discussions.
During the scoping period, the public can provide comments in several ways:

- Provide written comments at tonight’s scoping meeting
- Speak with the stenographer, who will record your comments
- Mail, phone, or e-mail your comments to: USNA Public Affairs Office
  121 Blake Road
  Annapolis, MD 21402
  (410) 293-1520
  pao@usna.edu

Please provide comments no later than March 7, 2014 (postmarked by March 7, 2014, if mailed)