

**MINUTES**  
**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY (ACANC)**  
**HONOR SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

**September 25, 2019**

**1. DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICER'S REMARKS:** Ms. Renea Yates, Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery (ACANC), initiated the meeting, noting that present in person were Major Shannon Way, ANC Strategic Planner, and Lieutenant Colonel Adrian Massey, ANC G5. Ms. Yates mentioned that these are MAJ Way's last Advisory Committee meetings, as he prepares to retire after more than 30 years of service to our nation in all three COMPOs of the Army.

Ms. Yates stated for the record that the Subcommittee meeting is pursuant to the National Defense Authorization Act of 2012, codified in 10 U.S.C. § 4723. The Subcommittee operates under authority and provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972, 5 U.S.C. Appendix 2, and 41 Code of Federal Regulation 102-3.50(d). Arlington National Cemetery is the agency that receives the benefit of the Committee's advice and recommendations. The DFO, nominated by the ANC Executive Director and appointed by the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Army, is provided by ANC. Additionally, ANC provides administrative support to the Subcommittee.

Ms. Yates reminded Subcommittee members not to conduct any formal business by deliberating on any substantive matters which are before the Committee as a whole for vote. Additionally, the Subcommittee will report to the Committee any recommendations or information relevant as a result of the day's work. She also noted that the meeting was open to the public, and that attending members of the public were not allowed to present questions from the floor or speak to any issue under discussion by the Subcommittee without permission of the Chair. She noted that any member of the public was eligible to file a written statement or request to make a verbal presentation in accordance with the published Federal Register notice, provided in the binder on the lectern near the door of the meeting room. Ms. Yates also noted that the proceedings were being recorded in written form, and that summarized minutes of the meeting will be prepared and made available to the public on the ANC website.

The meeting was called to order at 0830.

**2. ROLL CALL:** Ms. Yates noted a quorum for the record, with the following members in attendance:

Secretary of the Army nominees: Mr. Gene Castagnetti (Chair), Mr. Mark Farley, Mr. Thomas Kelley, Mr. James Peake.

Secretary of the American Battle Monuments Commission nominee: Mr. Chet Edwards.

The following members were not present:

Secretary of the Army nominees: Ms. Rose Duval, Ms. Ann Rondeau, Mr. Robert Hess.

**3. PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:** The DFO announced that the minutes from the March 13, 2019 meetings were available for review in the strategic documents binders on the meeting tables.

**MINUTES**  
**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY (ACANC)**  
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**September 25, 2019**

**4. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS:** Mr. Castagnetti opened by welcoming all members and requesting the day's first presentation.

**5. DAR AND SOUTHERN EXPANSION PROGRAM, 35% DESIGN UPDATE:** Mr. Rob Marshall (Project Manager, ANC Engineering) and Gregg Schwieterman (Senior Project Manager, HNTB) briefed the Subcommittee on the Southern Expansion program, now at 35% design phase, and the Defense Access Road (DAR) project. The presentation offered an overview of 35% design, with updates on key actions and a timeline for future work. Mr. Marshall emphasized that the south parcel of land will be integrated visually with the older parts of the cemetery, in order to preserve ANC's iconic look and feel. Toward this end, the designer has been working closely with ANC Horticulture on the landscaping.

The presentation highlighted ten areas of change or program confirmation:

1. Defense Access Road (DAR) project, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA): Now at 40% design. Major roadway realignments include removing Southgate Road and pushing Columbia Pike further south.
2. Integration of the Air Force Memorial: ANC and the Air Force District of Washington (AFDW) have been holding high-level discussions on how to integrate the Air Force Memorial into the cemetery. As the Memorial will become another "crown jewel" of the cemetery, ANC and the AFDW are considering various proposals to maximize its accessibility and impact. The dramatic slope immediately adjacent to the Memorial will be retained, with this area reserved for memorials rather than interments. There will be a tram and bus stop between the Air Force Memorial and the columbarium, and pedestrians walking east from the columbarium will have a spectacular view of the Memorial.
3. Columbia Pike access point and limited access drive: Visitors will be able to enter the cemetery through a secure pedestrian access point on Columbia Pike. Deliberately designed at pedestrian scale, this access point is not intended to replace the main Memorial Drive entrance.
4. One committal shelter: Designs for the committal shelter have a lighter, thinner, more modern look, consistent with the aesthetic of the columbarium rooms.
5. Columbarium: The columbarium has been designed as a series of rooms (similar to Millennium), which feel like intimate, private spaces. However, the columbarium space also feels connected to the existing cemetery, with layered landscaping and Section 8 headstones visible in the distance.
6. Freedman's Gate: This gate, adjacent to the former Freedman's Village, will offer limited access (Emergency Vehicles and DoD Common Access Card required) to the cemetery.

**MINUTES**  
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**HONOR SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

**September 25, 2019**

7. Patton Drive will be removed and replaced by Patton Walk. This will also address drainage issues.

8. Sheridan Gate: The design integrates the historic Sheridan Gate, with a terminus at South Joyce Street to “announce” the cemetery.

9. Roadway network and transfer points: Designers are working on issues such as distances into interment spaces and planning for ceremonies (where caissons will go, etc).

10. Ops Complex/parking/access control: The access point will be pushed to South Joyce Street, to facilitate ride in/ride out access. All visitors will be screened by security. A new parking garage—a terraced structure with spaces for 267 vehicles—will be open to both ANC employees and visitors. Adjacent to the garage, a refined pedestrian plaza will welcome visitors, such that the ANC experience begins upon exiting the garage. Trees will create a “green screen” buffer between the cemetery and roadways. A signalized crosswalk has been proposed to facilitate safe pedestrian crossing of Columbia Pike. Finally, at the southern edge of the cemetery, a new Operations Complex will feature an office building, maintenance shops, a car wash and a drive-through warehouse building (which will increase storage efficiency and enable shipping traffic to be diverted away from the cemetery).

Timeline:

- Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19): DAR design begins (to be completed in FY23); Southern Expansion, 35% design
- FY20: ANC NEPA/environmental complete (Nov 2019)
- FY21: DAR construction begins (complete FY23)
- FY22: Southern Expansion construction begins (complete 2026)

Total required funding:

- DAR, \$60 million (all appropriated, MILCON)
- Southern Expansion, \$350 million (\$219 million received to date; \$131 million required in FY21)

The project is on budget. Meetings with other involved agencies—including AFDW, the Fine Arts Commission, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and Arlington County—have been productive.

The presentation concluded by identifying potential concerns: bicycling passages, emerging modes of transportation (electric scooters, etc.) and Amazon HQ2 traffic and land use impacts.

Discussion: Members of the Subcommittee asked how much the Arlington community knows about Southern Expansion—particularly the roadway realignments—and how the public perceives ANC’s plans to expand. The public is well aware of the project, Mr. Edwards emphasized. There have been two public open houses at the Sheraton; ANC has been working closely with Arlington County and VDOT; and the NEPA document has been published and is out for public comment. So far, cyclists have been the most vocal public group. ANC has proposed an extremely robust multimodal

**MINUTES**  
**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY (ACANC)**  
**HONOR SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

**September 25, 2019**

transportation corridor, including bike paths and sidewalks for pedestrians. There is a proposal to extend the bike path to Memorial Avenue (with county funding), which would serve as a “vital tie” for bike and foot traffic between ANC, the Pentagon and the National Mall.

Discussion also centered on the issue of traffic along Columbia Pike, which can be busy during the day. ANC is on its third analytic study of traffic in the area, Mr. Edwards noted, which includes the potential impacts of Amazon and the Pentagon Memorial Visitor Education Center. Studies have indicated that the proposed crosswalk across Columbia Pike (from the parking garage into the cemetery) will be safe for pedestrians; this is a 25-mph zone and ANC is strongly recommending a signalized crosswalk.

In regard to the integration of the Air Force Memorial, a member of the Subcommittee asked if the Army, Navy or Coast Guard have also expressed interest in having dedicated memorials at ANC. It was noted that ANC does have memorials honoring all service branches, including the Coast Guard Memorial, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the Mast of the Maine. There are no current plans to consider integrating the Iwo Jima Memorial into the cemetery.

Finally, members asked for clarification on how Southern Expansion will impact the life of the cemetery. It is estimated that the project will extend the useful life of the cemetery until 2055-2057. ANC was able to gain twelve acres by relocating the Operations Complex south of Columbia Pike, as well as the Pentagon Memorial site being moved south.

**6. JBM-HH Security Fence and ANC Gate Upgrades:**

Mr. Francis Warren (Security Specialist, ANC G3) gave a presentation on the installation of a security fence around Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall (JBM-HH) and upgrades to ANC gates.

A. JBM-HH/ANC Security Fence: A non-vehicular rated anti-climb fence and K8-rated vehicular barriers will be installed where necessary around the perimeter of JBM-HH. This will:

- Secure the perimeter of JBM-HH to protect its occupants and assets;
- Mitigate the possible deleterious effects of the fence on views from the base and the cemetery;
- Preserve the cultural and natural resources of the base;
- Preserve and enhance the functionality of the base in support of Arlington National Cemetery Services;
- Maintain both ANC and base infrastructure and relocate assets as necessary.

On the JBM-HH side of the fence, there will be landscaping, jogging paths and benches.

B. ANC Security Gates: ANC is standardizing security and screening processes at all gates, such that visitors will have the same experience regardless of where they enter the cemetery. Plans for gate upgrades are as follows:

- Ord & Weitzel (pedestrian/vehicle): rebuild, FY20

**MINUTES**  
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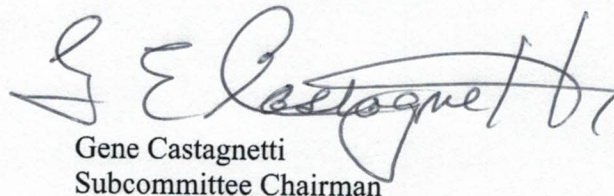
- 123 Gate (pedestrian/vehicle): installation of sliding gate, FY20
- Old Post Chapel (pedestrian/vehicle): rebuild, FY21
- 110 Gate (vehicle only): no change
- Millennium Gate (vehicle only): no change

Discussion: The Subcommittee's discussion centered on the look and feel of the gates and guard booths, as the guard booth depicted in the presentation did not resemble the historic cemetery. Mr. Warren noted that this particular guard booth was for the service entrance; the ones at Old Post Chapel and Ord & Weitzel Gates, where most visitors enter, are more aesthetically pleasing. He emphasized that ANC security posts will be standardized in their functions, not their design. For Old Post Chapel and Ord & Weitzel Gates, ANC will go through the Section 106 historic preservation process and will involve Cultural Resources staff.

One member asked if there is any threat to JBM-HH from Arlington. Mr. Warren stated that there are currently no credible threats, but some people have been crossing onto the base. He emphasized that the fence will not interfere with visitors' experience of the cemetery.

7. **MEETING ADJOURNED.** In concluding the meeting, the Chair acknowledged the Subcommittee's appreciation for MAJ Way's service. The Chair then called for any other business. Hearing none, he called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made and seconded. All members voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 1000.

  
Gene Castagnetti  
Subcommittee Chairman