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Draft
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)
for an
Environmental Assessment
Addressing the Cyber Center for Education and Innovation –
Home of the National Cryptologic Museum (NCM)
at Fort Meade, Maryland

Introduction

9 The National Security Agency (NSA) campus is located in the northwest corner of the Fort
10 George G. Meade installation which encompasses 5,131 acres in Anne Arundel County,
11 Maryland, 17 miles southwest of Baltimore, Maryland. Established in the 1950s, the NSA
12 Campus has existed on Fort Meade for more than 60 years. Since 1991 a prominent feature of this
13 campus has been the National Cryptologic Museum (NCM) which serves as NSA’s principal gateway
14 to the visiting public. The NCM is very popular, attracting more than 60,000 visitors a year.
15 Unfortunately, the existing NCM is housed in an aging building constructed in the mid-1950s which
16 has no capacity to expand or support the variety of education and conference uses that are
17 increasingly in demand by potential users in the region. To address these deficiencies and emerging requirements
18 the National Cryptologic Museum Foundation proposes to construct the Cyber Center For Education
19 and Innovation (CCEI) – Home of the National Cryptologic Museum.

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21 **1. Purpose of and Need for the Proposed Action**

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23 The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide a new facility that can accommodate the growing
24 spatial and programming needs of the NCM. The Proposed Action is needed because the existing
25 NCM building is aging and can no longer support the needs of the NCM to showcase our nation’s
26 cryptologic history and further transparency and increase public dialog about the NSA mission. The existing
27 structure was originally a motel building, and despite renovations in the 1990s to
28 accommodate the museum, the structure does not meet the standards typical of a National museum.
29 The existing museum needs constant maintenance and upkeep to run as desired. It has inadequate
30 amenities needed for its staff, to host visitors, and to maintain existing exhibits. There is also
31 inadequate security, fire, and theft protection for the artifacts. The current size of the facility (approximately
32 19,200 SF) does not allow display of all of the exhibits the NCM owns. Therefore, many valuable
33 books and historical artifacts are stored in warehouses. There is limited library and classroom space and no
34 capacity for conferences or large meetings. Thus, the NCM cannot respond to our region’s
35 continuing and increasing need for facilities to enable STEM-related educational activities and to promote and
36 convene conferences and other fora for the examination of the broad issues related to our nation’s
37 increasing cyber dependence. Because of the age and condition of the existing facility, it cannot be

38 easily updated and expanded to address these issues.
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1 **2. Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives**

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3 To address the above need the National Cryptologic Museum Foundation (NCMF) proposes to
4 build
5 the Cyber Center For Education and Innovation (CCEI) – Home of the National Cryptologic
6 Museum
7 (NCM). The CCEI-NCM will be an integrated educational facility consisting of a conference
8 center,
9 reconfigurable classrooms, a world-class history and heritage museum, a state of the art special-
10 purpose
11 national research library and a commemorative vigilance park.. As currently designed, the
12 74,500 sf facility consists a conference and education center, a museum facility,
13 library, office and support spaces, as well as a new site and landscape design. The design will
14 follow the USGBC LEED rating system which promotes environmental best practices in site,
15 water
16 and energy use and indoor environmental quality and will seek certification of the LEED Silver
17 level.

18 The EA considers two action alternatives: the Preferred Alternative and the No Action
19 Alternative.

20 The Preferred Alternative is the same as the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action intends for
21 the
22 new CCEI to be built in the same project area as the existing museum. Access from MD Rte. 32
23 to
24 Canine Road and then to Colony Seven Road will remain as the main access and entrance to the
25 facility.

26 Existing parking lots and minimal existing forest will be redeveloped to accommodate the new
27 CCEI.

28 Building in the same area as the existing museum benefits the NCMF by saving land and
29 infrastructure costs and allows coordinating the new CCEI facilities with the needs of the NSA.

30 Given
31 these facts, the proposed improvements would effectively represent a single development
32 alternative.

33 Although there may be differences in facility design and orientation as the design is fully
34 developed (e.g.,
35 road layout, building orientation, parking lot areas, sidewalk locations) these differences are
36 expected to

37 be equally weighted in terms of environmental consequences of site layout. Resource
38 implications

39 (e.g., increase or decrease in stormwater management needs or the number of trees to be cleared)

24 among various design options would be negligible. The boundaries of the Project Area have
25 been
26 configured in such a way that minimizes environmental impacts to the extent practicable.
27 The isolated forested wetland within the northeast portion of the Project Area will be impacted
28 to
29 provide the needs of the facility but no other wetland impacts are anticipated. Minimal forest
30 will be
31 cleared and existing limits of disturbance along the north, west, and south sides of the Project
32 Area
33 will be maintained and/or reduced.
34
35 CEQ guidance advocates consideration of the No Action Alternative in the alternatives analysis.
36 The No Action Alternative is analyzed to provide a baseline of the existing conditions against
37 which
38 potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts of the Proposed Action and alternative
39 actions can
40 be prepared. Under the No Action Alternative, the Proposed Action would not be implemented.
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3. Summary of Anticipated Environmental Impacts Associated with the Proposed Action
43 Based on the analyses in the EA, which is herein incorporated by reference, it is determined
44 that no significant adverse effects would be expected on any resource area as a result of the
45 Proposed Action. No adverse impacts would be expected on cultural resources, socioeconomics,
46 air quality or environmental justice resources from implementation of the Proposed Action.
47 Short-term,
48 negligible to minor, adverse effects on land use, visual resources, transportation, noise,
49 geological

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1 resources, water resources, most biological resources, infrastructure, hazardous materials
2 and waste water would be expected as a result of construction activities. However, these impacts
3 would be short-term and would primarily be localized to the immediate area of construction and
4 would subside following the end of construction activities in that area. All necessary permits and
5 waivers will be acquired prior to commencement of construction activities. Long-term
6 negligible to minor adverse impacts on surface water and wetlands would occur from
7 alteration of existing conditions. Appropriate agency coordination and permitting will be
8 completed prior to construction. Short-term, negligible, beneficial impacts on socioeconomics
9 would be expected as the local economy would benefit during the period of construction. Long-
10 term negligible to moderate beneficial impacts on transportation and infrastructure would be
11 expected from roadway improvements, improved energy and water efficiency, and construction
12 of stormwater management systems where none existed prior for improved management of
13 stormwater runoff. The Proposed Action would be completed in accordance with the provisions
14 of the National Environmental Policy Act and other applicable Federal, state and local
15 environmental regulations.

16 **4. Public Review and Interagency Coordination**

17 The NCMF distributed the EA to potentially interested Federal, state, and local agencies and
other
18 stakeholder groups or individuals. The public review period for the Final EA and Draft
Finding
19 of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is August 3, 2016 through September 6, 2016. All response
20 letters will be incorporated as appropriate into the FONSI.

21 **5. Commitment to Implementation**

22 The NCMF affirms their commitment to implement this Proposed Action in accordance with
23 NEPA. Implementation is dependent on funding. The NCMF is engaged in a robust
fundraising
24 campaign that will provide the resources to construct the CCEI-NCM as well as to achieve the
25 goals and objectives set forth in the EA.

26 **6. Finding of No Significant Impact**

27 After a review of the EA prepared in accordance with the requirements of NEPA, CEQ
28 regulations and receipt of public comments regarding the Final EA and Draft FONSI, the
NCMF
29 has determined that the Proposed Action would not have a significant impact on the quality of
the
30 human or natural environment and, therefore, an EIS does not need to be prepared. This
31 decision has been made after taking into account all submitted information and considering a
32 full range of practical alternatives that would meet project requirements and that are within the
33 capabilities of the NCMF.

1 Larry Castro
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Cyber Center for Education and Innovation –
Home of the National Cryptologic Museum
National Cryptologic Museum Foundation

Date

