

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

COMPLETE STATEMENT

OF

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PRINCIPAL DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (CIVIL WORKS)

BEFORE

**THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS AND
RELATED AGENCIES**

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ON

THE CEMETERIAL EXPENSES PROGRAM

April 23, 2009

Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of the Subcommittee:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. Since the Administration has not cleared me to discuss the detailed President's budget for Fiscal Year 2010, my testimony is limited to providing an update on gravesite and columbarium capacity, and the status of various ongoing projects and activities.

INTRODUCTION

With me today are Mr. John C. Metzler, Jr., Superintendent of Arlington National Cemetery, Ms. Claudia L. Tornblom, Deputy Assistant Secretary (Management and Budget), Mr. John J. Perez, of my staff and Ms. Tina M. Harris, Budget Officer at Arlington National Cemetery. We are testifying on behalf of the Secretary of the Army, who is responsible for the overall supervision of Arlington and Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemeteries.

Arlington National Cemetery is the Nation's premier military cemetery. It is an honor to represent this cemetery and the Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery. On behalf of these two cemeteries and the Department of the Army, I would like to express our appreciation for the support that Congress has provided over the years.

GRAVESITE DEVELOPMENT

The following table displays how long gravesites will remain available in both developed and undeveloped areas of the Cemetery. It is presented to illustrate the importance of proceeding with the Millennium Project in a timely manner. Completing the Millennium Project, in combination with the recently completed Project 90 Land Development, will help to avoid disruption in services for deceased veterans caused by crowding of funeral services and daily maintenance necessary to be performed at new gravesites.

Arlington National Cemetery						
Gravesite Capacity as of September 30, 2008						
Gravesite Capacity - Developed Areas	Total Gravesites Used	Gravesites Currently Available	Year Available Capacity Exhausted	Gravesite Capacity - Undeveloped Area	Total Gravesite Capacity	Year Total Capacity Exhausted
245,284	219,731	25,913	2020	36,000	281,284	2039

The gravesite capacity shown in the table for the undeveloped area includes Project 90 (26,000 gravesites) and utility relocations (10,000 gravesites), but does not include the Millennium Project (14,281 gravesites) or the Navy Annex (25,200 gravesites).

As of the end of FY 2008, capacity in the developed areas of Arlington National Cemetery would have been exhausted by 2020. With the addition of 26,000 additional gravesites that became available with the completion of Phase I of Project 90 and the future

relocation of utilities, gravesite capacity will be extended to 2039. Completion of the Millennium Project will extend the useful life of ANC to 2045. Transfer of the Navy Annex, scheduled in 2012, will yield approximately 25,200 graves after development is complete, thereby allowing ANC to remain open to in-ground burials until 2060.

Project 90 Land Development. This project consisted of the development of 40 acres of land within the current boundaries of ANC, including gravesite areas, roads, utilities and a boundary wall with niches for the placement of cremated remains. The project was completed with the dedication of the niche wall on December 9, 2008.

Relocation of the Federally Owned Water Main. In order to minimize the cost and disruption in the Cemetery, the relocation of the Federally owned water main is planned to be included in Arlington County’s construction contract to replace its aging sanitary sewer line with a new one called the Potomac Interceptor. Relocation of the Federally owned water main, along with other utilities, will allow for the development of approximately eight to ten acres of land that will yield approximately 10,000 additional gravesites. On October 10, 2007, a Memorandum of Agreement was executed between ANC and Arlington County whereby Federal funds may be transferred to the County to pay for relocating the Federally owned water line as part of the County’s overall Potomac Interceptor project. The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008, authorized the transfer of funds. Funds in the amount of \$2,046,000 were transferred to and accepted by Arlington County on September 8, 2008. The County is planning to advertise its construction contract for bids in July 2009, and award a contract in October 2009.

COLUMBARIUM DEVELOPMENT

The following table displays niche capacity and how long it is expected to last, based on current usage.

Arlington National Cemetery						
Niche Capacity as of September 30, 2008						
Niche Capacity - Developed	Total Niches Used	Niches Currently Available	Year Available Capacity Exhausted	Niche Capacity - Undeveloped	Total Niche Capacity	Year Total Capacity Exhausted
47,088	38,184	8,904	2011	26,573	73,661	2026

The niche capacity shown in the table for the undeveloped area includes 6,573 niches from the recently completed Project 90 niche wall and 20,000 niches from Phase V (Court 9) of the Columbarium. The Project 90 niche wall extended niche capacity to the year 2016. Construction of Phase V of the Columbarium would extend niche capacity to the year 2026. The table does not include the Millennium Project (22,460 niches) or the Navy Annex (30,241 niches). Completion of these two projects would extend niche capacity to the year 2053.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

The Operation and Maintenance (O&M) program includes activities necessary to conduct an average of 27 funeral services per day, accommodate approximately four million visitors each year, and maintain 652 acres of land and associated infrastructure at ANC, as well as Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery. More than half of the O&M program is conducted by contract, as follows:

- Tree and shrub maintenance.
- Grounds maintenance.
- Security guard services.
- Install, clean, raise, realign and replace headstones.
- Develop and maintain automated systems and equipment.
- Custodial services.
- Grave liner program.
- Information services.
- Recurring maintenance of equipment, buildings, and other facilities.

The remainder of the O&M program is performed by the Government workforce, which is primarily responsible for preparing gravesites, conducting funeral services, ensuring the visiting public's welfare and responding to their needs.

The appearance of ANC has improved significantly with the additional funds provided by the Subcommittee in FY 2008 (\$1,800,000) and FY 2009 (\$500,000) for the headstone raising and realignment program. The additional funds, in conjunction with the funds that were included in prior year President's budgets, have allowed ANC to embark on a program to raise and realign 100,900 of the 245,284 headstones on the grounds of ANC. A total of 58,500 headstones have been realigned as of April 1, 2009. The remaining 42,400 headstones are scheduled to be realigned by December 31, 2009. Future realignments will be scheduled commensurate with available funds.

ANC is continuing to develop a total cemetery management system, including burial records; gravesite locations; project and financial management; and supplies and equipment. The system will maximize the use of electronic means to deliver services and benefits to the public in a manner that promotes security and privacy. Development of the total cemetery management system is proceeding in accordance with the plan that was provided to the subcommittee on February 5, 2007.

ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM

The Administration program provides for essential management and administrative functions, including staff supervision of Arlington and Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemeteries. The program includes personnel compensation, benefits, and reimbursable administrative support services provided by other government agencies.

CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

This program includes construction and renovation of buildings, structures, roadways and walkways, and development of land parcels to make them suitable for gravesites. The most significant construction effort currently underway is the Millennium Project, which consists of the development of 36 acres of land into gravesite areas, roads, utilities, columbarium walls, and a boundary wall with niches for the placement of cremated remains. Approximately 14,281 additional gravesites and 22,460 niches would be provided when development is complete, although actual yields could change significantly, depending upon final design. The current design would extend burial capacity to the year 2045 and extend niche capacity to the year 2037. The project is being constructed in phases, depending upon availability of funds each year.

MASTER PLAN

The current master plan for ANC was published in 1998. Due to post 9/11/01 force protection issues regarding Fort Myer and ANC, and other considerations, development of a new master plan is being considered to evaluate a full array of options regarding management of ANC in the future, including, but not limited to, capital development, land management, burial eligibility and consideration of another burial site.

FUNERALS

In FY 2008, there were 4,123 interments and 2781 inurnments, of which 73 were related to the war on terror. In FY 2009, we estimate there will be 4,170 interments and 2,800 inurnments.

CEREMONIES AND VISITATION

Millions of visitors, both foreign and American, come to Arlington to view the Cemetery and participate in ceremonial events. During FY 2008, about 2,960 ceremonies were conducted, with the President of the United States attending the Memorial Day event and the Vice President attending on Veterans Day. The President has visited twice so far in FY 2009 to participate in wreath laying ceremonies at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

Arlington National Cemetery accommodates approximately four million visitors each year, making it one of the most visited historic sites in the National Capital Region.

PARKING RECEIPTS

A visitor parking facility was constructed at a cost of \$9.8 million and opened to the public in 1989. It is operated by lease with a private vendor. The lease proceeds that are in excess of operating costs are deposited into an account in the United States Treasury. A total of \$2,407,692 is available to pay for maintenance, repair and upgrades of the parking

facility. ANC is in the process of developing plans to use these funds for various projects, such as concrete repairs, expansion to accommodate additional vehicles and landscape improvements.

TOMB OF THE UNKNOWNNS MONUMENT

I would like to update you on the status of our efforts to address the cracks that have been developing at the Tomb of the Unknowns monument. Options are being considered in accordance with the consultation process under the National Historic Preservation Act. A report on alternative measures was transmitted to Congress on August 11, 2008. Repair of the cracks is being pursued, with a grouting contract anticipated later this year. The Army also is planning to evaluate a donated block of marble to determine its suitability as a potential replacement, should a decision be made to replace the current Tomb monument at some future date.

CONCLUSION

I would like to thank the Subcommittee for the support that it has provided to maintain Arlington National Cemetery and the Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery, provide services for the many visitors, make capital investments needed to accommodate burials, and preserve the dignity, serenity and traditions of the cemeteries.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony. We will be pleased to respond to questions from the Subcommittee.