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December 14, 2012

Ms. Anne Hodges Environmental Planner Joint Base Andrews Naval Air Facility 11 CES/CEAO 3466 North Carolina Avenue Joint Base Andrews, MD 20762

> RE: Proposed Action and Site Plan for **Proposed 21-Point Enclosed Firing** Range at Joint Base Andrews

Dear Ms. Hodges:

The Prince George's County Planning Department appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed action and site plan for the proposed 21-Point Enclosed Firing Range at Joint Base Andrews (JBA). The proposal is for the construction and operation of an indoor firing range, which includes:

- Construction of a new enclosed indoor firing range.
- Expansion of the existing indoor firing range building to add office space and other facilities.
- Expansion of the parking lot serving the existing and the proposed building.

According to the information submitted, it appears that the proposed development will be within or adjacent to a wetland area. Any impacts to the United States waters on land owned by the United States of America will be subject to review by the Maryland Department of Environment, and the Army Corps of Engineers. Woodlands will be cleared as a result of the proposed development; thus, the site may be subject to the state's Forest Conservation Act.

The proposed project does not include any impacts to any cultural or historic resources within Prince George's County. JBA includes the following two properties designated as Prince George's County historic sites: 77-001-Forest Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery (Chapel 2), and 77-014-Belle Chance and Cemetery. Neither of these properties will be affected by the proposed action and site plan.

The scope of the changes is very limited. Based on the project description, the expansions are in support of increased training requirements. Expanded indoor firing range capacity is unlikely to create a change in the number of personnel within Joint Base Andrews, and therefore it can be assumed that the traffic generation potential will remain unchanged, both within the Joint Base Andrews complex, as well as beyond its borders. Therefore, it is determined that the proposed changes will not have an adverse impact on the adjacent transportation network. However, some attention must be given to the impacts during the construction duration.

Thank you again for allowing us the opportunity to comment on this Environmental Assessment. If you should have any additional questions or need additional information, please contact Fatimah Hasan, Planner Coordinator, Special Projects Section, Countywide Planning Division, at 301-952-3580, or via email at Fatimah.Hasan@ppd.mncppc.org.

Sincerely,

Fern Piret

Planning Director

c: Derick Berlage, Chief, Countywide Planning Division

Maria Martin, Planning Supervisor, Special Projects Section, Countywide Planning Division

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