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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
ARMED FORCES SECURITY AGENCY
Washington 25, D. C.

AFSA SPECIAL BULLETIN 23 September 1952

NEW SITE FOR ARMED FORCES SECURITY AGENCY

GENERAL

The new site for the Armed Forces Security Agency is located at Fort Meade, Maryland, twenty-five (25) miles from the center of Washington, D. C., eighteen (18) miles from Baltimore, and twenty (20) miles from Annapolis. The AFSA site is located on the western edge of the Fort Meade reservation near the new Baltimore-Washington turnpike. The area allocated to AFSA contains approximately 950 acres in a wooded and somewhat marshy area. After our construction has progressed, the low area will be filled in and a maximum of foliage retained. The area is comparatively isolated from other built-up areas of Fort Meade, and will be arranged for the convenience of AFSA employees.

FORT MEADE

Fort Meade is the headquarters of the Second Army, commanded by Lt. General Edward H. Brooks. The actual administration of Fort Meade is delegated to the Post Commander. In addition to Headquarters, Second Army, there are several other small units stationed at Fort Meade, some engaged in direct support of Second Army, and others stationed there because of availability of troop housing. The old post of Fort Meade was designed for an abbreviated peace-time infantry or armored regiment. During World War II the post was expanded with temporary construction for use as a replacement depot for preparation of troops for shipment overseas.

ACCESS ROADS

It is anticipated that by the time a substantial portion of AFSA moves to Fort Meade the Baltimore-Washington turnpike will be open to traffic and other feeder roads will be extended and improved.

SCOPE, TIMING, AND STAGING OF MOVE

It is planned that all of the Agency will move to Fort Meade. Under present plans no Agency activity will remain at Nebraska Avenue or Arlington Hall Station. Plans now under consideration indicate that some echelon of the Agency may move to Fort Meade within 15 months. The present thinking is that all or part of the new barracks will be used to house some portion of our operation. It may be necessary to occupy a few available temporary facilities at Fort Meade in order to house troops or to make possible an integrated move of one activity. Estimates indicate that the main building will be ready for occupancy about 1 July 1955. Circumstances

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may permit the completion of the main building before this time.

AFSA CONSTRUCTION AT FORT MEADE

The main building which will house all of AFSA operating agencies is a U-shaped building, measuring about 1000 feet in length, with each wing about 600 feet in depth. It will be a three-story building, plus basement, completely modern. Construction will be of concrete and the building will include many desirable communication and traffic facilities and working conveniences. The entire building will be air-conditioned and all facilities in the area will be heated from a separate central heating plant. Post utilities will be extended and expanded to take care of additional load. There will be 3½ 500-man barracks, each 500-man barracks divided into two 250-man wings. The main building only will be fenced and the perimeter fencing will provide personnel traffic circulation through five gate houses. Parking will be provided for 5000 automobiles.

AVAILABILITY OF FAMILY HOUSING

Fort Meade contains a considerable number of family housing units of various types. This housing is inadequate to answer the needs of personnel now stationed at Fort Meade and has been augmented by one group of about 400 houses constructed by private enterprise under the provision of the Wherry Bill and a second group of 400 houses ready for construction. (The subject of Wherry housing is discussed later in this paper.) Neither officers nor enlisted men can expect assignment of any government housing at Fort Meade. The Wherry housing now available and under construction at Fort Meade has been justified by the Department of the Army as a permanent requirement for the Department of Army personnel stationed at Fort Meade. Therefore, it must be assumed that AFSA personnel cannot expect to obtain any of this housing, but that we will request initiation of an additional project. There is a limited amount of rentals available in Laurel and other neighboring communities. Some of these may become available upon completion of the second block of Wherry housing at Fort Meade but the amount of these rentals is definitely limited. Undoubtedly, private enterprise will continue to build housing of various types in the vicinity of Fort Meade, both for rent and for sale. AFSA personnel, both military and civilian, will be queried in the near future as to housing requirements.

FACILITIES AVAILABLE AT FORT MEADE

The service, supply, and recreational facilities available at Fort Meade, include a commissary, post exchange, bank, officer and enlisted men's clubs, theater, service stations, etc., which will be available to military personnel in accordance with the existing army and post regulations. The main building will include a well-equipped cafeteria and several snack bars. An auditorium to accommodate 500 people is also included in the building as now planned. Ample parking will be available and the gate houses will be designed to permit circulation without any appreciable delay. Every effort will be made to permit participation by AFSA personnel in many Fort Meade activities.

WHERRY HOUSING

There has been an apparent misunderstanding within the Agency as to the implications of administration of housing built under the provisions of the Wherry Bill. Some believe that the location of Wherry housing within a military reservation implies military control within the housing area. This is definitely not the case. Actually, from a standpoint of control, there is no difference between Wherry housing built on a military reservation or off a military reservation. In the case of Wherry housing built on the military reservation the land is leased to the private enterprise at a nominal yearly sum for an extended number of years. In both cases, the government furnishes utilities, if available, on a reimbursable basis. It is of obvious advantage to the builder to use government land rather than buy expensive land adjacent to a government reservation. Again, it should be emphasized that Wherry housing is built on land owned or leased by the builder, that the housing contained thereon is the property of private enterprise, and that no government agency exercises any control over the administration of this housing except to control rentals and advise in the allocation of this housing. From a rental viewpoint, Wherry housing has distinct advantages. First, it is first-class housing, built in accordance with specifications approved by the Federal Housing Administration and the Chief of Engineers; second, the costs of expensive land have been eliminated with a consequent decrease in rentals; third, occupants have local Army backing in the enforcement of rent controls and in the assurance of fair practices in the allocation of housing; fourth, Wherry housing projects are located on or adjacent to government reservations, providing easy access to places of duty. AFSA personnel who are not home owners or who do not plan to build or buy in the vicinity of the new site should give consideration to a requirement for the construction of this type of housing for their use.

BACHELOR OFFICERS POLICY REFERENCE TO BOQS

Bachelor officers will be faced with an entirely different situation as regards housing at Fort Meade. Fort Meade will have a limited number of permanent-type BOQs and many hundreds of mobilization-type BOQs. The Post Commander at Fort Meade will provide all billets for bachelor officer personnel and the Director, AFSA, will delegate to him the authority to make assignment in accordance with pertinent regulations. Regulations governing the assignment of BOQs and the payment of rental allowances to bachelor officers prohibits any bachelor officer to live off the Post and draw rental allowance when any adequate bachelor officers quarters are available on the Post. This, in effect, means that all bachelor officers assigned to AFSA will live on the Post at Fort Meade. This item is inserted in order that all concerned may realize that some change of living conditions will take place after our move to Fort Meade.

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TRANSPORTATION

Bus transportation will serve the area from all directions. Bus transportation will be provided to facilitate business with Fort Meade agencies. Fort Meade is easily accessible by rail from Washington and Baltimore.

FOR THE DIRECTOR:

GEO. E. CAMPBELL
Colonel, AGC
Adjutant General

DISTRIBUTION:
All Civilian Personnel