Appendix A – Regulatory Communications
January 8, 2020

Regulatory Division
West Branch
Tampa Permits Section
Gainesville Field Office
SAJ-2019-04585 (NPR-JED)

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Attn: Fernando Fernandez
425 I Street NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Fernandez:

Reference is made to the application received on December 12, 2019, for a Department of the Army permit to expand the Florida National Cemetery into 107 acre parcel located to the north of the existing cemetery footprint. Specifically, you are seeking authorization to utilize approximately 91.2 acres of uplands to expand the cemetery infrastructure, and avoid impacting 16.13 acres of wetlands of the parcel. Based on the materials you provided to the Corps, the initial project plans involve maintaining a 25-foot-wide upland buffer around the wetlands on the parcel as the expansion occurs.

The proposed project site is located at 6502 Southwest 102 Avenue, in Section 33, Township 21 South, Range 21 East and Section 4, Township 22 South, Range 21 East, Bushnell, Sumter County, Florida. The application has been assigned the file number SAJ-2019-04585.

The project as proposed will not require a Department of the Army permit in accordance with Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 as it is not located within the navigable waters of the United States. Furthermore, a permit will not be required in accordance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act as it will not involve the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States. Provided the work is done in accordance with the enclosed drawings, Department of the Army authorization will not be required.

In the event that future plans or circumstances require you to deviate from the attached drawings, then a permit may be required for any work which would involve the discharge of fill material to the wetlands identified on the parcel. If you have any questions please contact the project manager identified below, or the Tampa Permits Section via tampareg@usace.army.mil.
This NPR does not address nor include any consideration for geographic jurisdiction on aquatic resources and shall not be interpreted as such.

Additionally, your project site may contain species protected by the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1972, as amended. You should contact your local U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) office to determine if federally listed species or their habitat are present on your project site. If it is determined that federally listed species may be affected by the proposed project, authorization for "incidental take" may be required. FWS offices can be contacted by the following telephone numbers: Jacksonville at 904-232-2580, Panama City at 850-769-0552, St. Petersburg at 727-570-5398, or Vero Beach at 772-562-3909.

This letter does not obviate the requirement to obtain any other Federal, State, or local permits that may be necessary for your project. Should you have any questions, please contact James Davidson at the letterhead address or by telephone at 352-264-7672.

Thank you for your cooperation with our permit program. The Corps Jacksonville District Regulatory Division is committed to improving service to our customers. We strive to perform our duty in a friendly and timely manner while working to preserve our environment. We invite you to take a few minutes to visit http://per2.nwp.usace.army.mil/survey.html and complete our automated Customer Service Survey. Your input is appreciated – favorable or otherwise. Please be aware this web address is case sensitive and should be entered as it appears above.

Sincerely,

James Davidson
Project Manager

Enclosures:
Project Plan (1 page)

cc:
Kelly Samuels, AECOM
Andrew Glucksman, Mabbett & Associates, Inc.
<table>
<thead>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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SAJ 2019 0458 RAI Response: Vegetative Communities
Wetlands and Endangered Species Biological Assessment
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Florida National Cemetery Expansion: Bushnell
6502 SW 102nd Ave, Bushnell, FL 33513 (Sumter County)
January 7, 2020

Mr. James "Bo" Davidson  
Biologist, Tampa Permits Section  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Gainesville Field Office  
2833 NW 41st Street Unit 130  
Gainesville, FL 32606

Via email: James.E.Davidson2@usace.army.mil

Subject: SAJ-2019-04585 / Florida National Cemetery Expansion / Request for Additional Information

Dear Mr. Davidson,

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) received the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) December 30, 2019 request for additional information regarding potential USACE jurisdictional permitting for the proposed expansion within the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, Sumter County, Florida.

VA would like to emphasize that the conceptual design for the physical layout of the proposed expansion area will not be available for several years. However, from the results of the studies made so far, at this time, VA does not intend to develop Sand Pond or its surrounding wetlands. Additionally, VA would establish a 25-foot buffer landward to the seasonal high-water mark around the wetlands, where development would be prohibited. We hope this information will help USACE to better evaluate the permitting for this proposed action.

VA's responses to the request for additional information is provided below. The USACE comment is provided in italics, and VA’s response immediately follows.

**USACE comment 1.** If the proposed expansion would not require the discharge of fill material into the wetlands on the property, or if the expansion could be designed to avoid wetland fill, then I could provide a no permit required letter based on the plans. This would be the most straightforward way to demonstrate compliance with Section 404 of the Clean water Act, and no jurisdictional determination would be required.

**VA response to comment 1.** At this time, the proposed expansion would not include development within the wetland or Sand Pond. Additionally, a 25-buffer foot would be established beyond the seasonal high-water boundary. No development would occur within this buffer either.

**USACE comment 2.** If the proposed expansion would require an unavoidable wetland fill, then it would be ideal to limit this fill to no more than 0.10 acre to 0.5 acre. This would allow the Corps to provide a Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination in conjunction with a Nationwide Permit for the project. If the fill is minimized to 0.10 acre or less, then it is unlikely that your client would be required to provide any compensatory mitigation for the wetland impacts associated with the expansion.
VA response to comment 2. As noted above, the proposed expansion would not include development within the wetland or Sand Pond. However, it may be necessary to include convey stormwater from future development within the expansion area into Sand Pond. Such conveyance would typically involve a system that collects stormwater via gravity, then discharges the stormwater from an outfall located topographically and hydrologically upgradient from Sand Pond. The stormwater system may use any combination of level spreaders, riprap, or earthen berms to ensure that stormwater is discharged through a controlled process.

USACE comment 3. In the event that the proposed expansion would require the discharge of fill material into more than 0.50 acre of wetlands on the project site, then the Corps would have to review the project as Standard Permit. Under these circumstances it would likely be a good idea to ensure that the wetlands are definitional via an Approved Jurisdictional Determination before undertaking a potentially intensive review of the application which could result in the requirement of compensatory mitigation for the impacts which could be quite costly and/or time consuming.

VA response to comment 3. Please see responses to comments 1 and 2. At this time, conceptual design plans are not available. However, VA does not anticipate filling Sand Pond or developing the surrounding wetlands.

VA appreciates your continued attention to this project. If you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me at Fernando.Fernandez@va.gov or 202.632.5529.

Sincerely,

FERNANDO L. FERNANDEZ
336237
Fernando Fernández, REM
Environmental Engineer
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Construction and Facilities Management Office

CC: Andrew Glucksman, Mabbett & Associates, Inc.
Kelley Samuels, PWS, AECOM
Ms. Samuels,

Thank you for taking my call this morning regarding the subject project.

It would very helpful to me if you could send me a set of plans for the proposed cemetery expansion so that we can determine the best way to handle your request.

For example:

1. If the proposed expansion would not require the discharge of fill material into the wetlands on the property, or if the expansion could be designed to avoid wetland fill, then I could provide a no permit required letter based on the plans. This would be the most straightforward way to demonstrate compliance with Section 404 of the Clean water Act, and no jurisdictional determination would be required.

2. If the proposed expansion would require an unavoidable wetland fill, then it would be ideal to limit this fill to no more than 0.10 acre to 0.5 acre. This would allow the Corps to provide a Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination in conjunction with a Nationwide Permit for the project. If the fill is minimized to 0.10 acre or less, then it is unlikely that...
your client would be required to provide any compensatory mitigation for the wetland impacts associated with the
expansion.

3. In the event that the proposed expansion would require the discharge of fill material into more than 0.50 acre of
wetlands on the project site, then the Corps would have to review the project as Standard Permit. Under these
circumstances it would likely be a good idea to ensure that the wetlands are definitively via an Approved Jurisdictional
Determination before undertaking a potentially intensive review of the application which could result in the
requirement of compensatory mitigation for the impacts which could be quite costly and/or time consuming.

In light of these facts, it would be very helpful to know the extent of the proposed wetland impacts, if any, to be sure
that I review your client’s request in the most efficient manner as possible.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Very respectfully,

James "Bo" Davidson
Biologist, Tampa Permits Section
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Gainesville Field Office
2833 NW 41st Street Unit 130
Gainesville, FL 32606
352-264-7672

Please assist us in better serving you! Please complete the customer survey by clicking on the following link: http://corpsmapu.usace.army.mil/cm_apex/f?p=regulatory_survey

HELP US GO GREEN & SAVE TIME/MONEY! Instead of mailing hardcopies, please send new permit applications to tampareg@usace.army.mil and any compliance-related documents to SAJ-RD-Enforcement@usace.army.mil. File over 10MB - simply use https://safe.amrdec.army.mil/safe.

*NOTICE: As of October 01, 2017, the Corps will no longer accept joint applications from the Florida Department of
Environmental Protection and Water Management Districts. All applications must be made via the ENG 4345 form and
submitted to tampareg@usace.army.mil. Download the ENG 4345 application form here:
114727-167

Download the application checklist here:

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
December 2, 2019

Jurisdictional Determination Requests
Regulatory Section
US Corps of Engineers
Tampa Permits Section
10117 Princess Palm Ave Ste 120
Tampa, FL 33610-8302

RE: Jurisdictional Determination (JD) Request
Florida National Cemetery, 100-Acre Supplement
Bushnell, Sumter County, Florida

Attention Regulatory Section:

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is proposing to construct and operate an expansion of the Florida National Cemetery (FNC) at 6502 Southwest 102nd Avenue, Bushnell, Sumter County, Florida. The Project Study Area is located within Section 33 of Township 21 South, Range 21 East and Section 4 of Township 22 South, Range 21 East. The Project Study Area comprises approximately 100 acres and is entirely within the existing FNC property boundary. In September 2019, VA completed a wetland delineation at the Project Study Area, and the results are presented in the attached Wetland Delineation Report. VA respectfully requests a preliminary Jurisdiction Determination (JD) from your agency based on the findings in the attached preliminary JD form.

We greatly appreciate your prompt evaluation of this JD request and look forward to working with you. Additionally, we request that if a site review is to be conducted, that VA is notified so that we could make plans to participate, be onsite, and support USACE. If any additional information is needed please contact me; in writing at: Mr. Fernando L. Fernández, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Construction & Facilities Management Office, 425 I (eye) Street, NW, Room 6W417b, Washington, D.C., 20001; by email to fernando.fernandez@va.gov; or by telephone at (202) 632-5529.

We appreciate your assistance with the planning of this project.

Sincerely,

FERNANDO L.
FERNANDEZ 336237

Fernando L. Fernández REM
Environmental Engineer
VA Construction and Facilities Management Office

Attachment: Preliminary JD Form

cc: Kelley Samuels, AECOM
Andrew Glucksman, Mabbett & Associates, Inc.
PRELIMINARY JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION (PJD) FORM
(RGL 16-01 Appendix 2)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A. REPORT COMPLETION DATE FOR PJD: November 2019

B. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON REQUESTING PJD:
Kelley Samuels, AECOM
150 N Orange Ave, Ste 200
Orlando, FL 32801

C. DISTRICT OFFICE, FILE NAME, AND NUMBER: Tampa

D. PROJECT LOCATION(S) AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION:
The proposed project includes an expansion of the current burial capacity of the Florida National Cemetery to extend the longevity of the cemetery for veterans and their eligible family members in central Florida.

(USE THE TABLE BELOW TO DOCUMENT MULTIPLE AQUATIC RESOURCES AND/OR AQUATIC RESOURCES AT DIFFERENT SITES)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site number</th>
<th>Latitude (decimal degrees)</th>
<th>Longitude (decimal degrees)</th>
<th>Estimated amount of aquatic resource in review area (acreage and linear feet, if applicable)</th>
<th>Type of aquatic resource (i.e. wetland vs. non-wetland waters)</th>
<th>Geographic authority to which the aquatic resource “may be” subject (i.e. Section 404 or Section 10/404)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freshwater Marsh</td>
<td>28.611943</td>
<td>-82.213224</td>
<td>16.3 acres</td>
<td>Wetland</td>
<td>Section 404</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1) The Corps of Engineers believes that there may be jurisdictional aquatic resources in the review area, and the requestor of this PJD is hereby advised of his or her option to request and obtain an approved JD (AJD) for that review area based on an informed decision after having discussed the various types of JDs and their characteristics and circumstances when they may be appropriate.

2) In any circumstance where a permit applicant obtains an individual permit, or a Nationwide General Permit (NWP) or other general permit verification requiring “pre-construction notification” (PCN), or requests verification for a non-reporting NWP or other general permit, and the permit applicant has not requested an AJD for the activity, the permit applicant is hereby made aware that: (1) the permit applicant has elected to seek a permit authorization based on a PJD, which does not make an official determination of jurisdictional aquatic resources; (2) that the applicant has the option to request an AJD before accepting the terms and conditions of the permit authorization, and that basing a permit authorization on an AJD could possibly result in less compensatory mitigation being required or different special conditions; (3) the applicant has the right to request an individual permit rather than accepting the terms and conditions of the NWP or other general permit authorization; (4) the applicant can accept a permit authorization and thereby agree to comply with all the terms and conditions of that permit, including whatever mitigation requirements the Corps has determined to be necessary; (5) undertaking any activity in reliance upon the subject permit authorization without requesting an AJD constitutes the applicant’s acceptance of the use of the PJD; (6) accepting a permit authorization (e.g., signing a proffered individual permit) or undertaking any activity in reliance on any form of Corps permit authorization based on a PJD constitutes agreement that all aquatic resources in the review area affected in any way by that activity will be treated as jurisdictional, and waives any challenge to such jurisdiction in any administrative or judicial compliance or enforcement action, or in any administrative appeal or in any Federal court; and (7) whether the applicant elects to use either an AJD or a PJD, the JD will be processed as soon as is practicable. Further, an AJD, a proffered individual permit (and all terms and conditions contained therein), or individual permit denial can be administratively appealed pursuant to 33 C.F.R. Part 331. If, during an administrative appeal, it becomes appropriate to make an official determination whether geographic jurisdiction exists over aquatic resources in the review area, or to provide an official delineation of jurisdictional aquatic resources in the review area, the Corps will provide an AJD to accomplish that result, as soon as is practicable. This PJD finds that there “may be” waters of the U.S. and/or that there “may be” navigable waters of the U.S. on the subject review area, and identifies all aquatic features in the review area that could be affected by the proposed activity, based on the following information:
SUPPORTING DATA. Data reviewed for PJD (check all that apply)

Checked items should be included in subject file. Appropriately reference sources below where indicated for all checked items:

- Maps, plans, plots or plat submitted by or on behalf of the PJD requestor:
  Map: AECOM 2019
- Data sheets prepared/submitted by or on behalf of the PJD requestor.
  □ Office concur with data sheets/delineation report.
  □ Office does not concur with data sheets/delineation report.
- Data sheets prepared by the Corps: 
- Corps navigable waters’ study:
- U.S. Geological Survey Hydrologic Atlas: 
  □ USGS NHD data.
  □ USGS 8 and 12 digit HUC maps.
- U.S. Geological Survey map(s). Cite scale & quad name: 
- Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Survey. Citation: NRCS 2018.
  □ State/Local wetland inventory map(s): AECOM 2019.
- FEMA/FIRM maps: 
- 100-year Floodplain Elevation is: (National Geodectic Vertical Datum of 1929)
- Photographs: □ Aerial (Name & Date): 
  or □ Other (Name & Date): 
- Previous determination(s). File no. and date of response letter: 
- Other information (please specify): 

IMPORTANT NOTE: The information recorded on this form has not necessarily been verified by the Corps and should not be relied upon for later jurisdictional determinations.

__________________________________________  __________________________________________
Signature and date of                                                                
Regulatory staff member                                                              Signature and date of
completing PJD                                                                        person requesting preliminary JD
                                                                                     (REQUIRED, unless obtaining the signature is impracticable)¹

¹ Districts may establish timeframes for requestor to return signed PJD forms. If the requestor does not respond within the established time frame, the district may presume concurrence and no additional follow up is necessary prior to finalizing an action.
Figures
Figure 1: Location Map
Wetlands and Endangered Species
Biological Assessment
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Florida National Cemetery: Bushnell
6502 SW 102nd Ave, Bushnell, FL 33513 (Sumter County)
Figure 2: Aerial Photograph

Wetlands and Endangered Species Biological Assessment

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Florida National Cemetery: Bushnell
6502 SW 102nd Ave, Bushnell, FL 33513 (Sumter County)

Legend
- **Project Study Area (107.65 acres)**

Source: Esri Aerial Photograph Base Map

1 inch = 400 feet

Sections 33 - Township 21 South - Range 21 East
Sections 4 - Township 22 South - Range 21 East
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Soil Description</th>
<th>Hydric</th>
<th>Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Candler Sand, 0 To 5 Percent Slopes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>7.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Candler Sand, 5 To 8 Percent Slopes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>13.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Tavares Fine Sand, 0 To 5 Percent Slopes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>8.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Okeelanta Muck</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>9.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Ona-Ona, Wet, Fine Sand, 0 To 2 Percent Slopes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>4.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Sumterville Fine Sand, Boulder Subsurface, 0 To 5 Percent Slopes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>3.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>Mabel Fine Sand, Boulder Subsurface, 0 To 5 Percent Slopes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>16.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Millhopper Sand, Boulder Subsurface, 0 To 5 Percent Slopes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>33.88</td>
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<tr>
<td>51</td>
<td>Pits-Dumps Complex</td>
<td>Unranked</td>
<td>6.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65</td>
<td>Candler Sand, Boulder Subsurface, 0 To 5 Percent Slopes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>0.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>99</td>
<td>Water</td>
<td>Unranked</td>
<td>2.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>107.65</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: USDA-NRCS Soils - September 2018

Legend:
- **Red**: Project Study Area (107.65 acres)
- **Gray**: USDA-NRCS Soil
- **Hydric Soil**

**Figure 3: USDA-NRCS Soils**
Wetlands and Endangered Species Biological Assessment
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Florida National Cemetery: Bushnell
6502 SW 102nd Ave, Bushnell, FL 33513 (Sumter County)
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Figure 4: Vegetative Communities
Wetlands and Endangered Species
Biological Assessment
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Florida National Cemetery: Bushnell
6502 SW 102nd Ave, Bushnell, FL 33513 (Sumter County)
APPENDIX A
USACE Wetland Determination Data Forms
WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM – Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain Region

Project/Site: Florida National Cemetery
City/County: Bushnell
Sampling Date: 2019-09-18

Applicant/Owner: VA
State: Florida
Sampling Point: Wetland 1

Investigator(s): KJS, BB
Section, Township, Range: 33, 22S, 21E

Landform (hillslope, terrace, etc.): Slope(%):
Local relief (concave, convex, none):

Subregion (LRR or MLRA): LRR U
Lat: 28.612427 Long: -82.211941 Datum: WGS 84

Soil Map Unit Name: Millhopper Sand, Bouldery Substratum, 0-5% slope
Soil Classification: PEM

Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes ✓ No ___ (If no, explain in Remarks.)

Are Vegetation __, Soil __, or Hydrology ___ significantly disturbed? Are “Normal Circumstances” present? Yes ✓ No ___

Are Vegetation __, Soil __, or Hydrology ___ naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.

| Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? | Yes ✓ No ___ | Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland? | Yes ✓ No ___ |
| Hydric Soil Present? | Yes ✓ No ___ |
| Wetland Hydrology Present? | Yes ✓ No ___ |

Remarks:
Hog rooting near edge present but insignificant

HYDROLOGY

Wetland Hydrology Indicators:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary Indicators (minimum of one is required; check all that apply)</th>
<th>Secondary Indicators (minimum of two required)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surface Water (A1)</td>
<td>Surface Soil Cracks (B6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Water Table (A2)</td>
<td>Sparsely Vegetated Concave Surface (B8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturation (A3)</td>
<td>Marl Deposits (B15) (LRR U)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Marks (B1)</td>
<td>Drainage Patterns (B10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sediment Deposits (B2)</td>
<td>Oxidized Rhizospheres along Living Roots (C3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drift Deposits (B3)</td>
<td>Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algal Mat or Crust (B4)</td>
<td>Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soils (C6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iron Deposits (B5)</td>
<td>Thin Muck Surface (C7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)</td>
<td>Other (Explain in Remarks)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water-Stained Leaves (B9)</td>
<td>FAC-Neutral Test (D5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Field Observations:

| Surface Water Present? | Yes ✓ No ___ | Depth (inches): ____________ |
| Water Table Present? | Yes ✓ No ___ | Depth (inches): ____________ |
| Saturation Present? (includes capillary fringe) | Yes ✓ No ___ | Depth (inches): ____________ |

Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes ✓ No ___

Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available:

Remarks:
### VEGETATION (Four Strata) – Use scientific names of plants.

**Sampling Point: Wetland 1**

#### Dominance Test worksheet:

- **Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC:** 7  
  - Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: 8  
  - Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 88 (A/B)

#### Prevalence Index worksheet:

- **Total % Cover of:**
  - OBL species: 50 x 1 = 50  
  - FACW species: 40 x 2 = 80  
  - FAC species: 30 x 3 = 90  
  - FACU species: 15 x 4 = 60  
  - UPL species: 0 x 5 = 0  
  - Column Totals: 135 (A) 280 (B)  
- **Prevalence Index** = B/A = 2.1

#### Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:

- [ ] 1 - Rapid Test for Hydrophytic Vegetation  
- [ ] 2 - Dominance Test is > 50%  
- [ ] 3 - Prevalence Index is ≤3.0  
- [ ] Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation^1 (Explain)

#### Definitions of Four Vegetation Strata:

- **Tree** – Woody plants, excluding vines, 3 in. (7.6 cm) or more in diameter at breast height (DBH), regardless of height.
- **Sapling/Shrub** – Woody plants, excluding vines, less than 3 in. DBH and greater than 3.28 ft (1 m) tall.
- **Herb** – All herbaceous (non-woody) plants, regardless of size, and woody plants less than 3.28 ft tall.
- **Woody vine** – All woody vines greater than 3.28 ft in height.

#### Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? Yes ✓ No _

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tree Stratum (Plot size: 30' radius)</th>
<th>Absolute % Cover</th>
<th>Dominant Species?</th>
<th>Indicator Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. <em>Quercus nigra</em></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>FAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. <em>Quercus laurifolia</em></td>
<td>25</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>FACW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. <em>Pinus elliottii</em></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>FACW</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sapling/Shrub Stratum (Plot size: 30' radius)</th>
<th>Absolute % Cover</th>
<th>Dominant Species?</th>
<th>Indicator Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. <em>Quercus laurifolia</em></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>FACW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. <em>Serenia repens</em></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>FACU</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Herb Stratum (Plot size: 30' radius)</th>
<th>Absolute % Cover</th>
<th>Dominant Species?</th>
<th>Indicator Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. <em>Panicum hemitomon</em></td>
<td>25</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>OBL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. <em>Dichanthelium erectifolium</em></td>
<td>25</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>OBL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. <em>Eupatoria gramifolia</em></td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td>FAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. <em>Eupatoria capillifolia</em></td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td>FACU</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Woody Vine Stratum (Plot size: 30' radius)</th>
<th>Absolute % Cover</th>
<th>Dominant Species?</th>
<th>Indicator Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. <em>Vitis rotundifolia</em></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>FAC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

Remarks: (If observed, list morphological adaptations below).
## Profile Description:
(Describe to the depth needed to document the indicator or confirm the absence of indicators.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Depth (inches)</th>
<th>Matrix</th>
<th>Redox Features</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Color (moist)</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 - 2</td>
<td>10YR2/1</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 - 10</td>
<td>10YR5/1</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\)Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, MS=Masked Sand Grains.

## Hydric Soil Indicators:
(Applicable to all LRRs, unless otherwise noted.)

- Histosol (A1)
- Histic Epipedon (A2)
- Black Histic (A3)
- Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)
- Stratified Layers (A5)
- Organic Bodies (A6) (LRR P, T, U)
- 5 cm Mucky Mineral (A7) (LRR P, T, U)
- Muck Presence (A8) (LRR U)
- 1 cm Muck (A9) (LRR P, T)
- Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)
- Thick Dark Surface (A12)
- Coast Prairie Redox (A16) (MLRA 150A)
- Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1) (LRR O, S)
- Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4)
- Sandy Redox (S5)
- Stripped Matrix (S6)
- Dark Surface (S7) (LRR P, S, T, U)

## Restrictive Layer (if observed):

- Type: 
- Depth (inches): 
- Hydric Soil Present? Yes \(\checkmark\) No ____

## Remarks:
# Environmental Site Photos

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Photo 1 of 4</th>
<th>Date of Site Visit: September 18, 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>County / State: Sumter County, FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Photo Direction: N S E W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photos Taken by (Name, Company):</td>
<td>Kelley Samuels and Brooke Bayer, AECOM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description / Comments:</td>
<td>View facing north inside of Wetland 1.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Photo 1](image1.jpg)

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Photo 2 of 4</th>
<th>Date of Site Visit: September 18, 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>County / State: Sumter County, FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Photo Direction: N S E W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Description / Comments:</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Photo 2](image2.jpg)
## Environmental Site Photos

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name:</th>
<th>Florida National Cemetery Expansion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sampling Point:</td>
<td>W1-1W</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Photo 3 of 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photo Direction:</td>
<td>N S E W</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Photos Taken by (Name, Company):</th>
<th>Kelley Samuels and Brooke Bayer, AECOM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

| Description / Comments: | View facing south inside of Wetland 1. |

### Photo 4 of 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>Photo Direction:</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
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</tr>
</thead>
</table>

| Description / Comments: | View facing west inside of Wetland 1. |

---

![Image of Wetland 1 View Facing South](image-url)  
![Image of Wetland 1 View Facing West](image-url)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Project Name:</strong></th>
<th>Florida National Cemetery Expansion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sampling Point:</strong></td>
<td>W1-1W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Photo 1 of 4</strong></td>
<td><strong>Date of Site Visit:</strong> September 18, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>County / State:</strong></td>
<td>Sumter County, FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Photo Direction:</strong></td>
<td>Downward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Photos Taken by (Name, Company):</strong></td>
<td>Kelley Samuels and Brooke Bayer, AECOM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Description / Comments:</strong></td>
<td>View of soils inside of Wetland 1.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM – Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain Region

Project/Site: Florida National Cemetery
City/County: Bushnell
State: Florida
Sampling Date: 2019-09-18
Applicant/Owner: VA
Investigator(s): KJS, BB
Section, Township, Range: 33, 21S, 21E
Landform (hillslope, terrace, etc.): ____________
Local relief (concave, convex, none): ____________
Slope (%): ____________
Subregion (LRR or MLRA): LRR U
Lat: 28.585938, Long: -82.221564, Datum: WGS 84
Soil Map Unit Name: Millhopper Sand, Bouldery Substratum, 0-5% slope

Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes ✓ No ___ (If no, explain in Remarks.)

Are Vegetation __ , Soil ___ , or Hydrology ___ significantly disturbed? Are “Normal Circumstances” present? Yes ✓ No ___

Are Vegetation __ , Soil ___ , or Hydrology ___ naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?</th>
<th>Yes ✓ No ___</th>
<th>Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland?</th>
<th>Yes _____ No ✓</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hydric Soil Present?</td>
<td>Yes _____ No ✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wetland Hydrology Present?</td>
<td>Yes _____ No ✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Remarks:

HYDROLOGY

Wetland Hydrology Indicators:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary Indicators (minimum of one is required: check all that apply)</th>
<th>Secondary Indicators (minimum of two required)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>□ Surface Water (A1)</td>
<td>□ Surface Soil Cracks (B6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ High Water Table (A2)</td>
<td>□ Sparsely Vegetated Concave Surface (B8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Saturation (A3)</td>
<td>□ Drainage Patterns (B10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Water Marks (B1)</td>
<td>□ Moss Trim Lines (B16)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Sediment Deposits (B2)</td>
<td>□ Dry-Season Water Table (C2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Drift Deposits (B3)</td>
<td>□ Crayfish Burrows (C8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Algal Mat or Crust (B4)</td>
<td>□ Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Iron Deposits (B5)</td>
<td>□ Geomorphic Position (D2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)</td>
<td>□ Shallow Aquitard (D3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Water-Stained Leaves (B9)</td>
<td>□ FAC-Neutral Test (D5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Field Observations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surface Water Present?</th>
<th>Yes _____ No ✓ Depth (inches):</th>
<th>Water Table Present?</th>
<th>Yes _____ No ✓ Depth (inches):</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Wetland Hydrology Present?</td>
<td>Yes _____ No ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(includes capillary fringe)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available:

Remarks:
**VEGETATION (Four Strata)** — Use scientific names of plants.

**Sampling Point:** Upland 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tree Stratum (Plot size: 30' radius)</th>
<th>Absolute % Cover</th>
<th>Dominant Species?</th>
<th>Indicator Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Pinus elliottii</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>FACW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Quercus nigra</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>FAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sapling/Shrub Stratum (Plot size: 30' radius)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sapling/Shrub</th>
<th>Absolute % Cover</th>
<th>Dominant Species?</th>
<th>Indicator Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Serenoa repens</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>FAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Diospyros virginiana</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>FAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Quercus nigra</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>FAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Herb Stratum (Plot size: 30' radius)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Herb</th>
<th>Absolute % Cover</th>
<th>Dominant Species?</th>
<th>Indicator Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Vitis rotundifolia</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>FAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Woody Vine Stratum (Plot size: 30' radius)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Woody Vine</th>
<th>Absolute % Cover</th>
<th>Dominant Species?</th>
<th>Indicator Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:**
- □ 1 - Rapid Test for Hydrophytic Vegetation
- ✓ 2 - Dominance Test is >50%
- □ 3 - Prevalence Index is ≤3.0
- □ Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation (Explain)

**Definitions of Four Vegetation Strata:**
- **Tree** — Woody plants, excluding vines, 3 in. (7.6 cm) or more in diameter at breast height (DBH), regardless of height.
- **Sapling/Shrub** — Woody plants, excluding vines, less than 3 in. DBH and greater than 3.28 ft (1 m) tall.
- **Herb** — All herbaceous (non-woody) plants, regardless of size, and woody plants less than 3.28 ft tall.
- **Woody vine** — All woody vines greater than 3.28 ft in height.

**Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?** Yes ✓ No ___

**Remarks:** (If observed, list morphological adaptations below).
**Profile Description:** (Describe to the depth needed to document the indicator or confirm the absence of indicators.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Depth (inches)</th>
<th>Matrix</th>
<th>Redox Features</th>
<th>Texture</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 - 10</td>
<td>10YR5/1</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Sand</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Depth Matrix Redox Features**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Color (moist)</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Loc</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10YR5/1</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Hydric Soil Indicators:** (Applicable to all LRRs, unless otherwise noted.)

- Histosol (A1)
- Histic Epipedon (A2)
- Black Histic (A3)
- Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)
- Stratified Layers (A5)
- Organic Bodies (A6)
- 5 cm Mucky Mineral (A7)
- Muck Presence (A8)
- 1 cm Mucky Mineral (A9)
- Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)
- Thick Dark Surface (A12)
- Coast Prairie Redox (A16)
- Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1)
- Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4)
- Sandy Redox (S5)
- Stripped Matrix (S6)
- Dark Surface (S7)

**Indicators for Problematic Hydric Soils:**

- 1 cm Mucky Mineral (A9)
- Loamy Mucky Mineral (F1)
- Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)
- Depleted Matrix (F3)
- Redox Dark Surface (F6)
- Redox Depressions (F8)
- Depleted Ochric (F11)
- Iron-Manganese Masses (F12)
- Umbric Surface (F13)
- Delta Ochric (F17)
- Reduced Vertic (F18)
- Piedmont Floodplain Soils (F19)
- Anomalous Bright Loamy Soils (F20)

**Restrictive Layer (if observed):**

- Type: 
- Depth (inches): 
- Hydric Soil Present? Yes ☐ No ☑

**Remarks:**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Photo 1 of 4</th>
<th>Date of Site Visit: September 18, 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>County / State: Sumter County, FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Photo Direction: N S E W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Photos Taken by (Name, Company): Kelley Samuels and Brooke Bayer, AECOM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description / Comments:</td>
<td>View facing north outside of Wetland 1.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Photo 2 of 4</th>
<th>Date of Site Visit: September 18, 2019</th>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Description / Comments:</td>
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Environmental Site Photos

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<tbody>
<tr>
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**Photo 3 of 4**

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photos Taken by (Name, Company):</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Description / Comments:**
View facing south outside of Wetland 1.

---

**Photo 4 of 4**

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<tbody>
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<td>Sumter County, FL</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photos Taken by (Name, Company):</td>
<td>Kelley Samuels and Brooke Bayer, AECOM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Description / Comments:**
View facing west outside of Wetland 1.
<table>
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<th>Florida National Cemetery Expansion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>W1-1U</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photo 1 of 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Site Visit:</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>County / State:</td>
<td>Sumter County, FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photo Direction:</td>
<td>Downward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photos Taken by (Name, Company):</td>
<td>Kelley Samuels and Brooke Bayer, AECOM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description / Comments:</td>
<td>View of soils outside of Wetland 1.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear Mr. Mueller,

Thank you for responding to our inquiry about the proposed activities at the Florida National Cemetery.

We have prepared the following responses to comments provided in your email correspondence dated December 11, 2019. The responses are provided in italics.

- You have defined the Area of Potential Effect (APE) as the unimproved 100-acre parcel as indicated on the figure included with Mr. Hooker’s letter dated October 18, 2019. Your undertaking description mentions new roadways, expanded storm-water systems, etc. Can you confirm that no ground disturbing activities related to the undertaking will occur outside of the 100-acre parcel? This would include staging areas, equipment storage areas, spoil or borrow areas, etc.

VA can confirm that no ground-disturbing activities related to this undertaking would occur outside of the approximately 100-acre area.

- The October 18th letter refers to an archaeological and historic site investigation performed in 1982 as part of an Environmental Impact Statement. We would like to point out that these investigations are now more than 35 years old and may no longer meet best practices. If you provide us a copy of the report we will be happy to assess its completeness in light of current cultural resources survey standards. And,

A copy of the Florida National Cemetery Site Selection Environmental Impact Statement is attached. On page 4-7 (page 110 of the document) you will find the CHP section. In addition to this you will be able to find additional information of the suited performed in the area on Appendix B (page 299 and page 348 of the document).

- We observed in a recent aerial photograph of the 100-acre parcel that there appears to be some kind of disturbance in the north-east corner of the parcel. Can you provide additional information on what and how old that disturbance might be?

The disturbance location in the northeast portion of the 100-acre area is a depression created as part of former limestone quarry operations that occurred many years prior to VA’s taking ownership of the land. This specific depressional area is currently used by VA cemetery maintenance staff to stockpile excess soils and perform gravestone engraving.

Please do not hesitate to contact me regarding the Proposed Action.

Thank you,

Fernando L. Fernández REM
Office: 202.632.5529
Cell: 202.876.7608
FYI.

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

From: Bradley Mueller <bradleymueller@semtribe.com>
Date: Wednesday, Dec 11, 2019, 1:41 PM
To: Fernandez, Fernando L. (CFM) <Fernando.Fernandez@va.gov>
Cc: Victoria Menchaca <VictoriaMenchaca@semtribe.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Initiation of Section 106 consultation for ... the Florida National Cemetery.

December 11, 2019

Mr. Fernando Fernández, Environmental Engineer
Department of Veteran Affairs, OCFM
Email: Fernando.Fernandez@va.gov

Subject: Initiation of Section 106 consultation for the Proposed Construction and Operation of the Northeastern 100-Acre Expansion Area at the Florida National Cemetery, Sumter County, Florida.

THPO Compliance Tracking Number: 0032010

Dear Mr. Fernández,

Thank you for contacting the Seminole Tribe of Florida – Tribal Historic Preservation Office (STOF-THPO), Compliance Section regarding the Proposed Construction and Operation of the Northeastern 100-Acre
Expansion Area at the Florida National Cemetery, Sumter County, Florida. The proposed undertaking does fall within the STOF Area of Interest. We have reviewed the documents you provided and would like to make the following comments/requests.

- You have defined the Area of Potential Effect (APE) as the unimproved 100-acre parcel as indicated on the figure included with Mr. Hooker’s letter dated October 18, 2019. Your undertaking description mentions new roadways, expanded storm-water systems, etc. Can you confirm that no ground disturbing activities related to the undertaking will occur outside of the 100-acre parcel? This would include staging areas, equipment storage areas, spoil or borrow areas, etc.

- The October 18th letter refers to an archaeological and historic site investigation performed in 1982 as part of an Environmental Impact Statement. We would like to point out that these investigations are now more than 35 years old and may no longer meet best practices. If you provide us a copy of the report we will be happy to assess its completeness in light of current cultural resources survey standards. And,

- We observed in a recent aerial photograph of the 100-acre parcel that there appears to be some kind of disturbance in the north-east corner of the parcel. Can you provide additional information on what and how old that disturbance might be?

We look forward to your reply. Once we have the requested information we will be in a better position to comment on your determination of findings. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

Bradley M. Mueller, MA, Compliance Specialist
STOF-THPO, Compliance Review Section
30290 Josie Billie Hwy, PMB 1004
Clewiston, FL 33440

Office: 863-983-6549 ext 12245
Fax: 863-902-1117
Email: bradleymueller@semtribe.com
Web: www.stofthpo.com
18 October 2019

Dr. Paul Backhouse, Ph.D.
The Seminole Tribe of Florida
Tribal Historic Preservation Office
30290 Josie Billie Highway PMB 1004
Clewiston, FL 33440

Subject: Initiation of Section 106 consultation for the proposed construction and operation of the northeastern 100-acre expansion area at the Florida National Cemetery

Dear Dr. Backhouse,

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 800, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is proposing to construct and operate a phased expansion within an approximately 100-acre area within the existing Florida National Cemetery (FNC), located at 6502 S.W. 102nd Avenue, in Bushnell, Sumter County, Florida (see enclosed map). The National Cemetery Administration (NCA) is conducting this cemetery expansion project to increase burial capacity at FNC, which serves Veterans and their eligible family members in central Florida.

Background

The FNC is located in a rural area in Bushnell, Sumter County, Florida. It is bounded to the east by Interstate 75, to the north by the Sumter County Correctional Institute, and to the south and west by the Withlacoochee State Park. FNC is accessible from I-75, a major two-lane divided highway.

In 1980, VA announced that it would establish a new national cemetery in Florida. Two major locations for the cemetery were studied: Cross Florida Barge Canal and Withlacoochee State Forest. The Withlacoochee site, though more environmentally sensitive, was supported by government officials. On February 15, 1983, the state transferred land to VA for the development of FNC. The first interment was in 1988. The cemetery is approximately 513 acres and includes areas for cremated remains and casketed burial sites. The development of the cemetery grounds has been conducted in phases; to date, six phases have been completed, providing a total of approximately 129,000 burial sites.

Undertaking

Due to gravesite depletion, FNC requires additional burial capacity to serve veterans in the central Florida region. NCA has defined the undertaking as land clearing and grading of currently unimproved grounds within a portion of the 100-acre area to become new burial sections with capacity for several thousand inground and columbaria interments, with space for a new committal shelter(s), new roadways to the new burial areas, expanded stormwater systems to manage run-off from any new impervious areas, landscaping consistent with existing plantings, and extension of the existing irrigation utility to support newly landscaped areas. No new property would be acquired. An approximately 15-acre pond within the 100-acre area would not be developed.

While the actual design planning phase for this potential future expansion area would not be completed for another 10 to 15 years, the expansion would be designed and constructed according to NCA cemetery design standards and overall character of the cemetery and surrounding area serving as guiding considerations in the ultimate expansion design.
The NCA's mission is to honor Veterans and their eligible family members with final resting places in national shrines and with lasting tributes that commemorate their service and sacrifice to our Nation. It is projected that by 2030, FNC will not be able support burial requests and provide sufficient onsite parking to support the needs of Veterans, family members, and staff. The future development within the 100-acre area is needed to fulfill this mission.

Area of Potential Effect

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) is defined as the unimproved 100-acre area within FNC (see attached figure).

Identification of Historic Properties

As part of the 1982 Environmental Impact Statement for the initial site selection for FNC (prior to purchase and development of the property), a survey for archaeological and historic sites across the 513-acre property, which encompassed the proposed 100-acre expansion area, was performed by VA’s contractor Water and Air Research, Inc. Four prehistoric sites were identified during the survey; none of the sites was located within the proposed 100-acre expansion area. Of the four sites, two were considered potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Section 106 consultation with the Florida State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and coordination with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation was completed during the 1982 EIS. Both agencies concurred that development of the property as a National Cemetery would not affect any historic properties, so long as these sites were avoided. Accordingly, all prior and proposed development of FNC avoids these sites. Additional background research was conducted of the Florida Master Site File database on March 2, 2017. No additional archaeological resources have been recorded within the project area since 1982.

VA also notes that should future construction activities uncover any archaeological remains, the activity in the immediate area be stopped, while a professional archaeologist evaluates the remains. In the event that human remains are found during construction or maintenance activities, the provisions of Chapter 872.05, F.S. will apply.

Determination of Findings

Therefore, pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d)(l), VA has determined that no historic properties will be affected by the undertaking and requests your concurrence on VA’s finding per 36 CFR Part 800 and Executive Order 13175.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact Fernando Fernández for additional information at Fernando.Fernandez@va.gov.

Please let me know if any of the provided materials are insufficient or if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

W. Edward Hooker, III
Historic Architect/ Cultural Resources Manager
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
National Cemetery Administration
Design and Construction Service

Attachment: Florida National Cemetery Site Location Map

CC: Fernando L. Fernández, Environmental Engineer, Department of Veterans Affairs, OCFM
Douglas Pulak, Federal Preservation Officer, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
18 October 2019

Dr. Timothy Parsons  
Florida Department of State  
State Historic Preservation Office  
500 Bronough Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250  

Subject: Initiation of Section 106 consultation for the proposed construction and operation of the northeastern 100-acre expansion area at the Florida National Cemetery

Dear Dr. Parsons,

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 800, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is proposing to construct and operate an phased expansion within an approximately 100-acre area within the existing Florida National Cemetery (FNC), located at 6502 S.W. 102nd Avenue, in Bushnell, Sumter County, Florida (see enclosed map). The National Cemetery Administration (NCA) is conducting this cemetery expansion project to increase burial capacity at FNC, which serves veterans and their eligible family members in central Florida.

Background

The FNC is located in a rural area in Bushnell, Sumter County, Florida. It is bounded to the east by Interstate 75, to the north by the Sumter County Correctional Institute, and to the south and west by the Withlacoochee State Park. FNC is accessible from I-75, a major two-lane divided highway.

In 1980, VA announced that it would establish a new national cemetery in Florida. Two major locations for the cemetery were studied: Cross Florida Barge Canal and Withlacoochee State Forest. The Withlacoochee site, though more environmentally sensitive, was supported by government officials. On February 15, 1983, the state transferred land to VA for the development of FNC. The first interment was in 1988. The cemetery is approximately 513 acres and includes areas for cremated remains and casketed burial sites. The development of the cemetery grounds has been conducted in phases; to date, six phases have been completed, providing a total of approximately 129,000 burial sites.

Undertaking

Due to gravesite depletion, FNC requires additional burial capacity to serve veterans in the central Florida region. NCA has defined the undertaking as land clearing and grading of currently unimproved grounds within a portion of the 100-acre area to become new burial sections with capacity for several thousand inground and columbaria interments, with space for a new committal shelter(s), new roadways to the new burial areas, expanded stormwater systems to manage run-off from any new impervious areas, landscaping consistent with existing plantings, and extension of the existing irrigation utility to support newly landscaped areas. No new property would be acquired. An approximately 15-acre pond within the 100-acre area would not be developed.

While the actual design planning phase for this potential future expansion area would not be completed for another 10 to 15 years, the expansion would be designed and constructed according to NCA cemetery design standards and overall character of the cemetery and surrounding area serving as guiding considerations in the ultimate expansion design.
The NCA’s mission is to honor Veterans and their eligible family members with final resting places in national shrines and with lasting tributes that commemorate their service and sacrifice to our Nation. It is projected that by 2030, FNC will not be able to support burial requests and provide sufficient onsite parking to support the needs of Veterans, family members, and staff. The future development within the 100-acre area is needed to fulfill this mission.

Area of Potential Effect

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) is defined as the unimproved 100-acre area within FNC (see attached figure).

Identification of Historic Properties

As part of the 1982 Environmental Impact Statement for the initial site selection for FNC (prior to purchase and development of the property), a survey for archaeological and historic sites across the 513-acre property, which encompassed the proposed 100-acre expansion area, was performed by VA’s contractor Water and Air Research, Inc. Four prehistoric sites were identified during the survey; none of the sites was located within the proposed 100-acre expansion area. Of the four sites, two were considered potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Section 106 consultation with the Florida State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and coordination with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation was completed during the 1982 EIS. Both agencies concurred that development of the property as a National Cemetery would not affect any historic properties, so long as these sites were avoided. Accordingly, all prior and proposed development of FNC avoids these sites. Additional background research was conducted of the Florida Master Site File database on March 2, 2017. No additional archaeological resources have been recorded within the project area since 1982.

VA also notes that should future construction activities uncover any archaeological remains, the activity in the immediate area be stopped, while a professional archaeologist evaluates the remains. In the event that human remains are found during construction or maintenance activities, the provisions of Chapter 872.05, F.S. will apply.

Determination of Findings

Therefore, pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1), VA has determined that no historic properties will be affected by the undertaking and requests the SHPO’s concurrence on the agency’s finding per 36 CFR Part 800 and Executive Order 13175.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact Fernando Fernandez for additional information at Fernando.Fernandez@va.gov.

Please let me know if any of the provided materials are insufficient or if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

W. Edward Hooker, III
Historic Architect/ Cultural Resources Manager
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
National Cemetery Administration
Design and Construction Service

Attachment: Florida National Cemetery Site Location Map

CC: Fernando L. Fernández, Environmental Engineer, Department of Veterans Affairs, OCFM
Douglas Pulak, Federal Preservation Officer, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
18 October 2019

Ms. Corain Lowe-Zepeda
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
The Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Historic and Cultural Preservation Office
Human Development Building
Hwy 75 & Loop 56 PO Box 580
Okmulgee, OK 74447

Subject: Initiation of Section 106 consultation for the proposed construction and operation of the northeastern 100-acre expansion area at the Florida National Cemetery

Dear Ms. Lowe-Zepeda,

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 800, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is proposing to construct and operate an phased expansion within an approximately 100-acre area within the existing Florida National Cemetery (FNC), located at 6502 S.W. 102nd Avenue, in Bushnell, Sumter County, Florida (see enclosed map). The National Cemetery Administration (NCA) is conducting this cemetery expansion project to increase burial capacity at FNC, which serves Veterans and their eligible family members in central Florida.

Background

The FNC is located in a rural area in Bushnell, Sumter County, Florida. It is bounded to the east by Interstate 75, to the north by the Sumter County Correctional Institute, and to the south and west by the Withlacoochee State Park. FNC is accessible from I-75, a major two-lane divided highway.

In 1980, VA announced that it would establish a new national cemetery in Florida. Two major locations for the cemetery were studied: Cross Florida Barge Canal and Withlacoochee State Forest. The Withlacoochee site, though more environmentally sensitive, was supported by government officials. On February 15, 1983, the state transferred land to VA for the development of FNC. The first interment was in 1988. The cemetery is approximately 513 acres and includes areas for cremated remains and casketed burial sites. The development of the cemetery grounds has been conducted in phases; to date, six phases have been completed, providing a total of approximately 129,000 burial sites.

Undertaking

Due to gravesite depletion, FNC requires additional burial capacity to serve veterans in the central Florida region. NCA has defined the undertaking as land clearing and grading of currently unimproved grounds within a portion of the 100-acre area to become new burial sections with capacity for several thousand inground and columbaria interments, with space for a new committal shelter(s), new roadways to the new burial areas, expanded stormwater systems to manage run-off from any new impervious areas, landscaping consistent with existing plantings, and extension of the existing irrigation utility to support newly landscaped areas. No new property would be acquired. An approximately 15-acre pond within the 100-acre area would not be developed.

While the actual design planning phase for this potential future expansion area would not be completed for another 10 to 15 years, the expansion would be designed and constructed according to NCA cemetery design standards and overall character of the cemetery and surrounding area serving as guiding considerations in the ultimate expansion design.
The NCA’s mission is to honor Veterans and their eligible family members with final resting places in national shrines and with lasting tributes that commemorate their service and sacrifice to our Nation. It is projected that by 2030, FNC will not be able support burial requests and provide sufficient onsite parking to support the needs of Veterans, family members, and staff. The future development within the 100-acre area is needed to fulfill this mission.

Area of Potential Effect

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) is defined as the unimproved 100-acre area within FNC (see attached figure).

Identification of Historic Properties

As part of the 1982 Environmental Impact Statement for the initial site selection for FNC (prior to purchase and development of the property), a survey for archaeological and historic sites across the 513-acre property, which encompassed the proposed 100-acre expansion area, was performed by VA’s contractor Water and Air Research, Inc. Four prehistoric sites were identified during the survey; none of the sites was located within the proposed 100-acre expansion area. Of the four sites, two were considered potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Section 106 consultation with the Florida State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and coordination with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation was completed during the 1982 EIS. Both agencies concurred that development of the property as a National Cemetery would not affect any historic properties, so long as these sites were avoided. Accordingly, all prior and proposed development of FNC avoids these sites. Additional background research was conducted of the Florida Master Site File database on March 2, 2017. No additional archaeological resources have been recorded within the project area since 1982.

VA also notes that should future construction activities uncover any archaeological remains, the activity in the immediate area be stopped, while a professional archaeologist evaluates the remains. In the event that human remains are found during construction or maintenance activities, the provisions of Chapter 872.05, F.S. will apply.

Determination of Findings

Therefore, pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d)(l), VA has determined that no historic properties will be affected by the undertaking and requests your concurrence on VA’s finding per 36 CFR Part 800 and Executive Order 13175.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact Fernando Fernández for additional information at Fernando.Fernandez@va.gov.

Please let me know if any of the provided materials are insufficient or if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

W. Edward Hooker, III
Historic Architect/ Cultural Resources Manager
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
National Cemetery Administration
Design and Construction Service

Attachment: Florida National Cemetery Site Location Map

CC: Fernando L. Fernández, Environmental Engineer, Department of Veterans Affairs, OCFM
Douglas Pulak, Federal Preservation Officer, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Subject: Initiation of Section 106 consultation for the proposed construction and operation of the northeastern 100-acre expansion area at the Florida National Cemetery

Dear Ms. Langley,

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 800, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is proposing to construct and operate a phased expansion within an approximately 100-acre area within the existing Florida National Cemetery (FNC), located at 6502 S.W. 102nd Avenue, in Bushnell, Sumter County, Florida (see enclosed map). The National Cemetery Administration (NCA) is conducting this cemetery expansion project to increase burial capacity at FNC, which serves Veterans and their eligible family members in central Florida.

Background

The FNC is located in a rural area in Bushnell, Sumter County, Florida. It is bounded to the east by Interstate 75, to the north by the Sumter County Correctional Institute, and to the south and west by the Withlacoochee State Park. FNC is accessible from I-75, a major two-lane divided highway.

In 1980, VA announced that it would establish a new national cemetery in Florida. Two major locations for the cemetery were studied: Cross Florida Barge Canal and Withlacoochee State Forest. The Withlacoochee site, though more environmentally sensitive, was supported by government officials. On February 15, 1983, the state transferred land to VA for the development of FNC. The first interment was in 1988. The cemetery is approximately 513 acres and includes areas for cremated remains and casketed burial sites. The development of the cemetery grounds has been conducted in phases; to date, six phases have been completed, providing a total of approximately 129,000 burial sites.

Undertaking

Due to gravesite depletion, FNC requires additional burial capacity to serve veterans in the central Florida region. NCA has defined the undertaking as land clearing and grading of currently unimproved grounds within a portion of the 100-acre area to become new burial sections with capacity for several thousand inground and columbaria interments, with space for a new committal shelter(s), new roadways to the new burial areas, expanded stormwater systems to manage run-off from any new impervious areas, landscaping consistent with existing plantings, and extension of the existing irrigation utility to support newly landscaped areas. No new property would be acquired. An approximately 15-acre pond within the 100-acre area would not be developed.

While the actual design planning phase for this potential future expansion area would not be completed for another 10 to 15 years, the expansion would be designed and constructed according to NCA cemetery design standards and overall character of the cemetery and surrounding area serving as guiding considerations in the ultimate expansion design.
The NCA's mission is to honor Veterans and their eligible family members with final resting places in national shrines and with lasting tributes that commemorate their service and sacrifice to our Nation. It is projected that by 2030, FNC will not be able to support burial requests and provide sufficient onsite parking to support the needs of Veterans, family members, and staff. The future development within the 100-acre area is needed to fulfill this mission.

Area of Potential Effect

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) is defined as the unimproved 100-acre area within FNC (see attached figure).

Identification of Historic Properties

As part of the 1982 Environmental Impact Statement for the initial site selection for FNC (prior to purchase and development of the property), a survey for archaeological and historic sites across the 513-acre property, which encompassed the proposed 100-acre expansion area, was performed by VA’s contractor Water and Air Research, Inc. Four prehistoric sites were identified during the survey; none of the sites was located within the proposed 100-acre expansion area. Of the four sites, two were considered potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Section 106 consultation with the Florida State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and coordination with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation was completed during the 1982 EIS. Both agencies concurred that development of the property as a National Cemetery would not affect any historic properties, so long as these sites were avoided. Accordingly, all prior and proposed development of FNC avoids these sites. Additional background research was conducted of the Florida Master Site File database on March 2, 2017. No additional archaeological resources have been recorded within the project area since 1982.

VA also notes that should future construction activities uncover any archaeological remains, the activity in the immediate area be stopped, while a professional archaeologist evaluates the remains. In the event that human remains are found during construction or maintenance activities, the provisions of Chapter 872.05, F.S. will apply.

Determination of Findings

Therefore, pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d)(I), VA has determined that no historic properties will be affected by the undertaking and requests your concurrence on VA’s finding per 36 CFR Part 800 and Executive Order 13175.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact Fernando Fernández for additional information at Fernando.Fernandez@va.gov.

Please let me know if any of the provided materials are insufficient or if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

W. Edward Hooker, III
Historic Architect/ Cultural Resources Manager
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
National Cemetery Administration
Design and Construction Service

Attachment: Florida National Cemetery Site Location Map

CC: Fernando L. Fernández, Environmental Engineer, Department of Veterans Affairs, OCFM
Douglas Pulak, Federal Preservation Officer, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
18 October 2019

Mr. Fred Dayhoff
Section 106 and NAGPRA Coordinator
Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida
HC 61
SR Box 68 Old loop Road
Ochopee, FL 34141

Subject: Initiation of Section 106 consultation for the proposed construction and operation of the northeastern 100-acre expansion area at the Florida National Cemetery

Dear Mr. Dayhoff,

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 800, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is proposing to construct and operate an phased expansion within an approximately 100-acre area within the existing Florida National Cemetery (FNC), located at 6502 S.W. 102nd Avenue, in Bushnell, Sumter County, Florida (see enclosed map). The National Cemetery Administration (NCA) is conducting this cemetery expansion project to increase burial capacity at FNC, which serves Veterans and their eligible family members in central Florida.

Background

The FNC is located in a rural area in Bushnell, Sumter County, Florida. It is bounded to the east by Interstate 75, to the north by the Sumter County Correctional Institute, and to the south and west by the Withlacoochee State Park. FNC is accessible from I-75, a major two-lane divided highway.

In 1980, VA announced that it would establish a new national cemetery in Florida. Two major locations for the cemetery were studied: Cross Florida Barge Canal and Withlacoochee State Forest. The Withlacoochee site, though more environmentally sensitive, was supported by government officials. On February 15, 1983, the state transferred land to VA for the development of FNC. The first interment was in 1988. The cemetery is approximately 513 acres and includes areas for cremated remains and casketed burial sites. The development of the cemetery grounds has been conducted in phases; to date, six phases have been completed, providing a total of approximately 129,000 burial sites.

Undertaking

Due to gravesite depletion, FNC requires additional burial capacity to serve veterans in the central Florida region. NCA has defined the undertaking as land clearing and grading of currently unimproved grounds within a portion of the 100-acre area to become new burial sections with capacity for several thousand inground and columbaria interments, with space for a new committal shelter(s), new roadways to the new burial areas, expanded stormwater systems to manage run-off from any new impervious areas, landscaping consistent with existing plantings, and extension of the existing irrigation utility to support newly landscaped areas. No new property would be acquired. An approximately 15-acre pond within the 100-acre area would not be developed.

While the actual design planning phase for this potential future expansion area would not be completed for another 10 to 15 years, the expansion would be designed and constructed according to NCA cemetery design standards and overall character of the cemetery and surrounding area serving as guiding considerations in the ultimate expansion design.
The NCA's mission is to honor Veterans and their eligible family members with final resting places in national shrines and with lasting tributes that commemorate their service and sacrifice to our Nation. It is projected that by 2030, FNC will not be able to support burial requests and provide sufficient onsite parking to support the needs of Veterans, family members, and staff. The future development within the 100-acre area is needed to fulfill this mission.

Area of Potential Effect

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) is defined as the unimproved 100-acre area within FNC (see attached figure).

Identification of Historic Properties

As part of the 1982 Environmental Impact Statement for the initial site selection for FNC (prior to purchase and development of the property), a survey for archaeological and historic sites across the 513-acre property, which encompassed the proposed 100-acre expansion area, was performed by VA's contractor Water and Air Research, Inc. Four prehistoric sites were identified during the survey; none of the sites was located within the proposed 100-acre expansion area. Of the four sites, two were considered potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Section 106 consultation with the Florida State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and coordination with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation was completed during the 1982 EIS. Both agencies concurred that development of the property as a National Cemetery would not affect any historic properties, so long as these sites were avoided. Accordingly, all prior and proposed development of FNC avoids these sites. Additional background research was conducted of the Florida Master Site File database on March 2, 2017. No additional archaeological resources have been recorded within the project area since 1982.

VA also notes that should future construction activities uncover any archaeological remains, the activity in the immediate area be stopped, while a professional archaeologist evaluates the remains. In the event that human remains are found during construction or maintenance activities, the provisions of Chapter 872.05, F.S. will apply.

Determination of Findings

Therefore, pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d)(l), VA has determined that no historic properties will be affected by the undertaking and requests your concurrence on VA's finding per 36 CFR Part 800 and Executive Order 13175.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact Fernando Fernández for additional information at Fernando.Fernandez@va.gov.

Please let me know if any of the provided materials are insufficient or if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

W. Edward Hooker, III
Historic Architect/ Cultural Resources Manager
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
National Cemetery Administration
Design and Construction Service

Attachment: Florida National Cemetery Site Location Map

CC: Fernando L. Fernández, Environmental Engineer, Department of Veterans Affairs, OCFM
Douglas Pulak, Federal Preservation Officer, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
18 October 2019

Ms. Natalie Harjo
The Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
Tribal Historic Preservation Office
P. O. Box 1498
Wewoka, OK 74868

Subject: Initiation of Section 106 consultation for the proposed construction and operation of the northeastern 100-acre expansion area at the Florida National Cemetery

Dear Ms. Harjo,

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 800, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is proposing to construct and operate an phased expansion within an approximately 100-acre area within the existing Florida National Cemetery (FNC), located at 6502 S.W. 102nd Avenue, in Bushnell, Sumter County, Florida (see enclosed map). The National Cemetery Administration (NCA) is conducting this cemetery expansion project to increase burial capacity at FNC, which serves Veterans and their eligible family members in central Florida.

Background

The FNC is located in a rural area in Bushnell, Sumter County, Florida. It is bounded to the east by Interstate 75, to the north by the Sumter County Correctional Institute, and to the south and west by the Withlacoochee State Park. FNC is accessible from I-75, a major two-lane divided highway.

In 1980, VA announced that it would establish a new national cemetery in Florida. Two major locations for the cemetery were studied: Cross Florida Barge Canal and Withlacoochee State Forest. The Withlacoochee site, though more environmentally sensitive, was supported by government officials. On February 15, 1983, the state transferred land to VA for the development of FNC. The first interment was in 1988. The cemetery is approximately 513 acres and includes areas for cremated remains and casketed burial sites. The development of the cemetery grounds has been conducted in phases; to date, six phases have been completed, providing a total of approximately 129,000 burial sites.

Undertaking

Due to gravesite depletion, FNC requires additional burial capacity to serve veterans in the central Florida region. NCA has defined the undertaking as land clearing and grading of currently unimproved grounds within a portion of the 100-acre area to become new burial sections with capacity for several thousand inground and columbaria interments, with space for a new committal shelter(s), new roadways to the new burial areas, expanded stormwater systems to manage run-off from any new impervious areas, landscaping consistent with existing plantings, and extension of the existing irrigation utility to support newly landscaped areas. No new property would be acquired. An approximately 15-acre pond within the 100-acre area would not be developed.

While the actual design planning phase for this potential future expansion area would not be completed for another 10 to 15 years, the expansion would be designed and constructed according to NCA cemetery design standards and overall character of the cemetery and surrounding area serving as guiding considerations in the ultimate expansion design.
The NCA’s mission is to honor Veterans and their eligible family members with final resting places in national shrines and with lasting tributes that commemorate their service and sacrifice to our Nation. It is projected that by 2030, FNC will not be able support burial requests and provide sufficient onsite parking to support the needs of Veterans, family members, and staff. The future development within the 100-acre area is needed to fulfill this mission.

**Area of Potential Effect**

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) is defined as the unimproved 100-acre area within FNC (see attached figure).

**Identification of Historic Properties**

As part of the 1982 Environmental Impact Statement for the initial site selection for FNC (prior to purchase and development of the property), a survey for archaeological and historic sites across the 513-acre property, which encompassed the proposed 100-acre expansion area, was performed by VA’s contractor Water and Air Research, Inc. Four prehistoric sites were identified during the survey; none of the sites was located within the proposed 100-acre expansion area. Of the four sites, two were considered potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Section 106 consultation with the Florida State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and coordination with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation was completed during the 1982 EIS. Both agencies concurred that development of the property as a National Cemetery would not affect any historic properties, so long as these sites were avoided. Accordingly, all prior and proposed development of FNC avoids these sites. Additional background research was conducted of the Florida Master Site File database on March 2, 2017. No additional archaeological resources have been recorded within the project area since 1982.

VA also notes that should future construction activities uncover any archaeological remains, the activity in the immediate area be stopped, while a professional archaeologist evaluates the remains. In the event that human remains are found during construction or maintenance activities, the provisions of Chapter 872.05, F.S. will apply.

**Determination of Findings**

Therefore, pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1), VA has determined that no historic properties will be affected by the undertaking and requests your concurrence on VA’s finding per 36 CFR Part 800 and Executive Order 13175.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact Fernando Fernández for additional information at Fernando.Fernandez@va.gov.

Please let me know if any of the provided materials are insufficient or if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

W. Edward Hooker, III  
Historic Architect/ Cultural Resources Manager  
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
National Cemetery Administration  
Design and Construction Service

Attachment: Florida National Cemetery Site Location Map

CC: Fernando L. Fernández, Environmental Engineer, Department of Veterans Affairs, OCFM  
Douglas Pulak, Federal Preservation Officer, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
<table>
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**Postage**
- $1.15

**Signature Confirmation Restricted Delivery**
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**PS Form 3800, April 2015 PSN 7530-02-000-9047**

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**Complete This Section**

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   - [ ] No

2. **Address:**
   - [ ] Yes
   - [ ] No

3. **Delivery Address:**
   - [ ] Yes
   - [ ] No

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**Address:**
- 246 Bronough Street
- Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

**Postmark:**
- Nov 05 2019

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**Complete This Section for Delivery**

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**Project Information**

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<td>05/08/2020</td>
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<td>Description:</td>
<td>DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, NATIONAL CEMETERY SYSTEM, SITE-SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF THE 100-ACRE SUPPLEMENT EXPANSION PROJECT FLORIDA NATIONAL CEMETERY, BUSHNELL, SUMPTER COUNTY FLORIDA</td>
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**Agency Comments:**

- **STATE - FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE**
  - No Final Comments Received
- **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION - FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**
  - No Final Comments Received
- **SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WMD - SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**
  - A SWFWMD environmental resource permit could be required for this activity. The applicant is encouraged to coordinate with the SWFWMD’s regulatory staff for a definitive response prior to any site work. For assistance or additional information concerning the ERP program, please contact Rob McDaniel, ERP evaluation manager in the Tampa office, at (813) 985-7481, extension 2039, or Rob.McDaniel@swfwmd.state.fl.us.

For more information or to submit comments, please contact the Clearinghouse Office at:

3900 COMMONWEALTH BOULEVARD, M.S. 47
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-3000
TELEPHONE: (850) 245-2170
FAX: (850) 245-2189

Visit the [Clearinghouse Home Page](https://fldep.dep.state.fl.us/clearinghouse/applicant/project.asp?chips_project_id=107128) to query other projects.
To: Andrew Glucksman

Re: Florida State Clearinghouse Project Review

Project SAI#: FL202003118868C  
Date Received: 03/09/20  
Project Description: DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, NATIONAL CEMETERY SYSTEM, SITE-SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF THE 100-ACRE SUPPLEMENT EXPANSION PROJECT FLORIDA NATIONAL CEMETERY, BUSHNELL, SUMPTER COUNTY FLORIDA.

The Florida State Clearinghouse has received the above-referenced project and has forwarded it to the appropriate state agencies for review. Please refer to the State Application Identifier (SAI) number in all correspondence with the Florida State Clearinghouse regarding this project. Applicants should expect to receive their State Clearance Letter 30-60 days from the received date. Additional information can be found at http://dep.state.fl.us/secretary/oip/state_clearinghouse/manual2.htm.

Please submit all future project applications and correspondence by email to state.clearinghouse@dep.state.fl.us. If your submittal is too large to send via email or if you need other assistance, contact Chris Stahl at (850) 717-9076.
Dear Mr. Bradley, our organization greatly appreciate your concurrence as well as the notification of the modern standards for Florida Division of Historical Resources guidelines. When development of this area is planned, the information in your letter will be included in the design of the expansion and your request for attention when earthmoving operations take place will be implemented.

Thank you,

Have a safe day.

Fernando L. Fernández REM
Office: 202.632.5529
Cell: 202.876.7608

June 5, 2020

Mr. Fernando Fernández, Environmental Engineer
Department of Veteran Affairs, OCFM
Email: Fernando.Fernandez@va.gov
Subject: Florida National Cemetery 100 Acre Expansion Project, Sumter County, Florida
THPO Compliance Tracking Number: 0031010

Dear Mr. Fernández,

Thank you for contacting the Seminole Tribe of Florida – Tribal Historic Preservation Office (STOF-THPO) Compliance Section regarding the Florida National Cemetery 100 Acre Expansion Project, Sumter County, Florida and for providing us the additional information that we had requested. We apologize for the long delay in sending you our final comments but we did want to make sure you had our response for your files.

The proposed undertaking does fall within the STOF Area of Interest. After carefully reviewing the supplemental documents you provided we have determined that we have no objections to the proposed undertaking at this time. However, we would like to make you aware that the cultural resources survey conducted in 1982 does not meet current Florida Division of Historical Resources guidelines in at least two important regards, 1) the fieldwork transect interval used by the cultural resources consultant was 500 meters. The state guidelines call for intervals that can vary between 25 and 100 meters, and 2) the shovel tests excavated by the consultant measured 25 by 25 centimeters; state guidelines require shovel tests to be 50 centimeters in diameter. In effect, the area of potential effect for the cemetery was under surveyed by today’s standards. We bring this to your attention in the hope that you will make the cemetery staff, especially those involved in any ground disturbing activities, aware that they could inadvertently discovery archaeological sites. Although it is unlikely, some of those sites could contain burial remains.

Good luck with the expansion project. Please notify us if any archaeological, historical, or burial resources are inadvertently discovered during project implementation and feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

Bradley M. Mueller, MA, Compliance Specialist
STOF-THPO, Compliance Review Section
30290 Josie Billie Hwy, PMB 1004
Clewiston, FL 33440

Office: 863-983-6549 ext 12245
Fax: 863-902-1117
Email: bradleymueller@semtribe.com
Web: www.stofthpo.com
Good afternoon USACE NF NEPA compliance review team,

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has released a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposed development within the exiting Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, Sumter County, Florida.

The attached Notice of Availability (NOA) describes the proposed action and provides instructions on how to download the draft EA. Additionally, as indicated in the NOA, please send all comments to VA Project Manager Mr. Fernando Fernández via email.

Please provide comments within 30 days of this notice. Any opportunity to expedite the review is welcomed.

Thank you,

Andrew

Andrew Glucksman, LEED AP
Director, Natural Resources Group

Mabbett & Associates, Inc.
Scientists | Engineers | Program Managers
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North Smithfield, Rhode Island 02896
Tel: (781) 275-6050, ext. 401
glucksman@mabbett.com
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Good afternoon Mr. Militscher,

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has released a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposed development within the exiting Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, Sumter County, Florida.

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Please provide comments within 30 days of this notice. Any opportunity to expedite the review is welcomed.

Thank you,

Andrew

Andrew Glucksman, LEED AP
Director, Natural Resources Group

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Good afternoon Ms. Dziergowski,

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has released a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposed development within the exiting Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, Sumter County, Florida.

The attached Notice of Availability (NOA) describes the proposed action and provides instructions on how to download the draft EA. Additionally, as indicated in the NOA, please send all comments to VA Project Manager Mr. Fernando Fernández via email.

Please provide comments within 30 days of this notice. Any opportunity to expedite the review is welcomed. Please forward to other appropriate USFWS personnel, as required.

Thank you,

Andrew

Andrew Glucksman, LEED AP
Director, Natural Resources Group

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Good afternoon Ms. Lowe-Zepeda,

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Please provide comments within 30 days of this notice. Any opportunity to expedite the review is welcomed.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

Andrew

Andrew Glucksman, LEED AP  
Director, Natural Resources Group

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Good afternoon Dr. Langley,

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Please provide comments within 30 days of this notice.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

Andrew

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Director, Natural Resources Group

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Good afternoon Dr. Backhouse,

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Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

Andrew

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Director, Natural Resources Group

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Good afternoon Ms. Butler,

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Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

Andrew

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Director, Natural Resources Group

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Good afternoon Mr. Donaldson,

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Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

Andrew

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Director, Natural Resources Group

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