

## **Here is the official history of how the Hard Skills Center came to QAC.**

(Entries are excerpted from the State Department's Recovery Act Weekly Updates at <http://www.state.gov/recovery/weekly/index.htm>

Entries are displayed in reverse chronological order. The Weekly Updates have been reviewed from their apparent inception on April 3, 2009.)

### **Financial and Activity Report Weekly Update: January 11, 2010**

ARRA Diplomatic and Consular Programs Hard Skills Training Center (HSTC)/Foreign Affairs Security Training Center (FASTC): On Tuesday, January 5, the Project Team conducted a public meeting at the Queen Anne's County High School in Centreville, MD.

FASTC: On Thursday, January 7, the Project Team conducted a public meeting at the Queen Anne's County High School in Centreville, MD to discuss the NHPA Section 106 and NEPA processes.

### **Financial and Activity Report Weekly Update: January 4, 2010**

FASTC: On Tuesday, January 5, the Project Team will conduct a public meeting at the Queen Anne's County High School in Centreville, MD.

FASTC: On Thursday, January 7, the Project Team will conduct a public meeting at the Queen Anne's County High School in Centreville, MD to discuss the NHPA Section 106 and NEPA process.

Foreign Affairs Security Training Center (FASTC): On Wednesday, December 30, the Project Team conducted a planning session to discuss strategy and required actions to support the NHPA Section 106 and NEPA process.

### **From the 12-28-09 weekly update:**

Foreign Affairs Security Training Center (FASTC): FASTC - On Tuesday, December 22, the Project Team conducted a planning session to discuss strategy and required actions to support the NHPA Section 106 and NEPA process.

FASTC: The Project Team is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, December 30 to continue preparations for the Jan 5 and Jan 7 public meeting in Queen Anne's County.

FASTC: On Tuesday, December 22, The Deputy Commissioner, GSA Region 3 and the Executive Director, of DS participated in a Queen Anne's County Commissioner's Public Meeting via phone conference to discuss various program elements of the project.

FASTC: On Wednesday, December 23, the Project Team conducted a Master Planning workshop to refine the DRAFT Master Plan and prepare a conceptual site plan for the January 5 public meeting.

### **From the 12-21-09 weekly update:**

Foreign Affairs Security Training Center (FASTC): On Tuesday, December 15, 2009, the Project Team met with Maryland legislative stakeholders to brief them on the project and plans for upcoming public outreach

**From 12-14-09 weekly update:**

Foreign Affairs Security Training Center (FASTC): FASTC - The Project Team conducted several planning sessions to discuss strategy and required actions to support the NHPA Section 106 and NEPA process

**From 12-07-09 weekly update:**

FASTC: On Monday, November 30, GSA contacted the Hunt-Ray Farm property owners to begin negotiations for the purchase of the site.

FASTC: On Tuesday, December 1, the Project Team conducted a review of all open comments to finalize the Program of Requirements.

FASTC: On Thursday, December 3, the Project Team conducted a site visit with the Maryland State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) to review the existing structures on the Hunt Ray Farm site. Action required as part of the Section 106 process.

**From 11-30-09 weekly update:**

FASTC: A preferred site was selected and notifications commenced.

**From 11-23-09 weekly update:**

FASTC: The Project Team met to discussion Section 106 issues related to the site acquisition process.

**From 11-02-09 weekly update:**

Hard Skills Training Center: The project team conducted an on-site evaluation and market survey at a potential site in Maryland.

**From 9-21-09 weekly update**

FASTC: The Project Team completed the Government review of the DRAFT program of requirements.

FASTC: The Project Team conducted a market survey/site evaluation in Maryland.

FASTC: The Project Team will continue detailed site evaluation activities.

FASTC: The Project Team conducted a site evaluation workshop to review the results of recent site visits and determine which properties may be worthy of further consideration.

**From 9-14-09 weekly update:**

FASTC: On September 9, 2009, conducted an initial evaluation of a property in Maryland.

**From 9-7-09 weekly update:**

Hard Skills Training Center (HSTC) - On Tuesday, September 1, the Project Team conducted a site evaluation/market survey of a 1505 acre site in Maryland

HSTC - On Tuesday, September 8, the Government will receive the first DRAFT of the Program of Requirements from the A & E firm and begin the formal, 5-day, review process.

HSTC - On Wednesday, September 2, the Project Team conducted a site evaluation/market survey of a 1250 acre site in Virginia.

HSTC - The site evaluation/market surveys included meetings with the respective property owners and members of the County and State Economic Development Councils.

**From the 8-31-09 weekly update:**

Hard Skills Training Center (HSTC) - On Wednesday, August 26, the Project Team conducted a site evaluation/market survey of a 2033 acre site in West Virginia. Hard Skills Training Center

(HSTC) - On Tuesday, September 1, the Project Team will conduct a site evaluation/market survey of a 1503 acre site in Maryland.

HSTC - On Thursday, August 27, the Project Team conducted a site evaluation/market survey of a 1868 acre site in West Virginia. HSTC - On Wednesday, September 2, the Project Team will conduct a site evaluation/market survey of a 2038 acre site in Virginia.

HSTC - On Thursday, August 27, the Project Team met with West Virginia State officials.

**From the 8-24-09 weekly update:**

HSTC: The Project Team will begin actual site visits to the 5 sites selected for further consideration and conduct meetings with respective State and local officials.

**From the 8-17-09 weekly update:**

Hard Skills Training Center (HSTC) - A & E firm completed detailed interviews with DS subject matter experts to develop the Program of Requirements

HSTC - The Project Team will conduct a site evaluation workshop on Monday, August 17. This workshop will pare the current list of 14 sites to a short-list of 5-7 for further detailed analysis.

HSTC - The Project Team concluded the programmed visits to existing training facilities with a visit to the FLETC North facility in Cheltenham, MD.

**From the 7-20-09 weekly update:**

Hard Skills Training Center: Project team will conduct initial evaluation of potential sites on July 24, 2009

**From the 7-13-09 weekly update:**

HSTC: Received and began evaluating and responding to numerous inquiries and expressions of interest in response to the site acquisition advertisement published in FEDBIZOPPS.gov

**From the 6-29-09 weekly update:**

HSTC: Site acquisition advertisement was completed

**From 6-15-09 weekly update:**

Hard Skills Training Center: With GSA project team, conducted initial screening of sites

**From 6-08-09 weekly update:**

Hard Skills Training Center: Hired a Program Manager to coordinate project. Position to be paid for using ARRA funds. Expected arrival date is July 1.

**From 5-25-09 weekly update:**

Hard Skills Training Center: Presolicitation notice for Architectural and Engineering Services posted in FEDBIZOPS

**From 4-27-09 weekly update:**

Hard Skills Training Center (HSTC): Met with GSA General Counsel and reached agreement on ownership of of HSTC and conveyance of unfettered use of the facility to DOS. DOS are GSA are drafting a MOA.

**From 4-13-09 weekly update:**

Hard Skills Training Center: DOS Office of Real Property Management sent letter to GSA Office of Real Estate Aquisition formally requesting assistance in acquiring a site

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