

Pentagon Wants Bolling As Intelligence Center

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The Pentagon is asking Congress for \$86.1 million to put up a multistory military intelligence center at Bolling-Anacostia in Far Southwest Washington that would employ almost 3,000 people.

The proposal, contained in the Defense Department's budget request for the fiscal year beginning July 1, would consolidate at one location most of the Defense Intelligence Agency's various offices and departments, now scattered across the metropolitan area.

It would also mean that the 87-acre Arlington Hall Station, currently occupied by DIA and located just west of Glebe Road on U. S. 50 in Arlington, would be turned over to the county for use as a park. DIA long sought, and Arlington citizens have apparently successfully defeated, a planned expansion at Arlington Hall.

The site now proposed for expansion, Bolling Anacostia, has also been the focus of a long-running dispute between local governments and citizens who want it for housing and recreation and the military, which over the years has offered numerous plans for growth on the east bank of the Anacostia River.

The Pentagon proposal was disclosed by Rep. Les Aspin (D-Wis.), who attacked as too costly the plan to build what he called "a super spook headquarters." The Defense Intelligence Agency is supposed to coordinate the information-gathering activities of the military services.

A Pentagon planner familiar with the

DIA project said that "it's our intention to consolidate a lot of DIA activities that are scattered all over the area. . . The overall plan is to take 88 major defense department facilities . . . and reduce them to 23 locations."

The DIA's plans have become more costly and elaborate over the years. In 1967, when a proposal to put a DIA headquarters in Arlington Hall received serious congressional consideration, the cost was \$20 million.

A DIA spokesman said yesterday that inflation was a prime factor in the new estimate of \$86 million but added that "additional facilities (are needed) as the mission and orientation of the DIA have changed."

The District government has been enjoined by Congress not only from construction at Bolling but even from planning land use for the federally owned 920-acre tract until 1980. In the meantime, the former runways of Bolling Air Force Base have become a military boom town.

There is more than \$40 million in construction under way, including homes for 1,055 military families. About 6,000 persons, military and civilian, are employed there.

Some of DIA's functions as well as its school, are already at Bolling/Anacostia and would be incorporated in the proposed building, to be completed in 1980. Most of the 2,919 people to be employed there would be newcomers to the area.

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and would put additional strain on existing transportation facilities, particularly the heavily congested Portland Avenue exit from Interstate 295.

The closest planned Metro stop is two miles away, at Good Hope Road and Minnesota Avenue SE.

City Councilman James Coates, who represents the ward containing Bolling/Anacostia, said yesterday that "any additional military use delays or reduces what might be available to the District of Columbia." He also said he was concerned about the impact on transportation and other services that a continually expanding military presence would mean.

Since the Bolling runways were closed to airplanes in 1962, there have been recurring reports that the military would declare various portions of the tract surplus and give them to the city. Discussions on the subject continue, but nothing definite has materialized in 13 years and the ban on District construction remains. The Defense Department ultimately plans to employ about 18,000 persons there.

In Arlington yesterday, there was restrained joy. John W. Purdy, chairman of the County Board, noted that "the preliminary decision, dependent as it is on funding by Congress of a new facility in D.C., does not give as much hope for eventual acquisition of the space as we need before we can start counting on it."

Arlington Hall would be extremely attractive property for development: it is close-in and located on a major arterial (U.S. 50). That possibility was apparently ruled out by a DIA spokesman, who said that the property would be returned to the county under the President's Legacy of Parks program.

That, officials explained, means the property and buildings could only be used for park and recreational purposes.

Arlington Hall was originally a girls school and was acquired by the government for \$650,000 during World War II.

Hearings on the military construction authorization bill have begun at the subcommittee level in the Senate, but have not been scheduled in the House.