

Post breaking ground on new VAC site

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Dec. 22, 2008 -- Early work is underway in the construction project to create a new, relocated Vehicle Access Control site for the Claremont entrance to Carlisle Barracks.

The Army awarded the project to Odyssey International, Inc., of Lancaster, Pa. The contract of approximately \$1.5 million value runs through July 2009.

During December, the site has undergone evacuation work, clearing trees and placing markers for the new road. Utilities have been placed underground.

The new vehicle checkpoint will be relocated away from the Meadows Housing Area, providing for both security and better quality of life in the neighborhood.

The construction and relocation will enhance traffic flow on Claremont and minimize morning congestion. The horseshoe-shaped access road will be set back deeper than the current VAC access road, closer to the railroad tracks, with room for more cars awaiting security checks. And, the project includes creating a right hand turn lane from Claremont Road onto Thorpe Road.

The new road plan is designed to eliminate confusion for visitors and increase efficiency. All vehicles will travel the same route. Trucks will be inspected without having to drive a second loop. Cars with decals will enter post as they do now after the first checkpoint. Cars without decals can either continue on to the Barracks Crossing Vehicle Registration or to the Search Office, where they can obtain a visitors pass.

The project includes plans to upgrade the stop light, add street lights, place a new pedestrian sidewalk from the Meadows to the gate, and create new landscaping at the current site.

The current vehicle access operations will continue throughout the construction. The project is not expected to disrupt traffic flow on Claremont nor entry into post at the Claremont gate.