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**TESTIMONY OF DAVID MADER
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BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
July 28, 2015**

Thank you, Chairman Johnson, Ranking Member Carper, and other distinguished members of the Committee, for this opportunity to testify on behalf of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

OMB shares the Committee's interest in ensuring the best use of taxpayer funds to meet U.S. Government needs and ensure the safety and security of U.S. personnel overseas. Throughout this process, particularly in the fall of 2013, OMB's role in reviewing the State Department's proposal for a new diplomatic security training facility was to perform due diligence by ensuring that the State Department thoroughly consider alternatives to the Fort Pickett, Virginia location, the site selected for the Foreign Affairs Security Training Center (FASTC) in 2011. At OMB's direction, the primary alternative under consideration was the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC), located in Glynco, Georgia.

As part of OMB's efforts to encourage the State Department to consider alternatives to new construction, OMB facilitated analysis of the Fort Pickett and FLETC options. OMB reviewed detailed proposals submitted by both the State Department and FLETC and coordinated interagency efforts to achieve a common understanding of the capabilities and requirements of each proposed facility. In addition, OMB facilitated further discussion between the State Department and FLETC concerning whether FLETC could provide the full suite of training courses and synergies the State Department was seeking to fulfill State's diplomatic personnel security training needs. This was coupled with an effort by OMB to have the State Department closely review its cost estimates for construction of FASTC. Even prior to this review, the State Department's Bureau of Diplomatic Security was re-evaluating its plans in order to focus on hard skills training, de-scoping the original proposal from an over \$900 million facility to a \$413 million facility focusing on hard skills training, such as training with heavy weapons, explosives, and armored vehicles. These savings made FASTC construction more competitive and represented a better value for the taxpayer.

While OMB staff closely analyzed the data received from the State Department and FLETC, OMB's role was not to second guess diplomatic security requirements. The expertise for this function resides within the State Department's Bureau of Diplomatic Security. OMB ultimately relied on the State Department's unique understanding of diplomatic missions abroad to give appropriate weight to the consideration of several factors, including:

- **Location of the Facility and Interagency Synergies.** OMB's review considered the necessity for the consolidated hard-skills training facility to be located in close proximity to the DC metro area and to training sites of other partnership agencies, such as the Marine Security Guards and Marine Security Augmentation Units, to provide maximum opportunities for training synergies.
- **Timing of Constructions and Foreign Affairs Counter Threat (FACT) Training.** The State Department and FLETC agreed that a small number of FLETC facilities could accommodate FASTC project needs without modification, with most needing either supplementation or all new construction. The review also considered the timelines required for both the FLETC and FASTC options and the opportunities for expanding and/or accelerating basic FACT training for diplomats, which does not require as many specialized facilities as the more in-depth training for diplomatic security agents.
- **Access to Facilities and Course Scheduling.** The review considered the ability of the facility to provide exclusive, 24/7 access to hard-skills training facilities given the unpredictable nature of world events and the ongoing development of new training courses in light of the recommendations of the Benghazi Accountability Review Board.
- **Training Requirements.** The review also considered the ability of the consolidated hard-skills training facility to accommodate specific training requirements, such as extensive nighttime training (over 175 nights per year), specialized equipment and procedures for scenario-based training, geographic continuity of training facilities, and topographical features.
- **Support Services.** The review also considered the availability and/or proximity of life support services, such as dormitories/hotels and food service.

Part of OMB's role was to ensure that these factors were analyzed and appropriately considered. In the end, however, OMB relied on the State Department's expertise on security issues to determine which facility best met its diplomatic security training needs. Ultimately, the State Department determined that constructing FASTC at Fort Pickett would best address the Department's three competing factors: cost, capabilities, and synergies. The Administration supports the State Department's decision to locate FASTC at Fort Pickett, as reflected by the Administration's request for \$99 million in FASTC funding for FY 2016.

As part of this process, OMB also encouraged the State Department to determine how best to rapidly increase the FACT training program to cover all diplomats and U.S. employees at foreign embassies and consulates, expanding on a recommendation by the Benghazi Accountability Review Board. OMB facilitated discussions between State and FLETC regarding the expansion of FACT training. On March 27, the State Department certified FLETC as an interim FACT facility. On July 27, FLETC began its first pilot FACT course.

Thank you again for the invitation to be here today, and I look forward to the opportunity to answer any questions you may have about OMB's role in facilitating the discussion and analysis leading up to the State Department's decision to proceed with FASTC at Fort Pickett.