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## **Army Corps' Revised List Draws Protests**

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MIDDLETOWN —

Although officials from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers presented several different locations for a new Armed Forces Reserve Center, residents gathered at a public meeting Wednesday were upset that a property along Boardman Road remained on the list.

David Dale, deputy district engineer for the Corps, said the list of potential sites had been reduced over the past few weeks from 16 to four. The four include the 29-acre Bysiewicz property on Middle Street; the 37-acre Cucia Park parcel on Smith Street; a former military base on Mile Lane owned by the government; and a 137-acre parcel along Boardman Lane and Ken Dooley Drive.

The proposed center would house a vehicle maintenance shop, a storage facility, administrative offices and classrooms for citizen soldiers. Officials noted, however, that only a 25-acre chunk of property would be used for the facility. The center is being built as a result of the Base Realignment and Closure Act, which requires the closing of several bases in the state and the relocation of their activities to a new center to be built in Middletown.

"We think this is a much better list than what we started with," Dale said. "We have some very viable sites. All the sites are going to have some sort of impact. The question is which one has the least impact."

But residents again were upset that the Corps would consider a "pristine site" near residential homes.

"You say you want to work with the town. To see Boardman still up raises a large concern with this

crowd," said resident Arnold Dalene.

"It's quite honestly disturbing to see Boardman on this list, especially with the public comment you have received," said Allison Dodge, a representative of U.S. Rep. Rosa L. DeLauro's office. "It's a little disconcerting to see any part of Boardman Lane on this, and Rep. DeLauro will be very disappointed to say the least."

Others in the audience asked if the Corps would consider taking the property off the list if there was a large outcry against it.

"I don't see anything falling out. ... But I would never say never," Dale said.

There was widespread support for the Cucia Park site located near I-91. A seven-member committee formed by Mayor Sebastian N. Giuliano to review potential locations of 25 acres or more across the city determined that this was the number one site. More than 55 sites were reviewed by the committee.

Councilman Ronald P. Klattenberg said everyone on the committee had their own biases, but in "the final analysis," the park was the top site.

The Corps has until the end of October to select a final site. Residents will be able to send comments on the potential sites by visiting <http://lrlcoepao.wordpress.com>.

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