

United States Air Force



Presentation

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Committee, Subcommittee on Military
Construction –Veterans Affairs

Military Construction, Military Family Housing, and BRAC

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March 12, 2014

March 12, 2014

Introduction

The mission of the United States Air Force is to fly, fight and win ...in air, space and cyberspace. We do so through our six core capabilities of air and space superiority, global strike, rapid global mobility, precision engagement, information superiority and agile combat support. These capabilities are enabled and reinforced by our global network of Air Force installations, and managing those installations involves understanding and balancing mission requirements, risk, market dynamics, budgets, and the condition of our assets. As such, the health of our installations, environment and energy programs directly contributes to overall Air Force readiness.

Installations

Ready installations are an integral part of ensuring a ready Air Force. We view our installations as foundational platforms comprised of both built and natural infrastructure which: (1) serve as enablers for Air Force enduring core missions - we deliver air, space and cyberspace capabilities from our installations; (2) send a strategic message to both allies and adversaries - they signal commitment to our friends, and intent to our foes; (3) foster partnership-building by stationing our Airmen side-by-side with our Coalition partners; and (4) enable worldwide accessibility in times of peace, and when needed for conflict. Taken together, these strategic imperatives require us to provide efficiently operated sustainable installations to enable the Air Force to support the Defense Strategic Guidance.

In our Fiscal Year 2015 President's Budget request, the Air Force attempted to strike the delicate balance of a ready force today and a modern force tomorrow while also recovering from the impacts of sequestration and adjusting to budget reductions. To help achieve that balance the Air Force elected to accept risk in installation support, Military Construction and facilities sustainment. The Air Force funded facilities sustainment at 65 percent of the OSD's Facilities Sustainment Model; reduced restoration and modernization account by 20 percent and MILCON by 33 percent from the Fiscal Year 2014 President's

March 12, 2014

Budget. In doing so, we acknowledge near-term Facilities Sustainment, Restoration & Modernization, and MILCON program reductions will have long term effects on the health of infrastructure. However, these reductions are critical to maintaining adequate resourcing across the Future Years Defense Program (FYDP) for some of the Air Force's unique capabilities.

In total, our Fiscal Year 2015 President's Budget request contains \$3.32 billion for military construction, facility sustainment, restoration and modernization, as well as another \$328 million for Military Family Housing operations and maintenance. For sustainment, we request \$1.8 billion; for restoration and modernization, \$547 million; and for military construction, we request \$956¹ million, which is approximately \$366 million less than our Fiscal Year 2014 President's Budget request. This decrease in military construction defers infrastructure recapitalization requirements while supporting Combatant Commander (COCOM) requirements, weapon system beddowns, capabilities to execute the Defense Strategic Guidance, and distributes MILCON funding equitably between Active, Guard, and Reserve components.

Readiness

Our Fiscal Year 2015 President's Budget request includes vital facility and infrastructure requirements in support of Air Force readiness and mission preparedness. Examples of this include investments in projects which strengthen our space posture at Clear Air Force Station, Alaska, and support Total Force cyberspace and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance projects at several locations, including W.K. Kellogg Airport, Michigan, Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, and Des Moines International Airport, Iowa.

Consistent with Defense Strategic Guidance, another key focus area for the Air Force is the Asia-Pacific Theater, where we will make key investments to ensure our ability to project power into areas

¹ \$956M is the Total Force funding request including Active, Guard and Reserve

March 12, 2014

which may challenge our access and freedom to operate, and continue efforts to enhance resiliency.

Guam remains one of the most vital and accessible locations in the western Pacific. . For the past eight years, Joint Region Marianas-Andersen Air Force Base (AFB) has accommodated a continuous presence of our Nation's premier air assets, and will continue to serve as the strategic and operational nucleus for military operations in support of a potential spectrum of crises.

To fully support Pacific Command's strategy, the Air Force is committed to hardening critical infrastructure, mitigating asset vulnerabilities, and increasing redundancy, as part of Pacific Airpower Resiliency. In 2015, we plan to continue the development of the Pacific Regional Training Center (PRTC) by constructing a combat communications infrastructure facility, a RED HORSE logistics facility, and a satellite fire station. These facilities will enable mandatory contingency training and enhance the operational capability to build, maintain, operate, and recover a 'bare base' at forward-deployed locations, and foster opportunities for partnership building in this vitally important area of the world.

Modernization

The Fiscal Year 2015 President's Budget request includes key infrastructure investments to support the beddown of the F-35A and KC-46A. Our ability to support the beddowns of our new fighter and tanker aircraft depends on meeting construction timelines for critical infrastructure - facilities such as aircraft maintenance hangars, training and operations facilities, and apron and fuels infrastructure. This year's President's Budget request includes \$187 million for the beddown of the KC-46A at three locations. This consists of \$34 million at McConnell AFB, Kansas, for Main Operating Base (MOB) 1, \$111 million at Tinker AFB, Oklahoma, for KC-46A depot maintenance, and \$42 million at Pease International Tradeport Air National Guard Base (ANGB), New Hampshire, for MOB 2. This request also includes \$67 million for the beddown of the F-35A at two locations, consisting of \$40 million at Nellis AFB, Nevada, for an aircraft maintenance unit, hangar, and weapons school facilities, and \$27 million at Luke AFB,

March 12, 2014

Arizona, for an aircraft maintenance hangar and flightline fillstands.

Our Fiscal Year 2015 program also supports vital COCOM priorities, such as continuation of a multi-year effort to recapitalize the U.S. Strategic Command headquarters facility at Offutt AFB, Nebraska, construction of the U.S. Cyber Command Joint Operations Center at Fort Meade, Maryland, and construction of the U.S. European Command Joint Intelligence Analysis Center Consolidation (Phase 1) at RAF Croughton, United Kingdom.

People

During periods of fiscal turmoil, we must never lose sight of our Airmen and their families. Airmen are the source of Air Force airpower. Regardless of the location, the mission, or the weapon system, our Airmen provide the knowledge, skill, and determination to fly, fight and win. There is no better way for us to demonstrate our commitment to service members and their families than by providing quality housing on our installations. We are proud to report that as of September 2013, the Air Force has privatized our military family housing at each of our stateside installations. To date, the Air Force has awarded 32 projects at 63 bases for 53,323 end-state homes.

The Air Force continues to manage more than 18,000 government-owned family housing units at overseas installations. We use Military Family Housing Operations and Maintenance (O&M) sustainment funds to sustain adequate units, and MILCON to upgrade and modernize homes older than 20-plus years, to meet the housing requirements of our Airmen and their families, and the Joint service members we also support overseas.

Similarly, our focused and efficient investment strategy for dormitories has enabled the Air Force to remain on track to meet the DoD goal of 90 percent adequate permanent party dorm rooms for unaccompanied Airmen by 2017. The Fiscal Year 2015 President's Budget request for military construction includes one dormitory at Hanscom AFB, Massachusetts--our Dormitory Master Plan's top

March 12, 2014

priority. With your support, we will continue to ensure wise and strategic investment in these quality of life areas providing modern housing and dormitory communities. More importantly, your continued support will take care of our most valued asset, our Airmen and their families.

Closures and Realignments

We do all of this while recognizing that we are carrying infrastructure that is excess to our needs. While we have no recent excess infrastructure capacity analysis from which to draw, the Department's capacity analysis from 2004 estimated that the Air Force had 24 percent excess infrastructure capacity. Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) 2005 directed the Air Force to close only 8 minor installations and 63 realignments affecting 122 installations. Since then the Air Force has reduced our force structure by more than 500 aircraft and reduced our active-duty military end strength by nearly 8 percent. So, intuitively we know we still have excess infrastructure.

Since the last BRAC round, we have strived to identify new opportunities and initiatives that enable us to maximize the impact of every dollar we spend. Our efforts to demolish excess infrastructure, recapitalize our family housing through privatization, unlock the fiscal potential value of under-utilized resources through leasing, and reduce our energy costs have paid considerable dividends.

Since 2006, we have demolished 48.8 million square feet of aging building space that was excess to our needs and we estimate the resultant savings at greater than \$300 million. We have demolished antiquated administrative facilities, ill-suited for today's technological age; we have eliminated aircraft operational and maintenance facilities that we no longer need based on reductions to the size of our aircraft fleet; and we have demolished old and energy-inefficient warehouse facilities no longer needed due to rapidly evolving supply chains that reduce the need for localized storage.

March 12, 2014

Despite our best efforts and the innovative programs, the Air Force continues to spend money maintaining excess infrastructure that would be better spent recapitalizing and sustaining our weapons systems, training to improve readiness, and investing in the quality of life needs of our Airmen. Divestiture of excess property on a grander scale is a must.

European Infrastructure Consolidation

The Secretary of Defense directed a capacity analysis to explore opportunities for reducing long-term expenses through infrastructure consolidation in Europe, and the Air Force fully supports this effort. Since 1990, the Air Force has reduced both aircraft and forces stationed in Europe by almost 75 percent. Currently, the Air Force is thoroughly evaluating its European infrastructure: today we operate from six main operating bases, supporting our NATO commitments and providing throughput and global access for six unified combatant commands. We removed one A-10 squadron in Europe in Fiscal Year 2013, programmed for the reduction in the level of operations at Lajes Field, Portugal to better match infrastructure requirements to mission demand, and divested one Air Control Squadron and two Air Support Operations Squadrons. Through the Office of Secretary of Defense-led European Infrastructure Consolidation study, we are looking for additional opportunities for cost savings through consolidation and closure.

Conclusion

The Air Force made hard strategic choices during formulation of this budget request. The Air Force attempted to strike the delicate balance of a ready force today and a modern force tomorrow while also recovering from the impacts of sequestration and adjusting to budget reductions. To help achieve that balance the Air Force elected to accept risk in installation support, Military Construction and facilities sustainment. We believe this risk is prudent and manageable in the short-term, but we must continue the dialogue on right-sizing our installations footprint for a smaller, but more capable

March 12, 2014

force that sets the proper course for enabling the Defense Strategy while addressing our most pressing national security issue - our fiscal environment.

In spite of fiscal challenges, we remain committed to our Airmen and their families. The privatization of housing at our stateside installations provides our families with modern homes that improve their quality of life now and into the future. We also maintain our responsibility to provide dormitory campuses that support the needs of our unaccompanied Airmen.

Finally, we continue to carefully scrutinize every dollar we spend. Our commitment to continued efficiencies, a properly sized force structure, and right-sized installations will enable us to ensure maximum returns on the Nation's investment in her Airmen, who provide our trademark, highly valued airpower capabilities for the Joint team.