



Chairman Charlie Dent

*Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs
House Committee on Appropriations*

FY 2016 Budget Hearing - Installations, Environment, Energy and BRAC

March 3, 2015

Opening Statement As Prepared

Good afternoon. I want to welcome everyone to this afternoon's hearing on Installations, Environment, Energy and BRAC for Fiscal Year 2016.

We have many questions to address concerning the fiscal year 2016 budget request—specifically the impact of the budget submission being above Budget Control Act levels, the impact of sequestration and how force structure changes will affect the military construction budget in fiscal year 2016 and beyond. In addition, the Department of Defense has just completed an evaluation of installations in Europe—the European Infrastructure Consolidation Study. Another high profile issue is the European Reassurance Initiative, which our allies are very interested in. Last, we all have a keen interest in managing our facilities better in terms of requirements versus capacity, both overseas and in the United States. The panel before us today has a lot of answers to these questions, I am sure. Before I introduce our witnesses, I would like to turn to the ranking member, Mr. Bishop, for any opening remarks he would like to make.

I would now introduce our witnesses:

- The Honorable John Conger, Performing the duties of Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations and Environment ;
- The Honorable Katherine Hammack, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment;
- The Honorable Dennis V. McGinn, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations and Environment; and
- Ms. Miranda Ballentine, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force Installations, Environment, and Energy

Thank you for taking the time to be here and sharing your perspectives and expertise. Without objection, your written statements will be entered into the record. Due to the number of witnesses, I would ask that each of you summarize your statement in about five minutes, so that we maximize the time for dialogue between the panel and the subcommittee Members.

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