



Chairman Charlie Dent

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

**FY 2017 Installations, Environment, Energy and BRAC Budget and Oversight Hearing
March 3, 2016
Opening Statement As Prepared**

Good morning. I want to welcome everyone to this morning's hearing on Installations, Environment, Energy and BRAC for Fiscal Year 2017.

We have many questions to address concerning the fiscal year 2017 budget request. Specifically that the military construction budget is down by more than 10 percent from the fiscal year 2016 enacted levels. The budget request shows that Combatant Commanders' priorities were taken care of at the expense of the Services' basic needs. Additionally, the impact of the BBA is still being felt as the Services attempt to include funding to restore projects that were removed from the fiscal year 2015 request. Finally, how force structures changes will affect the military construction budget in fiscal year 2017 and beyond are still of great concern. Another high profile issue is the European Reassurance Initiative, which our allies are very interested in and the fiscal year 2017 budget request includes \$113.6 million for seven countries. 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.

I would now introduce our witnesses:

- The Honorable Pete Potochney, Acting 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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