



Chairman Charlie Dent

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

**Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Subcommittee
Quality of Life Hearing
March 8, 2017
Opening Statement as Prepared**

Good morning. I want to welcome everyone to today's hearing on Military Quality of Life for our service members.

Today's hearing is on the quality of life for our enlisted soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen, and their families. The four witnesses at the table are the senior enlisted members of their respective branches. Members should know that we have roughly 120 years in combined military experience before us today. This hearing is a great opportunity to identify areas where we can do more to help those who protect us and defend this Nation. We have many positive things to talk about, however, there are also very serious issues facing the military.

Over the weekend we read about the Marine Corps photo-sharing issue and its on-going investigation. What we've learned is very disturbing and utterly disrespectful. I understand Sgt. Major Green will address the issue in his remarks so I would like to give him an opportunity to do so. None of us will tolerate such behavior, and I appreciate that the Department of Defense is taking this issue as seriously as all of us on this subcommittee.

Our witnesses today are:

Sergeant Major of the Army, Daniel A. Dailey from Palmerton, PA; Sergeant Major Dailey is a returning witness. His wife Holly is also in attendance. Sergeant Major Dailey was sworn in as the 15th sergeant major on January 30, 2015. He has 28 years of service and enlisted in the Army in 1989; he attended Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training at Ft. Benning, GA. Sergeant Major Dailey's awards include the Legion of Merit and Bronze Star Medal with Valor.

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, Steven Giordano. Master Chief Giordano is a first-time witness. His wife Elka is also in attendance. She is the Navy's Ombudsman at-large for the Chief of Naval Operations. Master Chief Giordano was appointed on September 2, 2016, becoming the 14th Master Chief Petty Officer. He has 28 years of service and enlisted in the Navy 1989. He also served as the force master chief for Navy Information Dominance Forces and fleet master chief for U.S. Naval Forces Europe/U.S Naval Forces Africa. He is designated a specialist in submarine, surface

and information warfare

Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Ronald Green. Sergeant Major Green is a returning witness. His wife Andrea is also in attendance. Sergeant Major Green assumed his current post as the 18th Sergeant Major of the Marines Corps on February 20, 2015. He has 34 years of service and attended recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina in 1983. He has served as drill sergeant and master drill sergeant at Parris Island. He has served at two three-star commands, a rare distinction for the rank. He served Marine Corps Forces Europe and Africa in Stuttgart, Germany in 2010.

Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, Kaleth Wright. Chief Master Sergeant Wright is a first time witness. His wife Tonya is also in attendance. He was appointed in February 17, 2017, as the 18th Chief Master Sergeant. He has 28 years of service and enlisted in the Air Force in 1989. His background includes various duties in dental career field and served as a Professional Military Education instructor. Prior to assuming his current position, he was the Command Chief Master Sergeant, U.S. Air Forces in Europe and U.S. Air Forces Africa.

Thank you all for taking the time to be here. Without objection, your written statements will be entered into the record. Please feel free to summarize your remarks in about five minutes each.

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