



Chairman Charlie Dent

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

FY 2019 Budget Oversight Hearing on Energy, Installations, and Environment

April 12, 2018

Opening Statement As Prepared

Good morning. I want to welcome everyone to this morning's budget and oversight hearing on Energy, Installations, and Environment for Fiscal Year 2019.

It is great to see that the fiscal year 2019 budget request of \$11.4 billion for military construction and family housing (including OCO) is an increase of \$1 billion or 9.6 percent above the fiscal year 2018 budget request and \$558 million above the fiscal year 2018 enacted level. Hopefully, this increase will address some of the most urgent construction needs within the Services.

The Bipartisan Budget Agreement modified the discretionary spending caps imposed by the BCA for fiscal years 2018 and 2019, which I am sure was of great relief to all in this room. The Committee is still concerned how force structure changes will affect the military construction budget in fiscal year 2019 and beyond. Another high profile issue is the European Deterrence/Reassurance Initiative, which our allies are very interested in and for which the fiscal year 2019 budget request includes \$936.6 million for 11 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. Before I introduce our witnesses, I would like to turn to the ranking member, Mrs. Wasserman Schultz, for any opening remarks she would like to make.

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