

NOT FOR PUBLICATION UNTIL
RELEASED BY THE HOUSE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY CONSTRUCTION,
VETERANS AFFAIRS, and RELATED AGENCIES,
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

**STATEMENT OF
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FLEET READINESS AND LOGISTICS
U.S. NAVY**

BEFORE THE

**HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY CONSTRUCTION,
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES,**

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

MAY 13, 2021

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Chairwoman Wasserman Schultz, Ranking Member Carter, and distinguished members of the Committee, it is an honor to appear before you representing the thousands of Navy Sailors and civilians at our seventy-one installations worldwide. Thank you for the opportunity to testify about the importance of our infrastructure, its resiliency, and all of the base operating support required to meet the Navy's critical missions.

One innovative way that we look at installation resilience is by viewing our installations as military platforms with assigned missions. We then assess the ability of the installation platforms around the world to accomplish their missions despite deliberate actions by adversaries or natural events that may deny, disrupt, exploit, or destroy the ability of the installation platform to carry out those assigned missions. The operation and maintenance of these platforms, as well as their future development and ability to support missions, require long-term planning, careful investment, and timely program execution.

Energy and climate resiliency are critical, as they are integral to the long term ability of our Navy to support ongoing operations, and ensure our Sailors are equipped to meet adversity. Energy resilience... Climate resilience focuses on consideration of environmental vulnerabilities in installation master planning, management of natural resources, design and construction standards, utility systems/service, and emergency management operations. Moving forward, the Navy will continue to prioritize all facets of resilience in installation decisions to ensure the ongoing, highest level of mission capabilities.

The Navy must deliver affordable, sustainable, environmentally compliant and safe shore platforms through improved processes. The Navy's FY22 Military Construction (MILCON) program optimizes Navy installations to enable global logistics and force development, generation and employment from the shore. Targeted sustainment of existing assets and prioritized modernization of our infrastructure will ensure readiness at the lowest overall lifecycle cost. Investments in increased resilience of Navy installations to extreme weather events and sea-level rise will result in long term cost avoidance. Continued use of standard design criteria, increased use of expeditionary standards and mandated use of standard designs for new construction will reduce delivery costs and increase buying capacity. Finally, in order to optimize the shore footprint and maximize resources, the Navy must consolidate and divest infrastructure that does not contribute directly to Fleet readiness and lethality.

MILCON Execution

The 2021 Military Construction Appropriations and Authorizations included a total of \$927 million for nineteen projects, funding for Planning and Design, and Unspecified Minor Construction projects. These nineteen projects included seven overseas projects that total \$319 million in investment to enhance global reach and persistent presence of forward-deployed naval forces.

Infrastructure Sustainment and Restoration

When viewed as platforms, Navy installations missions enable fleet operations, equipment reconstitution, material sustainment, Total Force training, unit recovery, Sailor administrative support, and quality of life programs. Facility Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization (FSRM) investment is necessary to ensure these missions can be carried out. The FSRM program maintains the working order of our facilities inventory and prevents premature condition degradation of mission critical facilities. We are prioritizing investments in our critical readiness infrastructure. Our public shipyards, dry docks, maintenance facilities, and aviation depots are vital national assets. The Shipyard Infrastructure Optimization Plan (SIOP) will deliver efficient and modernized shipyards through upgrading existing dry docks and building new ones, reimagining the physical layout of the shipyards, and replacing antiquated capital equipment with modern machines. Additionally, we are investing in our fleet support infrastructure, the global network of bases and stations, which generates naval power from the shore. Navy Shore leadership is preparing a long-term strategic investment plan that focuses our resources on the locations that best support our future force.

Base Operating Support (BOS) comprises Fleet Operations, Safety and Security, Facility Support, Navy Quality of Life, and Mission Support and Management programs provided to seventy one Navy Installations. BOS funding remains essentially flat, creating challenges as new priorities arise each year.

Additionally, the Navy must address climate change and resiliency within the FSRM program. These projects enhance the Navy's waterfront resiliency against environmental and

other vulnerabilities and improve utility infrastructure, increasing the Navy installations' energy and water resiliency, efficiency, and security.

Child Development Centers

Navy Child and Youth Programs (CYP) provide affordable, quality child and youth development and school transition programs to meet Navy families' readiness requirements to enable warfighter lethality. Currently the Navy provides care for 45.9K children ages 0-12. Affordable, quality commercial childcare capacity shortages nation-wide exacerbate Navy childcare waiting lists. Childcare shortages are most prevalent in fleet concentration areas such as Norfolk, VA; San Diego, CA; NAVBASE Kitsap, Bremerton, WA; Pearl Harbor, HI; and the National Capital Region.

The Navy is working on several innovative approaches to expand funded childcare capacity to include commercial leasing, repurposing under-utilized installation facilities, expanding fee assistance, increasing childcare options for activated/drilling Reservists, procuring Mobile Learning Centers, and contracting for remote OCONUS childcare. Thank you for your support to childcare, a critical enabler for Navy family and warfighter readiness.

Conclusion

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. We look forward to working with you to continue to enhance and enable warfighting capability, and readiness through optimization and increased resiliency of our installation platforms to support Navy critical missions across the spectrum of competition.