

NOT FOR PUBLICATION UNTIL  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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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY  
(ENERGY, INSTALLATIONS & ENVIRONMENT)**

**BEFORE THE**

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

**OF THE**

**COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS**

**MAY 18, 2022**

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## **Introduction**

Chairwoman Wasserman Schultz, Ranking Member Carter, and distinguished members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on Department of the Navy's (DON) Installations and Quality of Life. I look forward to sharing with you how Navy and Marine Corps shore installations enable warfighting readiness and enhance the quality of life for our Marines, Sailors, Civilians, and their families.

The DON's Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 budget request reflects the resources necessary to advance and safeguard vital U.S. national interests outlined in the National Defense Strategy – integrated deterrence, campaigning forward, and building upon our enduring advantages – by building and operating a lethal and integrated naval force capable of preserving freedom of navigation, deterring aggression, and defending our Nation and our way of life. As the Secretary of Navy stated in his recent congressional testimony, the DON is committed to working with Congress to ensure that our Sailors and Marines are equipped, trained, and prepared to the best of our ability so they can fulfill their vital role in support of the Joint Force and protect our national security interests.

Navy and Marine Corps installations play a vital role in enabling the capacity, lethality, modernization, and readiness of Naval Forces around the world, and our FY 2023 military construction budget request is aligned to Secretary of the Navy's priorities to: (1) Strengthen Maritime Dominance, (2) Empower Our People, and (3) Expand Strategic Partnerships. Looking across this budget year and into the future years defense plan, we are advancing the expeditionary readiness of the future operating environment outlined in the Marine Corps' *Force Design 2030* and supporting the Navy's *Navigation Plan* through investments in the

industrial maintenance infrastructure and the operating capability of platforms and fleet combat capabilities.

### **Strengthen Maritime Dominance**

Navy and Marine Corps installations located in the United States and around the world are essential shore platforms from which naval forces train, deploy, and maintain forward presence to enable geographic Combatant Commanders to meet operational requirements. The DON's FY 2023 Military Construction budget request of \$3.8 billion supports Naval Shipyard Optimization; the operating capability of new platforms such as F-35, CH-53, and the *Columbia*-Class submarine; the relocation of Marines from Japan to Guam; and investments in barracks and child development centers that improve the quality of life of Marines, Sailors, and their families.

Climate change increases risk and exposes vulnerabilities to our people, installations, platforms, and operations, and it impacts and expands the mission set our naval forces must support. Our priority in the FY 2023 budget request includes investments that enhance operational capability, mission resilience, and readiness. Across all DON installations, the leadership is tackling the challenges brought by climate change, sea level rise, and extreme weather holistically by incorporating installation resilience as a cross-cutting consideration in our decision-making processes for installation operations, master planning and the design, construction, and recapitalization of infrastructure. The Navy has completed installation energy plans for all 70 of their installations and the Marine Corps is on track to complete them by the

end of calendar year 2022. The Navy and Marine Corps are steadily integrating resilience into their installation master plans, with Naval Base San Diego in California and Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island in South Carolina slated to complete within the next few months.

Our FY 2023 budget request includes targeted investments to enhance installation resilience by improving the efficiency of our facilities and systems ashore, mitigating the vulnerabilities of our energy, water and facility control systems, and investing in technologies such as energy storage and microgrids that can enable rapid recovery from severe weather or cyber threats. The DON is also continuing to develop Energy Resilience Readiness Exercise programs that include table top, intermediate-level, and full-scale exercises to test mission continuing operations plans, utility emergency response plans, infrastructure configuration, and equipment condition.

The DON has used the additional military construction planning and design funds provided by this committee to conduct studies, update resilience design standards, and invest in tools to enable technical experts DON-wide to proactively and comprehensively address a full range of installation resilience threats and vulnerabilities. We have also funded designs for high-priority resilience projects at Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz in Guam, the U.S. Naval Academy in Maryland, Naval Base Ventura County in California, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in North Carolina, and Naval Support Activity Naples in Italy. Finally, the Navy and Marine Corps will also continue to leverage the Energy Resilience and Conservation Investment Program to fund military construction projects DON installations and ranges to improve energy resilience, contribute to mission assurance, save energy, and reduce energy costs.

The Nation's naval forces must have training facilities and ranges that allow them to train

like they fight. To this end, the DON remains purposefully focused on modernizing the Navy's premier aviation training range, the Fallon Range Training Complex (FRTC) in Nevada. The FRTC plays a paramount role in the readiness of Naval Aviators and Navy Sea, Air and Land forces, and we remain firmly committed to working closely with all stakeholders, to include Tribal Nations, to find a viable path to provide our warfighters a range complex that allows them to train for the high-end fight.

### **Empower Our People**

The Secretary of the Navy has instilled a culture of warfighting excellence that treats all with dignity and respect and provides opportunities for every Sailor, Marine, and Civilian to advance in a supportive environment without barriers or discrimination. Navy and Marine Corps installations play an essential role in this vision as the place for our people to live, train, rest and recharge.

When supporting our people, we owe our Marines, Sailors, and their families a safe place to live in government or privatized housing. The DON's FY 2023 request invests \$249 million in new family housing construction projects in Guam and \$75 million to improve housing in Yokosuka, Japan, and sustains funding for additional government personnel to oversee privatized housing and advocate for service members and their families. In addition to increasing the government personnel our installation housing offices, the Navy and Marine Corps has instituted new quality control measures and trained installation commanding officers to advocate for military families and resolve privatized housing issues. Over the last six months, I have made a

concerted effort to get out and visit Navy and Marine Corps installations, and I have visited with installation commanding officers to ensure they are personally involved in resolving privatized housing issues and advocating for military families. I have also talked to residents to hear what we are doing right and what we can do better. The DON recently hosted a session with our privatized housing partners to explore the sharing of best practices and service provider contracting procedures among our Military Housing Privatization Initiative partners. We will sponsor regional industry days in the coming months to bring together local service providers and contractors to identify ways to increase the quality of maintenance in our privatized family housing portfolio. Leadership at all levels throughout the DON are focused on getting this right for our people, and we will continue to convene stakeholders and find solutions that best support our Sailors, Marines, and their families.

As the Department is now seeing sustained improvement in the quality and resident satisfaction of privatized family housing, it is clear more work is needed to improve the unaccompanied housing for our Sailors and Marines. Our unaccompanied Sailors and Marines need to have the healthy and safe quarters that meet modern living standards which they deserve. The Secretary of the Navy and I are committed increasing leadership involvement in unaccompanied housing, and we look forward to providing the defense committees our comprehensive review of the condition of unaccompanied housing and a 10-year plan to address unaccompanied housing facilities that are in unsatisfactory condition.

## **Expand Strategic Partnerships**

The Navy and Marine Corps takes pride in being part of the communities in which our Marines and Sailors train, work, and live. We are working closely with our surrounding communities to implement the Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot (DCIP) program, which provides construction funds to states and communities to address deficiencies in community infrastructure that support military installations. Defense communities surrounding Navy and Marine Corps installations performed very well in the 2021 DCIP program, earning 9 of the 13 grants awarded across country in 2021, ranging from the restoration of a beach and dune system near Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story in Virginia to the construction of a new fire station to support emergency responders at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton in California.

To leverage our environmental program as a strategic asset for mission readiness, we are maximizing opportunities to collaborate with non-Department of Defense entities to protect critical resources and enable compatible development proximate to our test and training ranges. For example, through the Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration program, the DON has leveraged resources and partnered with local governmental and non-governmental organizations to protect more than 200,000 acres of land around key installations and ranges since 2003. Through these efforts, we have promoted compatible land uses for safe training and in support of mission readiness while preserving critical habitats to enhance the resilience of our installations and ranges.

We are also pursuing partnerships with the specific aim to increase the resilience of our installations. In December, the DON and the California Energy Commission (CEC) signed a

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will help the Navy and Marine Corps and the state collaborate on energy and water-related projects at DON installations. The MOU, which I co-signed with the Chair of the CEC, renewed the cooperation between the DON and California for another five years. This team meets on a monthly basis and facilitates increased coordination and collaboration to help Navy and Marine Corps installations in California address energy resilience, climate initiatives, fossil fuel reduction, greenhouse gas reduction, water consumption, and alternative-fuel vehicles.

We are also looking to grow our partnerships with industry. Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC) meets with the engineering, architecture, and construction industry on a regular basis and participates in the development of commercial standards and criteria and engages in regular dialogue on key performance indicators, evaluation factors and industry best practices. NAVFAC convenes industry forums to solicit input on cost, schedule, and constructability, and on very complex and expensive projects, NAVFAC leverages early contractor involvement to gain detailed, project-specific insight from industry experts.

## **Conclusion**

I would like to thank the Members and staff of this committee for your unwavering support for DON installations and your commitment to enhancing the quality of life of our Marines, Sailors, Civilians, and families. I look forward to working with you to ensure that the DON's FY 2023 military construction budget request effectively delivers Navy and Marine Corps installations with the capability and capacity to support, train, equip, and deploy a globally engaged and dominant naval force.