

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE PRESENTATION
TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF THE DAF FY2024 BUDGET REQUEST FOR MILITARY
CONSTRUCTION & FAMILY HOUSING

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Introduction

Chairman Carter, Ranking Member Wasserman Schultz, and distinguished members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to discuss Department of the Air Force (DAF) energy, installations, and environment programs.

Our installations remain the platforms from which we enable and project combat power in and through the air and space domain. Every DAF mission starts and ends on an installation. We train and equip for joint operations, generate readiness, test new weapon systems, control and sustain air and space weapon systems, and provide safe, healthy communities for our Airmen, Guardians, and their families at our Air and Space Force installations. DAF installations also serve as key nodes in a global network of operating locations enabling Joint Force mission success around the world. Hence, the readiness, resiliency, and sustainability of installations are matters of strategic importance.

For nearly 80 years, we have operated our installations with nearly unprecedented freedom of action. However, as the National Defense Strategy (NDS) clearly describes, the scope and scale of threats to the homeland have fundamentally changed. Our Nation faces the nexus of complex challenges: the PRC's increasingly aggressive endeavor to refashion on the Indo-Pacific and the international system; the acute threat posed by Russia; persistent threats such as North Korea, Iran, and VEOs; rapidly evolving domains and technologies that create complex escalation dynamics; competitor gray zone activities; and climate change and other transboundary challenges. We must ensure our installations are resilient, optimized, and operationally efficient to successfully defend the homeland, paced to the growing multi-domain threat posed by the PRC; deter strategic attacks against the United States, our Allies, and our partners; deter aggression and be prepared to prevail in conflict when necessary – prioritizing the PRC challenge in the Indo-Pacific region, and then the Russia challenge in Europe; and build a resilient Joint Force and defense ecosystem. We recognize the foundational capability our installations provide in advancing these priorities through integrated deterrence, campaigning and building enduring advantages.

In the face of these challenges, we made hard choices to prioritize efforts focused on integrated deterrence of increasingly aggressive competitors, operating in an evolving security

environment. Last year, we began the transition required to meet our pacing challenge through a focus on seven operational imperatives. This year's budget reflects continued modernization efforts in a resilient, effective space order of battle; operationally-optimized Advanced Battle Management System; achieving Moving Target Indication at scale; development and fielding of a Next Generation Air Dominance family-of-systems; cost-effective, resilient forward basing; global strike capabilities built around the B-21 Raider; and expeditious transition to a wartime posture.

In support of these imperatives, the DAF Military Construction (MILCON) program continues to prioritize nuclear enterprise modernization and Combatant Command (CCMD) infrastructure support with an emphasis on the European and Pacific theaters. The Facilities Sustainment, Restoration and Modernization (FSRM) portfolio remains focused on sustaining our existing infrastructure. Furthermore, we preserve the well-being and quality of life of our service members and their families through investments in housing, dormitories, and child development centers (CDCs). We appreciate the continued partnership with Congress to ensure Air and Space Forces are well-postured to compete, deter, and win.

United States Space Force

We established the United States Space Force as a lean, agile, and mission-focused military Service, relying on the United States Air Force for infrastructure, logistics, security, medical services, and a host of other support functions at our Space Force installations. Formal agreements, directives and instructions codify stakeholder roles and responsibilities for support to the mission, and to the Guardians, Airmen, Civilians, and their families that work and live on Space Force installations.

Most of the combat-ready space forces that we field are "Deployed-in-Place", meaning they execute Combatant Command missions from their home station. Mission-ready, resilient installations and facilities are absolutely integral to our readiness and effectiveness.

In FY22, the Space Force received, prioritized, and obligated our first independent appropriation for Facility, Sustainment, Restoration and Modernization (FSRM) funding. The Department of the Air Force provides an allotment of military Construction (MILCON) funding to the Space Force based on the Space Force's portion of the total plant replacement value. This approach provides flexibility to resolve resource challenges due to the Space Force's

prioritization of requirements as a new, independent Service. We prioritize projects to reduce risk to mission by addressing energy redundancy and resilience, physical security, and risk to force through quality-of-life requirements such as dormitories and child development centers.

Installations

We advance our commitment to optimizing installation investment through implementing the Infrastructure Investment Strategy (I2S), increasing senior leader oversight of the portfolio, and pursuing reforms within our MILCON program. First introduced in 2019, the I2S is the Department's long-term strategy to cost-effectively modernize and restore infrastructure readiness, improve the resiliency of mission-critical nodes, and drive innovative installation management practices. We are refining and refreshing our strategy and expect to complete an update by late 2023.

We oversee I2S implementation efforts through recurring Infrastructure Councils and Infrastructure Program Management Reviews to assess resourcing and asset management practices on infrastructure readiness. The Council developed a series of metrics that quantify the impact of I2S policies and investment decisions on infrastructure condition, facility space use, and MILCON cost growth. Regular assessments of the I2S allow senior leaders to make timely decisions, which affect program execution and future budget decisions.

Military Construction

The DAF's \$3.08 billion FY24 MILCON program request supports the National Defense Strategy's investment priorities by focusing on our pacing competitor in the Indo-Pacific theater, the acute threat posed by Russia, as well as new weapon system beddowns, and taking care of our Airmen, Guardians, and their families, caregivers, and survivors. Approximately 36% of the program, \$1.08 billion, directly supports Combatant Commanders and their most critical requirements and aligns with the National Defense Strategy to Build a More Lethal Force, while directly Prioritizing Preparedness for War. These funds will be used for airfield and maintenance capability expansion projects in Guam, the Philippines, Australia, Tinian, Japan, and Alaska, munitions and equipment storage in Norway, Spain, and the United Kingdom, Weapons Generation Facilities in Louisiana and South Dakota and a space communications facility in Florida. Approximately 34% of the program, \$1.05 billion, supports New Weapon

Systems to ensure the DAF remains the world's premier Air and Space Force. These systems include the Sentinel Ground Based Strategic Deterrent, B-21 bomber, KC-46 refueler, F-35 fighter, T-7A training aircraft, and the E-11A Battlefield Airborne Communications Node aircraft.

Balanced with combatant command priorities and new mission beddowns, our MILCON program also recapitalizes facilities that have outlived their useable life or no longer meet mission requirements. Approximately 10% of the request, \$320 million, funds current mission projects, focusing on the most critical recapitalization of existing infrastructure. The funding request includes a new dormitory in the United Kingdom, Child Development Centers in Massachusetts and Texas, installation gate projects in Florida, and a variety of others in Guam, Arizona, Colorado, Indiana, Oregon, and Texas.

Planning and Design (P&D) remains a central focus of the DAF program to reinforce program stability and consistency. Sufficient P&D enables projects to progress rapidly through design and meet maturity criteria for admissibility into the program, provides more accurate cost estimates, and maximizes the opportunity to award projects in the year of appropriation. Without sufficient P&D, the Air Force must award designs by design phase, adding risk associated with costs and timely delivery of design. The FY24 P&D request is \$482.7 million, which is larger than normal in order to develop a robust Space Force P&D program (\$90.3 million of the request) and includes weapons system specific P&D supporting B-21, Over the Horizon Radar, Sentinel, and other programs. Finally, the request includes \$137.8 million for Unspecified Minor Military Construction projects to allow us to address lower cost and emergent requirements.

Sentinel Program

The Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), first deployed in 1970, is the world's oldest land-based strategic missile system. The Sentinel program will recapitalize the Minuteman III ICBM system to ensure the continued safety, security, and reliability of Nation's ICBM force for the foreseeable future. We are investing in facilities supporting 450 missile Launch Facilities and supporting infrastructure across three missile Wings in five states. The Minuteman III-to-Sentinel conversion must occur on a precise timeline to maintain the operational readiness of the nuclear deterrent and deliver Full Operational Capability to the warfighter in the 2030s. The FY24 budget request continues to support the Sentinel program to

ensure construction remains on schedule and aligned with weapons system deployment milestones. The request includes \$140 million in funding for projects at F.E. Warren AFB, Wyoming.

Natural Disaster Recovery Efforts

The Natural Disaster Recovery (NDR) program Planning and Design (P&D) efforts are substantially complete and by the end of September 2023 it will have awarded and started construction on most projects included in the program. The DAF will make use of the \$360 million Congress provided in FY23 to address inflationary and supply chain cost increases in our NDR program. In calendar year 2022, we awarded 28 projects, totaling \$2 billion. To date, we awarded 84% of the NDR program, totaling over \$3 billion of investments to improve mission readiness, resilience, and efficiency at Tyndall AFB, FL and Offutt AFB, NE.

Facility Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization (FSRM)

We view the FSRM and MILCON programs as interdependent; together, these two funding streams serve as the foundation of sustainable DAF installations. FSRM provides a non-MILCON pathway to repair facilities and infrastructure, maximizing their lifespan. The FY24 request includes \$5.37 billion in FSRM funding. Of that \$5.37 billion, the Space Force requested \$679 million. The large increase in FY24 will fund the repair of a Thule Air Base Power Plant that powers the Missile Warning and Missile Defense weapons systems and electrical distribution projects supporting both the Eastern and Western Space launch ranges. Our priority for FSRM continues to be sustaining our existing infrastructure with increased emphasis on quality-of-life projects (i.e. dormitories, CDCs) and our operational and training infrastructure. In order to maximize the near-term impact of current funding levels, the Air Force continues to assess mission threat vulnerabilities and prioritize infrastructure repair requirements which directly affect an installation's primary mission. Our I2S drove changes in how we execute FSRM funding distributed directly to installations (considered decentralized FSRM), empowering Commanders to make the right local investment decisions, including day-to-day maintenance and smaller scale repair and sustainment projects, based on mission requirements and I2S guidance.

Child Development Centers and Dorms

We strive to provide a high quality of life for our members and their families, and at the heart of that goal is affordable, accessible childcare for our Airmen and Guardians and safe, high-quality dorms for our unaccompanied members. The DAF is using a two-prong programmatic approach to improve CDCs: targeted investments in FSRM to address facility condition concerns and posturing MILCON projects to increase capacity. In FY23, we are spending \$7.6 million in FSRM funding on four CDC projects, and in FY24 we intend to commit \$44 million in FSRM funds for CDC requirements. The FY24 MILCON program request includes \$37 million for the CDC at Hanscom AFB and a \$20 million to complete the CDC at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. Generous Congressional support in FY22 and FY23 funded all CDC MILCON projects currently at an executable design stage, and the DAF is actively working the design of additional CDC projects for inclusion in future President's Budget requests. The Child and Youth Facility Master Plan facilitates project advocacy by identifying CDC MILCON and FSRM projects that address child and youth facility condition and capacity challenges. The 21 projects currently in work (9 funded for construction, and 12 funded for planning and design) will increase capacity by approximately 2,500.

Equally important to us is providing unaccompanied service members high quality housing in our dormitory campuses. Commanders' responsibilities include protecting the health and safety of unaccompanied Airmen and Guardians. It is their responsibility to enforce inspection criteria to identify and report conditions requiring immediate and future maintenance. Funded from the DAF FSRM account, the investment strategy for dormitories focuses on sustainment, restoration, and modernization of these facilities. While 99.6% of permanent party beds were assessed as "adequate" in FY23, we intend to invest an average of \$220 million per year in FSRM funds across the five-year Future Years Defense Program to repair and improve the condition of the current inventory of dormitories. Additionally, the DAF planned \$342 million for 53 projects in FY23 and \$368 million for 39 projects in FY24 to repair and improve dormitory facilities. This level of investment is a significant increase of dormitory investments in recent years. The DAF investment strategy for unaccompanied housing focuses on restoration and modernization of dorms in their existing configurations with FSRM funds, which allows MILCON funds to address capacity shortfalls and facility recapitalization. The FY24 MILCON

request also includes \$50 million for a new dorm at RAF Lakenheath in the United Kingdom, with additional projects postured for future years in the FYDP.

DAF Basing

Our strategic basing process integrates strategic planning, resource allocation, and installation platforms to optimize basing of individual missions while ensuring overall strategic posture for readiness and power projection. Total Force synchronization enhances posture in basing of flying and non-flying missions while guaranteeing training, readiness, and operational capabilities to COCOMs. With tiered authorities, DAF leadership is engaged at key decision nodes to align actions with the NDS, while notifying Congress at significant decision points.

We appreciate congressional interest and legislative language supporting Military Family Readiness, to include the FY23 additions of healthcare and housing, alongside the existing licensure portability in making certain basing decisions. This focus affirms the central importance of families and caregivers as a key aspect in recruitment and retention, as they reside in the very same communities which support our installations. Additional engagement by states and localities continues to be a critical facet for providing adequate and accessible healthcare and housing, while also bolstering against encroachment around installations, airfields, and ranges.

Housing, Construction, Operation and Maintenance

The DAF Housing program provides for housing construction, planning and design, and operations and maintenance (O&M) while focusing on eliminating inadequate housing from the DAF inventory and correcting health and safety deficiencies. In addition to enabling planning studies, design for future construction projects, renovation of existing DAF-owned homes, the military family housing construction program also supports the restructure of privatized housing projects.

Our military family housing O&M program sustains, improves, and modernizes our inventory of approximately 15,200 DAF-owned family housing units and provides enhanced oversight of over 52,000 privatized homes. However, the high cost of construction requires solutions within the DAF family housing construction program to achieve the full scope of other projects. Combined, the family housing O&M and construction programs will ensure continued

support for the housing needs of Airmen, Guardians, their families and caregivers, as well as our Army, Navy, and Marine Corps teammates living in DAF owned and privatized family housing.

Privatized Family Housing

Quality, affordable housing has a direct correlation to recruitment, retention, and readiness. Hence, we remain focused on improved oversight, long-term financial health, and sustainment of the housing inventory. We are committed to ensuring Military Housing Privatization Initiative (MHPI) projects provide safe, quality, and well-maintained housing where military members and their families and caregivers will want and choose to live.

We continue our efforts to improve our privatized housing portfolio and address the remaining elements of the MHPI reforms set out in the FY 2020-23 National Defense Authorization Acts (NDAA). We made significant progress to implement reforms to enhance our oversight of privatized housing and hold MHPI companies accountable for providing quality housing. Specifically, several congressionally mandated NDAA provisions were implemented throughout various DAF housing programs including:

- FY 2020 NDAA Section 3011: We collaborated with the private-sector MHPI companies to universally agree to adopt 18 rights set out in the MHPI Tenant Bill of Rights. All but two companies have either implemented or agreed to implement all 18 of these rights. While the remaining two companies do not yet provide the MHPI Tenant Rights to dispute resolution, or rent segregation, these projects remain fully compliant with their project legal agreements with the DAF. As Congress has recognized, applying many of the Tenant rights at existing MHPI housing projects requires voluntary agreement by the MHPI companies. The DAF continues to seek voluntary agreement of the remaining two MHPI companies by working to resolve their remaining concerns and achieve their full implementation of all 18 Tenant Rights at their MHPI projects at the following installations: Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, Alaska and Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio
- FY 2020 NDAA Section 3036: We implemented the amended section 606 payments to MHPI Projects to focus on the most urgent needs of underfunded MHPI projects and ensure the projects invest these funds appropriately to safeguard long-term project viability.

- FY 2020 NDAA Section 3051: We began the process to complete standardized privatized housing and government-owned housing inspections and assessments at all locations, using DoD's uniform housing standards, completing inspections at 15 installations in CY22.
- FY 2022 NDAA Section 2813: We verified the appropriate application of Disability Laws and Collection of Modification Costs requirements are documented in existing MHPI projects' transaction documents. These requirements ensure the projects make reasonable accommodations for any resident with a disability.

In 2020, we added 218 government positions across the privatized housing program, increased inspections, provided additional training to housing personnel, and revamped housing governance. We continue to maintain Resident Councils for two-way communication between the residents and installation and project owner leadership. We then utilize feedback from tenant satisfaction surveys to develop action plans for improving the residents' experiences and encourage our Airmen and Guardians, and their families to engage with Resident Advocates to help resolve any disputes and improve communications among all relevant DAF stakeholders.

We also expanded our metrics for assessing the health of the privatized housing portfolio, particularly with regards to resident satisfaction, maintenance quality and responsiveness, and property management operations. Most of our private partners meet or exceed DAF standards as prescribed in our metrics. However, when we identify concerns with operational performance, we have placed a small number of private partners on Community Action Plans, or if more systemic, on Performance Improvement Plans with milestones and schedules. The goal is to remedy deficiencies and ensure our military families receive quality service and housing.

Some privatized housing projects require financial restructuring to remain financially stable and market-comparable. The restructure goals are to ensure the projects can fully fund operational expenses, debt servicing, and sustainment of the homes for the life of the lease as well as fund reinvestment needs during the mid-term reinvestment period. The FY24 President's Budget includes \$220.0 million to financially restructure three MHPI projects, spanning 11 project locations (Air Force).

Community Partnerships as a Solution for Infrastructure Divestment and Management

We apply commercial best practices and innovative solutions to base infrastructure asset management through creative partnerships that (1) monetize underutilized/non-excess land and buildings; (2) enable proactive divestment and disposition strategies to offset required recapitalization of mission critical assets; and, (3) decrease or eliminate the risk and total cost of ownership of asset classes that are common to defense communities, state and local government, or private industry. Noteworthy examples of this capital investment strategy are:

- **Edwards Air Force Base Solar Enhanced Use Lease:** Out-leased 2,600 acres of underutilized/non-excess land, providing 464 megawatts (MW) of energy to the California Grid, 3,287 MWh of battery storage capability, 320,000 tons per year of CO₂ reduction, and generating \$75.8 million in In-Kind consideration for the base to offset unfunded operational and capital requirements.
- **Fairchild Air Force Base Joint Use Indoor Firing Range:** Entered into a historic first-of-its-kind IGSA with Spokane County, WA to obtain exclusive access to a new state of the art firing range funded, constructed, owned, and operated by the county. This enables active, reserve, and guard forces at Fairchild to complete small arms training, qualification and proficiency firing requirements at an average estimated annual savings of \$1 million over a 10-year contract.
- **Joint Base Cape Cod Water/Wastewater Utility Systems Exchange.** We executed a first-of-its-kind exchange agreement which will divest water and wastewater utility systems owned by the Air Force and operated by the Massachusetts Air National Guard, 102d Intelligence Wing (102d IW) to a private utility operator in exchange for construction of facilities of equal or greater value than the FMV of the divested assets. This innovative approach will support missions on the base more affordably with long term price certainty and provide the 102d IW with up to \$60 million of cost avoidance of future capital investment.

One of the most cost-effective partnership programs for encouraging compatible use around our installations, airfields and ranges is the Office of the Secretary of Defense managed Readiness Environmental Protection Integration (REPI). Program. The Department of the Air Force has used REPI effectively to safeguard our missions by improving

installation resilience to extreme weather events and climactic changes, promoting compatible land use, and preserving critical habitats and natural resources near our installations and ranges. For every dollar committed by the REPI program outside partners provide a nearly equal match. Since FY 2002, the REPI program has contributed \$105M, the Department of Air Force \$30M and partners \$138M to protect 134,000 acres outside of our Department of Air Force installations and ranges.

Installation Resilience

Our Installation Energy Program focuses on ensuring Air and Space Force installations are truly resilient to the broad range of threats from adversaries, changing climate, and cyber-attacks. We define resilience within the “5 Rs” of robustness, redundancy, resourcefulness, response, and recovery. Installation Energy Plans apply the “5Rs” to assess gaps and prioritize energy, water, and climate projects to ensure mission readiness. The “5Rs” help describe how a system is prepared for crises using the preventative attributes of robustness, redundancy, and resourcefulness, as well as how the system functions during crises using the performance attributes of response and recovery.

Adversarial threats and natural hazards pose a growing risk for prolonged power outages for installations. Using a mission thread perspective, we are working to identify key nodes on and off installations that, in a denial-of-service scenario, may result in a significant impact on our ability to deliver key capabilities. A comprehensive understanding of mission requirements, current system operations, accurate reporting, and historical outage data assist in identifying possible service vulnerabilities. We strive to mitigate operational impacts from disruptions to energy and water through increasing investment in and improving maintenance of energy systems.

Enhancing Energy and Water Resilience

Reliable access to sufficient, quality power and water enables our operational and training missions. We view energy and water as essential and linked resources; our energy initiatives consider both. Our vision of “Mission Assurance through Energy and Water Assurance” focuses on sustaining warfighting capabilities, while simultaneously optimizing resource use through enhanced planning, technology, and process improvements. We assess near

and long-term energy and water needs based on resilience, cost considerations, and the opportunity to leverage clean sources.

We conduct Energy Resilience Readiness Exercises (ERREs) to help installations assess mission readiness during a controlled denial of service. Under an ERRE, also referred to as “pull-the-plug” or “black start” exercise, an installation intentionally shuts down its primary power for 8-12 hours to test its onsite backup power systems and identify how infrastructure and mission interdependencies might play out during a denial of service. ERREs serve as a cornerstone of both mission and energy assurance efforts across the DAF by actively testing key enabling systems under “blue sky” conditions to identify gaps in energy, water, and mission capabilities. In 2022, we conducted ERREs at seven installations, including its largest regional exercise, to bring the total number of ERREs conducted to 13. This large-scale regional exercise was conducted at three Space Force installations in Colorado. It uncovered valuable lessons learned for each individual installation as well as insights regarding inter-installation capabilities for USSF. Looking ahead, we will continue to execute five ERREs per fiscal year through at least FY27.

Our installations are increasingly automated with interconnected control systems that, when vulnerable, open our multi-domain operations to adversarial cyber threats. In compliance with the FY17 NDAA Sec. 1650, we completed assessments of DAF critical infrastructure to identify vulnerabilities. These assessments exposed risks to missions we unknowingly accepted, and validated the mitigation measures we are already pursuing to increase control systems' cybersecurity and resiliency. In March 2021, we published our DAF Strategic Plan for Control Systems detailing a unified and enduring approach to protecting and defending these control systems which assure our critical infrastructure and mission capabilities.

Per the FY22 NDAA (Sec. 2833), we completed the military installation resilience component of a master plan, known as an Installation Climate Resilience Plan, at two installations in CY22: Vandenberg Space Force Base and Joint Base Langley-Eustis.

Financing Energy and Water Infrastructure

The DAF Installation Energy Program does not have a dedicated budget line; rather, it relies on direct investment, third-party financing, and innovative funding solutions. Direct investment typically comes from FSRM, MILCON, or the Energy Resilience and Conservation

Investment Fund (ERCIP). Third-party financing and other contracts include vehicles such as Energy Savings Performance Contracts (ESPCs), Utility Energy Service Contracts (UESCs), and Utilities Privatization contracts (UP).

We shifted the focus of our installation energy program from being solely concentrated on conservation to incorporating solutions for achieving resilience. This mission-focused, climate-informed approach is evident in our efforts to leverage the authorities provided by Congress to use ERCIP funds on third-party financed projects. For example, we are using ERCIP funds at Vandenberg Space Force Base to develop a microgrid with battery storage. The energy will be provided through a solar power purchase agreement and the commercial grid.

Resilient, Innovative Infrastructure

We are implementing innovative solutions to build energy efficient and resilient systems for the installations of the future. These efforts include pilot programs to accomplish 100% carbon-pollution free electricity and 100% zero emission non-tactical vehicles by fiscal years 2030 and 2035, respectively; exploring alternative energy opportunities through nuclear, geothermal, and solar energy means; and changing the overall DAF approach for future energy initiatives. We are exploring pilot projects that will utilize new or non-traditional design and construction practices to construct hyper-efficient facilities. Efficient design and construction practices include passive heating and cooling, super-efficient HVAC systems, air and ground source heat pumps, tight and efficient building envelopes. These initiatives will reduce energy consumption and free up resources for operational imperatives.

Additionally, we identified Eielson Air Force Base, AK, as the preferred location for our first nuclear micro-reactor pilot site due to the base's existing infrastructure, arctic location, and critical mission resilience requirement. We are working with DLA-Energy to execute a firm-fixed price power purchase agreement under 10 U.S.C 2922a with a third-party developer. The developer will own, operate, and maintain the microreactor and deliver zero-emission electricity on Air Force property in exchange for long-term purchase of the generated energy. The DAF and DLA released a formal request for proposal in September 2022 to attract the best possible commercial partner for this project. We work closely with Alaskan state, local and Tribal Nation leaders as it aims to reach full operational capability by 2027. Once completed, the first of its kind micro-reactor at Eielson AFB is expected to produce 1-5 MWs of energy to supplement

current installation energy sources as a redundant resilience measure, which will help ensure mission critical infrastructure is protected against physical, cyber, and other emerging security threats in light of 1) SARS -CoV-2 which revealed potential gaps in infrastructure underpinning essential government functions and the challenge that pandemic biothreats can present to federal mission resilience and 2) the convergence of emerging technologies particularly in the fields of AI and biotechnology that could lead to rapid threat development..

We seek to leverage geothermal technological innovation from the industry to meet installation electricity needs at Mountain Home AFB in southwest Idaho and Joint Base San Antonio in southcentral Texas. We are working with the Defense Innovation Unit to administer a competitive down-selection process for a geothermal pilot under a sole-source, follow-on contract vehicle to support our intent to implement the technology at other locations across the enterprise.

Finally, with more than 60,000 vehicular assets across installations, we need to be prepared for changes in the direction of the commercial market to ensure we continue to have access to the tools and equipment we need for our mission. As the industry transitions to electric vehicles, we look at fleet electrification as an opportunity to improve resiliency, decrease operation and maintenance costs, and embrace cutting edge technologies. In 2021, we identified Joint Base Andrews and Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst as pilots for the use of electric vehicle technology. In 2022, we identified an additional 16 installations for the next phase of the pilot. We are incorporating lessons learned from different geographies, utility partners, acquisition pathways, mission type, and weather into a comprehensive planning guidance that will provide a step-by-step process to incorporate vehicles into existing fleets. This will include a catalog of acquisition pathways to secure charging infrastructure.

Environmental Stewardship

The safety and health of the Airmen and Guardians who work and live on our installations, their families, and the surrounding communities are among our highest priorities. We greatly appreciate congressional support for our efforts to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and facilitate Environmental Restoration Program progress.

Environmental Restoration

We remain focused on meeting our cleanup obligations under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). Investigation objectives and environmental response actions performed under these statutes aim to reduce risk to human health and the environment in a risk-based, prioritized manner at the approximately 13,000 restoration sites at our active and closed installations. Currently, much of our restoration program focus is on chemicals of emerging concern, most notably, PFAS.

Our PFAS strategy uses CERCLA to investigate, define, and, as necessary, remediate groundwater, surface water, sediment, and soil impacted by DAF activities. We also conduct a robust effort to communicate and collaborate with local communities, State and Federal agencies, and elected officials at all levels. The DAF PFAS response framework is built on three themes: (1) protect human health; (2) prevent future releases; and (3) promote meaningful communication and collaboration with communities.

The primary source of PFAS compounds from DAF activities is aqueous film forming foam (AFFF). The two main PFAS compounds in AFFF are perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), although a number of additional PFAS can be found in these mixtures. While AFFF is the primary source of DAF-related PFAS impacts, there are other minor DAF sources such as electroplating and photofinishing. We are committed to addressing all of these sources under federal CERCLA cleanup law and meet the requirements in Sec 341 of the 2022 NDAA and Sec 346 of the 2023 NDAA.

We remain committed to align our PFAS research and remediation efforts with the scientific progress and state and federal regulatory frameworks. Scientific progress and the state and federal regulatory framework surrounding PFAS are rapidly evolving as we investigate and remediate PFAS impacts, and these developments can increase our scope and extend our implementation schedules. For example, in June 2022, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published more stringent Regional Screening Levels (RSLs) that we now use to delineate or define the extent of PFAS impacts during CERCLA investigations. This required the DAF to review sites to determine if additional work is necessary. This work is ongoing and could result in the need for additional sampling, thereby affecting the project schedule. In addition,

several states have promulgated drinking water standards and the EPA is committed to establishing a national primary drinking water regulation for certain PFAS.

EPA proposed a national primary drinking water regulation for six PFAS in March 2023, and we In the interim, DoD is continuing to use exceedances of 70 parts per trillion (ppt) to trigger the provision of alternate drinking water under our CERCLA removal authority until EPA establishes a nationwide, enforceable drinking water standard. Pursuant to DoD policy, once initiation of a CERCLA Removal Action is triggered, we may use a more stringent promulgated state drinking water standard for PFAS cleanup instead of 70 ppt.

In anticipation of this EPA drinking water regulation and to account for emerging science that shows potential health effects of PFOS and PFOA at levels lower than 70 ppt, we, in coordination with DoD, are evaluating our efforts to address PFAS in drinking water at DAF sites, and what actions we can take to be prepared to incorporate this standard, such as reviewing our current data and additional sampling where necessary. We remain committed to fulfilling our cleanup responsibilities, operating within the law and authorities provided by federal cleanup laws, and clearly communicating and engaging with communities.

In prioritizing CERCLA environmental response actions, we use a risk-based decision-making framework with protection of human health and the environment as the highest priority. Action is prioritized on a “worst first” basis, meaning sites that pose a greater potential risk to human health and the environment are addressed before sites posing a lesser risk. Although the Department does not program environmental restoration funds by chemical, as of January 2023 we obligated \$1.34 billion to identify, investigate, prevent, and respond to PFAS releases. Drinking water response actions are complete at nine Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) installations and 39 DAF Active, Reserve and Air National Guard (ANG) installations. Implemented response actions include supplying bottled water, installing point-of-use filtration, whole-house filtration, and connecting residents to municipal water supplies.

The FY23 appropriations provided \$216.4 million above the budget request, of which \$68 million is allotted to address PFAS at BRAC installations. As of January 2023, we completed initial PFAS CERCLA Site Inspections at 149 installations and initiated CERCLA Remedial Investigations for 111 DAF installations, 14 of which are BRAC installations. While we take prompt actions under CERCLA to address drinking water impacts, the remaining response efforts are primarily intended to address PFAS in groundwater and soil, which can be

technically complex and lengthy to complete. The FY24 budget request will include \$187.6 million to continue these PFAS efforts, including \$48.2 million designated to efforts at BRAC installations.

The evolving regulatory environment and complex nature of the challenges posed by PFAS remediation require the use of a collaborative and cohesive team effort. In 2019, the DoD PFAS Task Force was developed to meet this need, and we are an active member. This PFAS Task Force is focused on addressing and eliminating the use of AFFF as currently formulated, understanding the impacts of PFAS on human health, and ensuring we fulfill our cleanup responsibilities related to PFAS. We are working with the PFAS Task Force Working Group to develop and implement the NDAA data reporting requirements.

We proactively engage with community members who are concerned about the possible environmental and health effects from PFAS impacts resulting from DAF activities to support our Restoration Advisory Boards (RABs) as we constantly strive to improve our community outreach programs to be more inclusive and responsive. By using Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP) grants, we can provide communities with independent technical assistance to improve their understanding of highly technical cleanup information and provide advice to decision makers. This year, we supported the Barnes Air National Guard Base community in Westfield, MA through TAPP grant assistance for their RAB.

We are also working with community members at several bases to seek their input on distribution of RAB community interest surveys. We are looking beyond federal regulatory public outreach programs to identify other means to expand community engagement. For example, we held a treatment plant tour and technical workshop at the former Wurtsmith Air Force Base in October 2022 to further the community's technical understanding of our cleanup processes and progress. We are also participating with EPA in an environmental justice pilot at Dover AFB.

Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC)

The FY24 request for BRAC cleanup and property transfer is \$124 million. We greatly appreciate congressional support for our PFAS efforts as we continue the cleanup and transfer of BRAC properties. This funding will facilitate environmental restoration and property transfer

activities at 34 former DAF installations closed through prior BRAC law and keep us on-track to transfer the remaining 1,651 acres at five former installations by 2027.

Conclusion

Our FY23 budget balanced risk between maintaining current readiness in support of combatant commanders today, while investing in the force infrastructure we need for the future. The seven operational imperatives, aligned to the NDS, served as our “north star” in guiding this transformation and continue to serve as our guide in the FY24 budget. We remain committed to ensuring resilient, optimized installations and operational energy for effective mission execution to deliver the foundational capabilities resident in a changing operating environment. While we remain extremely capable, we cannot deliver these capabilities alone. We must operate as One Team—within our Department, across the Joint Force and interagency, and in lockstep with our allies and partners. Only through true partnership can we successfully compete, deter, and if necessary, win our One Fight against the PRC pacing challenge and the acute threat posed by Russia. With congressional support, I am confident we can preserve the platforms necessary to enable and project combat power in Air and Space; deliver right-sized and sustainable built and natural infrastructure; and provide energy resilience and increased “lethality per gallon.”

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss our programs supporting energy, installations, and environment. We appreciate Congress’ continued support for our enterprise and look forward to working with you.