

ORAL STATEMENT OF
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COMMANDING GENERAL, MARINE CORPS LOGISTICS COMMAND
BEFORE THE
HOUSE ARMED SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS
ON THE
STATUS OF THE ORGANIC INDUSTRIAL BASE
MARCH 19, 2021

Chairman Garamendi, Ranking Member Lamborn, and distinguished Members of the Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to discuss the status of the Marine Corps Organic Industrial Base. I would like to start with thanking Congress for the strong support we have received allowing the Marine Corps to make significant improvements in the efficiency and resiliency of our OIB, facilities, people, and equipment. Specifically, I appreciate the opportunity to testify today on the status of the Marine Corps Organic Industrial Base regarding our infrastructure, workload, COVID impacts and workforce challenges.

MCOIB INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

In Nov 2019, I shared with this committee the Marine Corps Organic Industrial Base facilities plan as our long-term, three phased strategy to guide our OIB modernization and investment efforts through 2045. We have successfully completed three of our 11 major short-term projects. These state of the art combat vehicle storage and repair facilities along with the nearly 272,000-sqft open storage lot are critical aspects of our infrastructure. Your support will bring us that much closer to our 2045 vision.

BRIEF MCOIB STUDY INTRO

In concert with our 2045 vision, we began an MCOIB study aimed specifically at aligning the current MCOIB modernization plan with the CMC's priorities and Force

Design efforts. Initial results and feedback of this ongoing study have resulted in refinement of our key lines of effort that will posture the MCOIB to better support the Marine Corps well into the 21st Century.

WORKLOAD PLANNING

Another essential component of FMF readiness is the congressional appropriation of operations and maintenance funding. Regarding workload planning and execution, LOGCOM optimizes the impact of those funds through deliberately planning against both known and forecasted requirements to prioritize maintenance, identify sources of repair, manage Title 10 Core logistics and 50/50 requirements and oversee the Depot's workload execution.

The Enterprise Lifecycle Maintenance Process (ELMP) is the Marine Corps' collaborative and iterative approach to planning, coordinating, and executing depot-level maintenance in support of ground Military Equipment sustainment requirements. It produces accurate, visible, and defensible depot maintenance requirements and budgets while improving overall equipment availability and readiness.

Additionally, Naval Logistics and other joint integration efforts play an important role in how we conduct depot-level maintenance. Initiatives such as the migration of our NWCF activities to the Navy Enterprise Resource Planning system and Industrial Supply Integration

with Defense Logistics Agency are examples of strategic efforts we are working to ensure the FMF expectations continue to be on time, with the highest quality and at the right price.

WAREHOUSE MODERNIZATION & 5G

Our Marine Force Storage Command is working additional transformative efforts to posture the MCOIB for the future through our warehouse modernization plan and 5G implementation in Albany, GA. As a DoD-selected Tranche 1 testing site, we are working closely with the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Research and Engineering to develop in one of our warehouses, the resilient 5G enabled and enhanced broadband, low latency information and communications capability aimed at supporting key innovative technology insertions that require faster, higher volume and reliable data transfer.

When coupled with our Smart Warehouse technologies ranging from hand held scanners, optical character recognition, and passive RFID to other truly autonomous and robotic capabilities, the large-scale 5G experimentation promises to increase efficiencies and improve readiness in support of the FMF. These modernization efforts will provide highly organized, reliable and efficient storage within the information technology environment therefore improving storage conditions, accountability and auditability for the MCOIB.

INSTALLATION NET ZERO UPDATE

I am also excited to share with this subcommittee, Marine Corps Logistics Base, Albany has made great strides regarding their innovative energy technology applications. MCLB Albany's Roadmap to Net Zero and Energy Resiliency program initiated in 2005 is nearly completed and expected to save over \$4m annually in energy costs.

These savings are realized through HVAC modernization and repair, geothermal heat pumps, borehole thermal technologies and landfill methane gas to energy generation. Expected completion for the project is April of this year at which point MCLB Albany will become the first United States Marine Corps installation in history to achieve Net Zero status. In essence, this means we will be producing as much renewable "green" energy as we consume on an annual basis, making us more resilient and less dependent on the commercial grid.

WORKFORCE

On a separate note of resilience, the 2018 National Defense Strategy rightly identifies recruitment, development, and retention of a high-quality workforce as essential for warfighting success. We must continue to improve our ability to recruit, retain, and develop skilled artisans and employees to accomplish our mission. In order

to do this, the Depot has developed a strategic plan - Workforce of the 21st Century. The plan has six goals targeting hiring actions, training programs, workforce talent management and shaping, communications, and work environments needed to ensure we are aligned with current priorities and prepared to meet the challenges of 2030 and beyond.

I would be remiss without mentioning again how very grateful to Congress we are for providing Direct-Hire Authorities. These authorities have enabled us to compete on par with the private sector to quickly hire the best and most talented people our local communities have to offer.

VACCINATION UPDATE

Regarding COVID-19, the MCOIB continues to endure the COVID-19 pandemic while ensuring the FMF receives the support they require. Although we are still seeing reports of new cases within the surrounding communities, the overall number of cases continue to trend downward across our OIB. For those who can telework and perform their duties remotely, we continue to maximize the opportunity to do so. Strict adherence to the guidelines set forth by the CDC and higher headquarters have allowed our touch labor workforce to sustain operations with minimal impact to their health and safety. The MCOIB is actively working with and very thankful for the support of the Naval Hospitals across our regions and the additional support of HQMC regarding the COVID-19 Vaccine availability. To date, approximately 25% of our total workforce have been

vaccinated and we continue to promote the vaccine for those who are interested in volunteering.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I submit to this committee that a modernized and ready Organic Industrial Base is the most vital component of Fleet Marine Force readiness. As described in this testimony, the Marine Corps has developed and continues to deliberately adjust and execute its plan to shape and modernize the MCOIB in support of our Force Design 2030 and beyond effort. Congressional support is essential to this effort, and I want to thank this subcommittee for its continued support and for the opportunity to testify before you today. I look forward to any questions you may have.