RECORD VERSION

STATEMENT BY

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Introduction

Chairman Waltz, Ranking Member Garamendi, and distinguished members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to discuss the current state of the Army's Installations, Energy and Environment portfolio. I want to thank the committee for their continued support and commitment to the Army's soldiers, families, civilians, and soldiers for life. The committee's leadership has been invaluable in our shared pledge to successfully defend our Nation and its interests as we work to improve our installations and support the Army now and in the future.

As old threats evolve and new ones emerge, the Army is making decisions and prioritizing investments that not only contribute to current readiness but will also pay dividends on the battlefields of 2030 and beyond. The Army's bedrock priorities of people, readiness and modernization guide all our strategies and investments. For the Army, people are at the core of everything we do. Installations supply the foundational support for our people, especially soldiers and their families, caregivers, and survivors. Installations are where we train, work, learn and live. Therefore, as we build the Army of the future, we must make strategic investments in our installations, making the best use of innovative technologies, and streamlining processes to accelerate improvements. The future of installations is now.

Putting "People First"

Providing high quality housing, barracks, and Child Development Centers (CDCs) for soldiers and families is essential to readiness. Modern barracks and access to high quality childcare providers and facilities helps us attract recruits and retain soldiers and their families. We are demonstrating our commitment to achieve these quality of life goals in a number of ways. For example, we are investing $11 billion between fiscal years (FY) 2024 and 2032 to improve barracks across the Army. We are committed to ensuring sufficient and quality childcare by advancing new construction in multiple locations. And we are holding housing providers accountable for delivering high

quality housing to soldiers and families. While we can't deliver the full extent of improvements overnight, we can provide consistent and enduring resources to continuously improve the quality of life for soldiers and their loved ones.

Army Infrastructure Investments

The Army remains committed to improving our infrastructure and addressing deferred maintenance needs.

We are grateful to Congress for funding Facilities Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization (FSRM) and Military Construction (MILCON) funding in the FY 2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) and Omnibus Appropriations legislation. The FSRM funding will enable the Army to increase sustainment to 92.5% of its requirement for FY 2023, thereby slowing the pace of facility degradation.

The FY 2023 Omnibus Appropriations legislation also added critical MILCON construction funding for barracks and other priorities. This funding will advance new projects and address project cost overruns due to increases in the costs of building materials. Though inflation rates are leveling off, construction industry costs continue to out-pace core inflation by 2% to 3%. If Army MILCON construction projects end up being higher than the amount authorized and appropriated, the Army will continue to make adjustments accordingly, by reprogramming savings from other projects if available.

The Army is also incorporating sustainable building practices to enhance facility resilience. We are developing pilot projects to explore the use of sustainable materials, including mass timber, to improve building efficiency and reduce lifecycle maintenance costs. Also, in accordance with Administration and DoD directives, we are beginning the planning for construction of fully electrified buildings. These buildings are expected to result in lower energy costs through the use of efficient technologies. The realized

savings from these improvements can then be directed to people and readiness programs.

Army Housing

The Army continues to focus on the oversight of our privatized housing providers to make sure quality services are delivered. We appreciate Congressional guidance and authorities to accomplish these important goals. We are addressing the remaining elements of the FY 2020 NDAA's Military Housing Privatization Reform and, with respect to Army owned housing, we are implementing the FY 2021 NDAA's extension of these reforms to government-owned housing. We are continuing to develop policies and guidance to address the FY 2023 NDAA's housing-related requirements, including those related to the Basic Allowance for Housing, Housing Research Market Analysis standardization, ground lease extension briefs and notices, the demolition of three Fort McNair homes, mold inspections, and implementation of medical audits.

With the help of Congress, we are making great strides in improving the Army-owned housing inventory located primarily overseas, and we are on target for 89% of these homes to be characterized as "good" or "adequate" by 2029. MILCON housing projects are awarded and in progress in Baumholder and Vilseck, Germany; Vicenza, Italy; Camps Humphreys and Walker, Korea; Kwajalein Atoll; and Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico. All of these projects will significantly improve the quality of life for our soldiers and families in these locations.

Privatized Housing Update

Ground leases are the foundational legal documents governing the obligations of private housing providers who own and manage family housing on leased lands. The Army recently developed revised ground lease language that specifically outlines the consequences of non-compliance by project companies. The new language reinforces the premise that project companies are charged at all times with having full knowledge, along with the obligation, to comply with all of the requirements of the ground lease and

to correct any non-compliance expeditiously. Additional changes to the ground lease language include the application of Davis-Bacon Act wages, as required by Department of Labor regulations, the Code of Federal Regulations, applicable Executive Orders, and Federal Acquisition Regulations.

The Army is exploring the use of ground lease extensions (GLEs) and project refinancing as tools to facilitate the private housing providers' recapitalization of housing inventory and infrastructure where the Army deems it necessary and appropriate to do so. These opportunities to secure additional financing through third party investment help establish a more secure operational footprint for privatized housing projects to remain financially viable. The Army will use new reporting requirements detailed in the FY 2023 NDAA to brief Congress before proceeding with GLEs. For two installations where the housing provider does not have adequate reserves or opportunities for third party financing, the Army is seeking MILCON appropriations to meet immediate housing improvement needs.

When it comes to privatized housing oversight, the Army conducts quality assurance inspections for all changes of occupancy and to confirm that all life, health, and safety maintenance work orders have been completed satisfactorily. Also, the Army is fulfilling the FY 2020 NDAA mandate to conduct comprehensive inspections of 100% of privatized housing. While the Army has been conducting "between occupancy maintenance" inspections, and inspections related to life, health, and safety work orders since December 2020, the Army is working to expand comprehensive home inspections and ensure they are completed by third-parties in order to meet the FY 2020 requirement. Third-party comprehensive housing inspections were completed at Fort Meade in August 2022 as the Army's second installation in the 100% inspection pilot program. As with Army's first pilot inspection at Fort Belvoir, Fort Meade's overall housing inventory was rated in good to excellent condition. The 100% inspection program will continue in FY 2023 with Fort Gordon. Additionally, in FY 2023, the Army is continuing to conduct financial audits of privatized housing programs with independent

third-party experts. To date, the Army has completed 21 reviews of 34 projects, with six additional reviews ongoing.

The Tenant Bill of Rights implementation, set forth in the FY 2020 NDAA, is improving service delivery and restoring trust between privatized housing companies and residents by clarifying rights and responsibilities and giving residents a more powerful voice in the process. We have worked hard to ensure that residents know where to turn for assistance and how best to engage Installation leadership and Army housing offices to advocate on their behalf. Of the 37 disputes that were initiated since the Army created the Tenant Bill of Rights dispute resolution process, 33 were resolved informally and only four required formal adjudication under the process.

As part of the Army's commitment to oversight and accountability, the Commanding General of the Army, Installation Management Command, holds weekly meetings with privatized housing companies and stakeholders throughout the installations community to review the physical and financial conditions of privatized housing and to receive an update on the status of any displaced families. The Army has established an enforceable incentive fee metric to reward improved work order response times and achieve better quality work, thereby increasing resident satisfaction. The metric is reviewed and updated annually to ensure it is achieving desired outcomes.

Barracks / Unaccompanied Housing

The Army is committed to investing over $1 billion per year in FSRM and MILCON across the Future Years Defense Program (FYDP) and all components—the Active Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserve for Unaccompanied Housing needs. The Army continues to identify solutions to ensure every soldier is afforded the opportunity to live in a high quality, fully-functional environment. These solutions include managing room assignments to inventory; increasing investments across the FYDP; addressing deficits through new MILCON; prioritizing Restoration and Modernization

projects at installations with the greatest need; maximizing sustainment funding to address accelerated facility deterioration; and evaluating privatization opportunities at select installations. To continue to improve barracks conditions, the Army conducted a survey of 40,000 soldiers residing in Permanent Party Barracks across five installations. The results of this survey will inform future decisions on improving soldiers' living conditions.

Innovation and modernization are at the forefront of the Army barracks construction program. The Army is using a new construction standard for barracks which enhances quality of life standards for soldiers. For E1-E4, the barracks standard includes a four-bedroom, two-bathroom module with a living room, full kitchen, and easy access to laundry facilities. For E5-E6, the barracks standard includes a two-bedroom, one bathroom module with a living room, full kitchen, and easy access to laundry facilities. Several barracks pilot projects are currently scheduled for construction and renovation to reflect these new building efficiencies.

Army Lodging

The Army's privatized lodging inventory consists of 12,275 rooms across 40 installations. Over the past 13 years, nearly $1.2 billion in private sector capital has been invested to recapitalize these facilities, with one out of three rooms having been newly built. In November 2022, a new 69-room hotel opened its doors at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. New hotels for Fort Bragg, North Carolina and JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, Texas are currently in design. The Army is assessing ways to accelerate the construction of additional hotels.

Guest satisfaction scores at privatized hotels increased for the ninth straight year. The program continues to meet the Army's mission by providing safe, affordable, and high-quality on-post lodging for Army soldiers and their families.

The Army's overseas direct-run lodging inventory consists of 1,857 rooms across 11 installations. Six Army Lodging projects for overseas bases, totaling over $311 million and funded with nonappropriated funds, are in design or construction. Specifically, new facilities are planned for Camp Walker, Baumholder, Camp Humphreys, Hohenfels and Camp Zama, with an additional 71 rooms slated for renovation at Camp Humphreys.

Delivering on Child Care

Another important part of taking care of people is providing access to affordable quality childcare, particularly in communities where availability of off-post care is limited. The Army has a robust Fee Assistance Program that subsidizes the cost of community childcare for approximately 10,000 children per day when a family has limited access to installation childcare or a family's duty station is off an installation. The Army also incentivizes Family Child Care (i.e., home-based) providers. The Army is looking to add and expand CDCs over the next ten years.

The Army appreciates the committee's support of CDCs through funding for planning and design. The Army currently has 44 CDC projects under design (valued at $494 million).

Army Historic Housing

The Army continues to work with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) to manage our inventory of historic homes in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA). The Army successfully worked with the ACHP to complete the 2020 "Army Program Comment for Inter-War Era Historic Housing, Associated Buildings and Structures, and Landscape Features (1919-1940)." This landmark agreement allows Army to undertake a series of improvements to historic housing to manage an inventory of more than 3,200 Inter-War Era housing units in cost effective ways such as through the use of imitative substitute building materials.

The Army has been working with the ACHP to develop a similar Program Comment for Vietnam War Era Housing (1963-1975). If successful, the Army will have a programmatic solution for 95% of its historic homes. Programmatic solutions continue to save the Army millions of dollars by streamlining the NHPA compliance process, delivering consistent preservation outcomes, and providing the flexibility to improve the quality of life, health, and safety of Army families – all while addressing the emerging need to implement climate adaptation measures. The Army program comments provide flexible management capabilities that ensure the long-term preservation of historic Army housing while maintaining these structures as functional real property assets.

Safety and Occupational Health

Ensuring our soldiers and civilians are ready to support the Army mission requires extensive and continual investment in proactive injury and illness prevention. The Army is implementing the Army Safety and Occupational Health Management System to move from a reactive to a proactive approach to safety.

This management system will include comprehensive oversight of each command and local installation safety and occupational health programs and processes. We are also relooking at the entire Army safety enterprise to best position the enterprise to support the Army of 2030. To ensure facilities are safe and healthy for use by our workforce and military families, Army commanders are evaluating facilities with a specific focus on health and safety of housing and CDCs. The Army is inspecting all Army CDCs to identify any unresolved safety issues, including lead, asbestos, and mold, that adversely impact health in the facilities. The Army is improving training to our safety and health professional workforce to ensure they retain and enhance technical competencies to better inform commanders of health and safety risks and to provide recommendations for mitigating those risks.

Building A Resilient Force

To support its “People First” strategy, the Army is focused on promoting resilience across the Army enterprise, beginning with our installations. This will ensure that Army facilities and the people working in them can continue to adapt to new threats in a contested, multi-domain environment. Building resilience across the force will require us to collaborate with defense communities to identify challenges outside the fence line and to work with third parties to build mature and enduring partnerships that help the Army respond to current and emerging challenges. We must sustain our ability to fight and win the nation’s wars.

Army Climate Strategy Implementation

The Army’s mission to fight and win our nation’s wars remains unchanged. Climate change makes this mission more challenging. The Army must proactively address climate risks to maintain its strategic edge in a climate-altered world. The Army Climate Strategy will increase the resilience of our installations as well as the capabilities of our fighting force, while at the same time reducing the vulnerability of our soldiers, our physical assets, and operational supply lines. Nothing we are doing to address these risks comes at the expense of readiness. To the contrary, climate resilience is a key part of readiness.

The goals of the Army’s Climate Strategy will put us on a path toward building a more modern, resilient and capable force of the future. For example, we are working to install microgrids on every installation by 2035, with a goal of combining these systems with enough carbon-free energy generation and battery storage to self-sustain critical missions at all Army installations by 2040. Microgrids include on-site power generation and controllable distribution systems, and, depending on the power source, energy storage. Currently, the Army has 28 operational microgrids, with nine under construction and 18 in design.

To help inform how our installations and facilities will specifically mitigate or adapt to the effects of climate change, the Army is moving forward on Installation Climate Resilience Plans (ICRP) as required by 10 USC 2864. ICRPs will incorporate data from the Defense Climate Assessment Tool (originally developed by Army) among other relevant data sources to identify a specific installation's vulnerability to climate change impacts based on the geographic region where that installation is based. The ICRPs are valuable tools to inform installation leaders and planners about location-specific short and long-range climate impacts. Having this information helps to understand risk and identify mitigation actions that will protect the Army's ability to train and deploy under climate-altered conditions. The Army has completed ICRPs for Fort Carson, Colorado, and Anniston Army Depot, Alabama, and has ICRPs underway for Forts Greely and Wainwright, Alaska, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and Fort Bliss, Texas. ICRPs will be initiated in FY 2023 for Fort Hood, Texas, and Fort Stewart, Georgia.

When it comes to the operational force, we are examining how a reduction in energy usage can enhance warfighting capability. Working closely with industry partners, the Army is engineering and testing anti-idle retrofit kits for all tactical wheeled vehicles, with procurement beginning in FY 2025. Intelligent anti-idle controls reduce engine run-times by up to 50%, reduce fuel consumption by at least 20%, improve silent watch capability, and reduce maintenance costs. The Army is also developing and testing technologies for hybrid-electric tactical vehicles, with a goal to field hybrid drive tactical vehicles by 2035 and fully electric tactical vehicles by 2050. These efforts will enhance operational capability and mitigate risks to soldiers through reduced acoustic and thermal signature, silent mobility, increased sprint speed, extended range, increased reliability, and lower fuel consumption, which significantly lessens supply line vulnerabilities. Early technology demonstrators of hybrid-electric vehicles are in the testing stages.

Battlefield charging remains a challenge and we will not advance any technologies that put the mission or our soldiers' safety at risk by having insufficient power to operate equipment or vehicles. To address this challenge, a coordinated,

Army-wide effort, led by Army Futures Command, in collaboration with industry, is developing technologies for efficient and effective battlefield charging capabilities. In the meantime, the Army is exploring opportunities to use the single charge of electric tactical vehicles for discrete missions so that we can better understand the observed operational benefits.

In the realm of more energy efficient aircraft, the Army's UH-60 Blackhawk, AH-64 Apache, and the Future Attack Reconnaissance Aircraft will be retrofitted with the T901 Improved Turbine Engine (ITE). The ITE is expected to reduce fuel consumption by 13% to 25%, decrease maintenance by 30%, and provide 50% increased shaft horsepower. This will enable full-payload aircraft to fly higher, in hotter temperatures, and for extended ranges. In March 2022, the first engine began testing.

The Army is partnering with the rest of the Joint Force to develop and standardize advanced high-performance, high-capacity batteries to power vehicle, aircraft, weapons, and soldier systems. Army-led efforts to create a family of advanced standard batteries will simplify the supply-chain and address obsolescence issues for legacy systems. The Army is also collaborating across DoD as part of a government-wide effort to strengthen supply chains and mitigate critical materials vulnerability. This includes maximizing the authorities and funding under Title III of the Defense Production Act where possible. We are also exploring opportunities to develop substitutions for these critical elements, including by partnering with industry as battery technologies advance at a rapid pace.

Installation Energy and Water Resilience

Army installations and the critical missions they support—power projection, force mobilization, and command and control—predominantly rely on commercial utilities for energy and water. Energy and water supporting our installations must be available, and the sources and methods of delivery must be able to withstand attack and recover from interruption to ensure seamless mission execution. Resilience requires coordinated

action to anticipate, prepare for, and adapt to changing conditions and withstand, respond to, and recover rapidly from unexpected disruptions such as grid or equipment failures, cyberattacks, or extreme weather events and natural disasters.

Ensuring that installation infrastructure and services are able to withstand and repel cyber-attacks is a critical component for success of the Army's multi domain operations. The Army established the Control Systems Governance Office to improve management of the control systems enabling defense critical infrastructure, installation public works, power grids, energy systems, weapons, manufacturing, and medical systems.

The Army's Installation Energy and Water Resilience Policy empowers installation senior commanders to set energy and water requirements to support the critical missions on their bases. Through development of Installation Energy and Water Plans (IEWPs), the Army assesses risks and opportunities, generates risk mitigation options, and implements prioritized resilience and efficiency solutions at all installations. Of the 189 IEWPs that are expected to be completed, the Army has completed 148, and is on track to complete the remaining plans in FY 2023.

The Army continually advances new technologies to improve installation management by engaging with federal and private-sector research and development communities. For example, 32 active technology demonstrations are underway at Army installations through the DoD's Environmental Security Technology Certification Program, and Army installations are also participating in pilot energy resilience projects with the Department of Energy. Congressional funding for Army research labs has also benefited installations' ability to test and leverage resilient technologies. For example, in FY 2021, Congress funded the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Engineering Research and Development Center to facilitate the demonstration of a "flow battery" at Fort Carson, Colorado, in partnership with industry and the local Colorado Springs Utility. Potential benefits of flow batteries include low projected lifecycle costs, long duration discharge with daily discharge capability, multiple times longer life-span compared to

lithium-ion storage, easier material sourcing, and improved safety. The battery will be commissioned later this year and tested through 2026.

Water plays an essential role in Army missions such as industrial base manufacturing, equipment maintenance and operations, facility heating and cooling, firefighting, and training land management. In FY 2022, Army installations used over 37 billion gallons of water. This number is down from previous years, reflecting a deliberate water conservation effort. The Army continues to protect water from ever-increasing man-made and natural threats, such as drought. Many Army installations lead the way in water sustainability and resilience. For example, in FY 2022, the Army preserved drinking water by capturing, treating, and re-utilizing nearly 690 million gallons from alternative sources such as rainwater harvesting systems at Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico, and re-treated wash water at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. However, as environmental stresses worsen, the Army must continuously consider and improve how installations access, use, and re-use water, in partnership with utilities, communities, regional partners, industry, academia, and research institutions.

Resilience capabilities must be validated at Army installations through semi-annual routine and annual full-scale testing of all backup systems that support critical missions. The Army conducts Black Start Exercises to test installations' ability to respond to an electric grid outage. These exercises have been completed at six bases and planning is underway to execute these exercises at five additional locations in FY 2023: Fort Carson, Colorado; Fort Drum, New York; Fort Campbell, Kentucky; Fort Riley, Kansas; and U.S. Army Garrison Bavaria, Europe. These exercises are the best way to test the inter-relationships of systems across an installation and determine how well they may function in the event of an outage. These exercises are invaluable for identifying previously undetected problems such as generator circuit connection gaps, or malfunctioning equipment.

The Army is also promoting energy efficiency through the *Resilient Energy Funding for Readiness and Modernization, or REFoRM*, program, authorized by

Congress in Title 10 U.S.C. § 2912, *Availability and Use of Energy Cost Savings* REFoRM allows the Army to direct energy cost savings back to the installations to reinvest in energy programs and for a variety of quality of life programs. Army has realized over $100 million in energy cost savings since REFoRM's inception.

Alternative Financing

As the Army looks at ways to mitigate vulnerabilities, we must consider the full suite of resourcing and acquisition authorities. This includes utilizing all available appropriated fund programs, such as Operation and Maintenance, MILCON, and the specific subset of MILCON, the Energy Resilience Conservation and Investment Program. In addition to appropriated funds, third-party financing resources are also a critical component for addressing vulnerabilities. The threats which necessitate resilience planning do not start or stop at the fence line and we must partner with communities, utilities, energy service companies and state and local governments to address these threats. Third party financing through the use of real estate out grants, energy savings performance contracts (ESPCs), utility energy savings contracts (UESCs), utilities infrastructure privatization and power purchase agreements are invaluable to help the Army address utility vulnerabilities. The Army is also very supportive of local community applications for Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot Program grant opportunities.

In FY 2022, the Army updated its ESPC and UESC policy to maximize use of these contracts as a part of an overall strategic approach to sustain, restore, and modernize facilities, to address the facilities maintenance backlog, and to achieve efficiency and resilience objectives. In FY 2022, the Army awarded four ESPCs and five UESC projects totaling $230 million, delivering the Army 2.234 megawatts of onsite carbon-free energy generation. The Army is working to award over a dozen ESPCs and UESCs in FY 2023, with more to follow.

The Army's Office of Energy Initiatives (OEI) is currently working with nearly 30 installations to rapidly develop large-scale, privately financed energy generation and storage projects, many of which include microgrid configurations. OEI collaborates with industry and other private investors to identify mutual needs and leverages those opportunities to meet the Army's requirements. To date, 11 installations host OEI-developed projects, providing a combined 325 megawatts of energy production capacity, secured through $627 million of private sector investment, with anticipated life-cycle operations and maintenance values of $603 million. In addition, the Army has entered into real estate agreements for two projects that will begin construction in FY 2023, and we are in the final stages of negotiation for three more projects.

The Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot Program has been an invaluable tool facilitating more meaningful planning between installations and defense communities. Resilience projects such as the FY 2022 $14.9 million grant awarded to the City of Boiling Springs Lake, North Carolina to restore four dams damaged by 2018 Hurricane Florence will mitigate flood risks to the community and to the Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point. Similarly, a $12.8 million grant to the Alaska Energy Authority to extend electric transmission lines will help offset the cost of expanding electricity access to Alaskans, while also making Fort Wainwright's Black Rapids Training Site less reliant on standalone diesel generators.

Intergovernmental Service Agreements to Enhance Readiness

The Army is aggressively using Intergovernmental Service Agreements (IGSAs) to obtain better municipal services at a more affordable price. The Army's 122 IGSAs include agreements for environmental services, firefighting services, waste management and dozens of other community partnerships. Most recently, the Army joined with its sister services to sign the first-of-its-kind state-wide IGSA with the Texas Department of Transportation to provide operation and maintenance support for on-base roads, curbing, stormwater drainage, traffic lights, and bulk materials purchases.

The ten-year IGSA contract for Forts Hood and Bliss is expected to save the Army over $3.78 million per year.

Environmental Stewardship

The Army's Environmental Program helps maintain access to testing and training lands and ensures stewardship of natural and cultural resources through compliance with conservation laws, including the Endangered Species Act, the Sikes Act, the NHPA, and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, among other statutes. The Army manages the largest number of endangered species and historic properties in DoD. The Army has 261 threatened and endangered plant and animal species on 146 installations, 1.3 million acres of wetlands, 85,119 archeological sites, 152 Native American sacred sites, and 19 National Historic Landmarks. Due to the magnitude of our resources and our success in achieving positive outcomes in environmental compliance, the Army plays a leading role among the military departments in environmental stewardship.

The Endangered Species Act was enacted 50 years ago. Army biologists in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and state fish and game offices have been managing lands and natural habitats for 50 years with no net loss to the mission and have worked to recover species where possible. Part of this success is attributable to the Army's Compatible Use Buffer Program (ACUB), which is marking its 20th anniversary. The program provides innovative tools to provide flexibility for training and testing while carefully managing endangered species and other natural resources. One major success story is the progress toward recovery of the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker in the Southeastern U.S. Through ACUB and the related OSD Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program, the Army employed innovative tools, resources, and partnerships to accelerate species recovery, to the point where, the red-cockaded woodpecker is being proposed for down listing from endangered to threatened. To date, the Army, through ACUB, has preserved over 760,000 acres in 28 states. The Army and its partners have invested over $1.2 billion to

support the protection of natural resources. These investments will continue to help the Army, ensuring we are well-positioned to protect the mission while remaining good stewards of the environment.

The Army recognizes that external pressures threaten long-term viability of our training ranges and lands. To help mitigate this threat, the Army participates in the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership. This program, in conjunction with our federal partners, allows the Army to strengthen military readiness and address a changing climate and other natural resource challenges. Participating in the Partnership over the last 10 years has increased our installation and surrounding community resilience.

Remediate Contaminants

The Army's commitment to meeting its people's needs includes compliance with environmental laws such as the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act, as well as environmental restoration activities. The Army currently manages close to 5,000 environmental permits. The Army conducts its cleanup program in accordance with the Defense Environmental Restoration Program and subject to, and is a manner consistent with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). As a result of our commitment to addressing historic releases of hazardous substances and pollutants or contaminates, the Army has completed response actions at over 90% of the sites in our inventory. Our efforts address risks posed by the release of hazardous substances, pollutants and contaminants into the environment and hazards associated with munitions used to train our forces to defend the nation. The Army's goal is to complete its cleanup actions to ensure protection of the health of our soldiers, their families, and the community surrounding our installations, as well as the environment.

The Army has been taking action to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) since 2016, using a three-pronged approach focused on identifying and cleaning up past releases, testing for, and mitigating risks from PFAS in drinking water,

and mitigating the use of aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF). As of December 31, 2022, the Army is conducting PFAS investigations at 341 installations in the United States and its territories. We continue to test our Army-owned drinking water systems regularly and take immediate action in instances where measured levels exceed 70 parts per trillion. Finally, the Army's use of AFFF is currently limited to fire emergencies, and we have developed a transition plan in accordance with the FY 2020 NDAA-AFFF replacement with transition beginning after qualified fluorine-free products become available in late 2023. The Army will most likely seek DoD support for a waiver to ensure a methodical transition that does not affect mission activities.

Of the 341 facilities identified as requiring further PFAS investigation, the Army has completed the first phase of investigations at 180 facilities, with investigations underway at the remaining 161 facilities. Eighty facilities have already moved to the next, more advanced, phase of investigation. Through its CERCLA efforts to date, the Army has identified impacts to off-installation drinking water outside six installations and has completed removal actions to cut off exposure through measures such as well closure, providing bottled water, municipal water connections, or installation of treatment. The Army's PFAS-related drinking water and cleanup information is available to the public via the Army's and DoD's websites that are updated regularly.

The Army is committed to fulfilling our cleanup responsibilities and will remain transparent about our progress with both Congress and the public. We will continue to engage in robust community outreach efforts to inform stakeholders and solicit feedback.

Conclusion

Building the Army of 2030 begins on our installations. We need ready and resilient installations to ensure our soldiers are properly trained and can deploy anywhere in the world to fight and win our nation's wars. For installations, the future is now. Your continued support helps us realize these important goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony and for your continued support of our soldiers, civilians, soldiers for life, and their families, caregivers, and survivors.