

The Honorable Neal Dunn

Florida's 2nd Congressional District

Testimony before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction,

Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies

Member Day Hearing on Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2020

Chairwoman Wasserman-Schultz, Ranking Member Carter, and esteemed members of the Subcommittee. I am before you today to express my support of the President's FY20 Budget request for \$9 billion in emergency spending, particularly \$2 Billion designated for military construction projects at installations damaged by the 2018 Hurricane season.

As you know, my district was hit by Hurricane Michael on October 10, 2018. Florida's Second Congressional District is home to Tyndall Air Force Base, the Naval Support Activity Base Panama City, and Coast Guard Station Panama City. All of these installations sustained damage from the storm, but the most critical defense issue we face is the rebuild of Tyndall Air Force Base. Tyndall is in dire need of funding to begin this multi-year, multi-billion-dollar rebuild project.

Tyndall Air Force Base was originally home to the largest F-22 training wing. Recently, the Air Force has expressed plans to bring 3 F-35 squadrons to Tyndall, once the base is rebuilt.

Tyndall's access to the Gulf Test Range makes it crucial to our national security and readiness.

The Gulf Test Range allows for the testing and training of our next generation fighter pilots, weapons, and cutting-edge technology in 130,000 square miles of airspace. This is the largest testing range in the Continental United States.

To date, Tyndall has faced nearly six months without any assistance from Congress. As a result, we face a readiness crisis, but we can fix it. Time is of the essence and I implore you to fulfill the President's request for emergency funding to rebuild the bases affected by last year's hurricanes.

Thank you for your time. I yield back.