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UNTIL RELEASED BY THE
HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS

STATEMENT OF

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BEFORE THE

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS

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Introduction

Chairman Garamendi, Ranking Member Lamborn, and distinguished members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on the Department of Navy's Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Budget Request for Energy, Installations and Environmental Programs.

As the Department of Navy (DoN) balances today's urgent readiness needs with investments in the future force and business reforms, we are compelled to make tough decisions regarding our current and future infrastructure. The DoN appreciates this committee's continued support of Navy and Marine Corps installations, which directly enable the lethality and warfighting readiness of our maritime forces.

Military Construction

The Navy's FY 2022 Military Construction (MILCON) request of \$1.3 billion includes 14 projects, \$258 million for planning and design, and \$41 million for unspecified minor construction projects. This year's budget request contains five overseas MILCON projects, totaling \$295 million, which will enhance the global reach and persistent presence of forward-deployed naval forces. FY 2022 continues the Department's commitment to our Shipyard Infrastructure Optimization Program (SIOP) to ensure the four public shipyards are ready and able to support the class maintenance plan for the Navy's current and future submarines and aircraft carriers. SIOP MILCON projects include a Dry Dock Saltwater System for USS GERALD R. FORD at Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Virginia and follow-on incremental funding for the Multi-Mission Dry Dock #1 Extension at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Maine.

The Marine Corps' FY 2022 MILCON request of \$1.1 billion includes 15 projects, \$112 million for planning and design, and \$18 million for unspecified minor construction projects. Eight construction projects support the relocation of Marine Corps forces from Okinawa to Guam and provide facilities to meet current and future training requirements.

The Department is also investing in new platforms and technologies such as F-35 Flightline Utilities Modernization Phase II at Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point in North Carolina and Directed Energy Weapons Test Facilities at Naval Base Ventura County, Point Mugu, in California. We are also replacing aging infrastructure such as the Submarine Pier 3 at Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Virginia and II Marine Expeditionary Force Operations Center at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in North Carolina.

Facilities Sustainment, Restoration, Modernization (FSRM) and Demolition

The President's Budget request for FY 2022 funds the sustainment of Navy and Marine Corps facilities at 80% of the Department of Defense Facilities Sustainment Model. When sustaining our existing infrastructure, the Department prioritizes life, health, and safety issues and focuses on repairing only the most critical components of our mission-critical facilities. As we take this deliberate level of risk and repeatedly defer less-critical repairs, we acknowledge many facilities will continue to degrade and our facilities maintenance backlog will increase.

The Navy's FY 2022 request includes \$613 million to restore and modernize existing infrastructure. This investment is focused on naval shipyards, utilities, hangars, waterfront structures, barracks and other Fleet priorities. The Marine Corps' facility restoration and modernization request includes \$309 million to update and upgrade critical utility infrastructure, runways and taxiways, hangars and training facilities.

With the FY 2022 budget, the Marine Corps aims to divest of 2.3 million square feet of older, excess, and obsolete facilities contributing to the consolidation and right-sizing of the Marine Corps' facilities footprint to improve operational readiness. The Navy has no dedicated demolition funding in FY 2022 and is instead focusing limited resourcing to repair mission-critical facilities that immediately impact warfighter readiness.

Fallon Range Training Complex (FRTC) Modernization

The DoN appreciates this committee's continued attention to the urgent need to modernize the Navy's premier aviation training range, the Fallon Range Training Complex (FRTC) in Nevada. Naval forces must have the right facilities to train, fight, and win, even as various land, sea, and airspace demands reduce the available area for military training, and the FRTC plays a central role in the readiness of Naval Aviators and Navy Sea, Air and Land (SEAL) forces. Unfortunately, the existing footprint is simply too small to support training requirements for today's weapons. Our aviators are unable to sufficiently train with longer-range precision-guided munitions weapons and our SEALs cannot perform ground mobility maneuver training or fire their organic weapons in a realistic tactical environment.

The complex currently consists of 231,069 acres, of which 202,864 acres are public land withdrawn from the Department of the Interior (DoI) for military purposes. We appreciate that

Congress extended the existing withdrawal of 202,864 acres via the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Acts (NDAA), but this withdrawal extension does not meet our training requirements as it does not accommodate the capability of precision-guided munitions, the aircraft that employ them, or realistic SEAL Team training. Failure to modernize the FRTC will degrade readiness as our aviators and SEALs will not be able to train as they would fight.

Earlier this year, the Department collaborated with the Secretary of the Interior to establish the FRTC Intergovernmental Executive Committee to obtain views of stakeholders on FRTC modernization and information relevant to the management of natural and cultural resources on the range. The committee consists of representatives from the DoN, DoI, the State of Nevada and five of its counties, and multiple interested Tribes. We are committed to working closely with Tribal governments, environmental organizations, and the local community to develop a solution that meets the desires of the local community while providing our warfighters a range complex that meets their critical training and readiness needs.

Privatized Family Housing

The Department's FY 2022 budget request sustains funding needed to ensure military members and their families receive safe, quality, well-maintained housing and fair treatment from the Military Housing Privatization Initiative (MHPI) companies that own, operate, and maintain the DoN's privatized housing. Over the past two years, all levels of leadership across the DoN have been laser-focused on improving the privatized housing experience for Sailors, Marines, and their families. Installation Commanding Officers are personally involved in resolving privatized housing issues and advocating for military families. Although work remains, we are beginning to see improvement in the operation, maintenance, and customer service provided by our MHPI partners. We have increased the number of DoN personnel in our housing offices to provide better oversight, quality control, and advocacy at the installation, regional, and headquarters levels. We have also made significant progress on near-term efforts to better advocate for Service members and their families, increase awareness of the problem resolution process, and increase involvement of the DoN government housing team.

The DoN continues to move forward with addressing the significant MHPI reforms in the FY 2020 and FY 2021 NDAAAs. In February 2020, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretaries of the Military Departments signed a partial Tenants Bill of Rights which certified 14 of the 18

rights available to service members and their families through existing business agreements. As of June 1, 2021, the DoN's MHPI partners have implemented the seven-year Maintenance History, Dispute Resolution and Rent Withhold for the majority of our residents, and the Universal Lease is being rolled out as leases are executed or renewed.

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)

We remain committed to the health and safety of our men and women in uniform, their families, and the communities in which we serve. Perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) are organic chemicals that are part of a larger group of chemicals referred to as PFAS, which were used to make carpets, clothing, furniture fabric, food packaging, and cookware resistant to water, grease, or stains. At Navy and Marine Corps installations, PFOS and PFOA are also found in the Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) used for firefighting.

The Department's cleanup program plans to execute over \$37 million in FY 2022 and has spent approximately \$270 million through FY 2020 on PFAS investigations or response actions, ranging from sampling to drinking water treatment. We expect future costs for cleanup to increase as we complete our initial investigations and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state guidance/regulations evolve.

The DoN is implementing a comprehensive strategy to manage and address known or potential releases of PFAS from DoN activities on Navy and Marine Corps installations through a multi-pronged approach:

- Ensuring Drinking Water Does Not Exceed EPA Health Advisory Levels on DoN Installations. Testing is complete at all Navy and Marine Corps installations to ensure drinking water does not contain PFOS/PFOA above the EPA's lifetime health advisory level.
- Eliminating PFOS or PFOA Drinking Water Exposure from Off-Installation Public Water Supplies and Private Wells. The DoN has proactively identified locations where PFOS/PFOA may have migrated to off-installation drinking water sources and gathered water samples from drinking water wells for testing. If drinking water contains PFOS/PFOA levels that exceed the EPA's lifetime health advisory level, we provide alternate water and seek a long-term solution.

- Investigating and Responding to PFAS Releases under the DoN Environmental Restoration Program. If we release PFAS during our firefighting or other operations, the DoN immediately takes action to respond to and mitigate the risks and impacts of the release.
- Replacing Legacy AFFF. The DoN is actively supporting DoD's research and development effort to identify suitable replacements to transition to a PFAS-free firefighting alternative on installations.
- Working closely and communicating early with the public and stakeholders. The DoN will continue open and timely communication with the public, regulators, and congressional partners.

Environmental Priorities

The Navy and Marine Corps take a proactive role in enhancing mission effectiveness through the thoughtful and deliberate implementation of environmental programs to meet our expanding mission requirements; to protect and improve the environment where we live, work and train; to avoid and reduce future liabilities; and to build trust and equity with our internal and external stakeholders. The Department's environmental program provides policy, resources, and oversight required to address legal compliance of Navy and Marine Corps operations/ installations with U.S. environmental laws and international treaties. Environmental programs consist of Planning, Compliance and Restoration, Natural and Cultural Resources Management, and Compatibility and Encroachment. Navy and Marine Corps environmental efforts support continued access to vital testing and training ranges through the implementation of mitigation to include environmental monitoring and research. The Department continues to focus its efforts on protecting the mission readiness of Navy and Marine Corps installations, ranges, and operating areas.

Installation Resilience

The FY 2022 DoN budget request continues our commitment to installation resilience as a crosscutting consideration integrated into our installation planning, environmental conservation and restoration, facility design and construction, and decision-making processes. DoN installations face environmental threats from natural disasters and climate change, as well as

risks to energy, water supplies, and industrial cyber control systems. Following the guidance in Executive Order 14008 and the newly established Secretary of Defense Climate Working Group, the DoN will continue to incorporate climate risk analysis into installation planning and deploy new solutions to strengthen the resilience of critical capabilities at installations and with the surrounding communities. We recognize the interdependencies between our installations and the surrounding communities, and we are looking beyond our fence lines to collaborate with local communities, States, other federal agencies, and industry leaders to develop regional plans that protect military capabilities.

Base Operating Support (BOS)

BOS is critical to the operations of all Navy and Marine Corps installations; it enables the warfighting readiness of Naval forces by providing security, safety, transportation, air and port operations, quality of life programs, logistics services command support, and facilities management. Funding levels for BOS at Navy and Marine Corps installations have remained essentially flat year-over-year; our Naval installations worldwide have absorbed this risk and continue to accept and adjust to low installation service levels.

Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC)

The Department's FY 2022 budget request includes \$111 million for installations closed in previous BRAC rounds; \$101 million of this is for environmental cleanup. The DoN has completed disposal of 95% of property (180,400 acres) with the remaining 5% representing 8,642 acres at 16 former installations. More than 40% of the remaining property is at two BRAC 2005 installations: Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Willow Grove in Pennsylvania and Naval Weapons Station Concord in California. 27 of 43 former installations have no property remaining for transfer and still require environmental cleanup or monitoring. PFOS and PFOA have affected public water supplies and private wells at multiple BRAC installations. In FY 2022, the Navy will continue investigations and/or cleanup actions at 40 former installations with known or suspected PFOS and PFOA.

We appreciate Congress' support of the environmental cleanup efforts at the former Hunters Point Naval Shipyard. Fraudulent contractor work delayed property transfers in support

of redevelopment, and extensive rework on low-level radiological cleanup that began in 2019 will continue.

Conclusion

I appreciate the ongoing commitment and attention of this committee, and I thank you for the opportunity to discuss the DoN's energy, installations and environmental portfolio. As we look forward to FY 2022, the Department will continue to seek ways enhance the warfighting capability of our Naval forces, increase the readiness of our warfighting platforms, and support quality of life for our Sailors, Marines, Civilians and their families.