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THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS

STATEMENT OF

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RED HILL BULK FUEL STORAGE FACILITY: THE CURRENT CRISIS, THE RESPONSE,
AND THE WAY FORWARD

BEFORE THE

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
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JANUARY 11, 2022

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Chairman Garamendi, Ranking Member Lamborn, and members of the Subcommittee. I am Rear Admiral Peter Stamatopoulos, and I am the Commander of Naval Supply Systems Command (NAVSUP). I appreciate the strong support of Congress and this Subcommittee for the Department of the Navy. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you to discuss the Red Hill Shaft contamination in Hawaii.

NAVSUP MISSION

NAVSUP reports directly to the Chief of Naval Operations. Our mission is to conduct and enable supply chain, acquisition, operational logistics, and Sailor and family care to generate readiness and sustain Naval and joint forces worldwide. NAVSUP is responsible for a diverse portfolio including supply and material management operations, conventional ordnance, contracting, fuel, transportation, security assistance, and Sailor and family care, including food services, postal services, lodging, retail facilities and the movement of household goods. NAVSUP oversees 11 subordinate commands, including Fleet Logistics Center Pearl Harbor, which operates the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility.

NAVSUP RESPONSIBILITIES AT RED HILL FACILITY

As the Commander of NAVSUP, I am responsible for providing planeside and pier-side fuel delivery services, Defense Fuel Support Point (DFSP) operations, and management of bulk petroleum, oil, and lubricants for afloat and ashore naval, joint, and multinational forces. The fuels mission is executed via NAVSUP Fleet Logistics Centers, which are collocated and aligned with each of the numbered Fleet areas of responsibility. NAVSUP Fleet Logistics Center Pearl Harbor is responsible for directing and managing the day-to-day operations of the Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam DFSP, which includes the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility.

Additionally, as the service control point for all Department of the Navy activities for bulk petroleum, NAVSUP serves as the central management function in coordinating requirements, technical issues, and supply actions with military units and Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Energy in support of the Department of Defense Executive Agent for Bulk Petroleum.

NAVSUP CRISIS RESPONSE

My top priority is addressing the water contamination in Hawaii, exercising all of NAVSUP's capabilities. NAVSUP maintains a ready to deploy logistics capability via our Enterprise Logistics Response Teams (ELRT) to respond within hours to any crisis or contingency worldwide. The NAVSUP ELRT is composed of active duty service members, reservists, and civilians who are experienced in logistics functions. NAVSUP deployed an ELRT to support the primary lines of operations in the U.S. Pacific Fleet execute order, which are: (1) Provide support to families and residents; (2) Restore the water distribution system with safe drinking water; (3) Lead environmental compliance and regulatory coordination actions; (4) Remediate the Red Hill well to protect the aquifer, and (5) Re-establish public confidence in the Navy water system.

PROVIDE SUPPORT TO FAMILIES AND RESIDENCES

As a supporting commander to U.S. Pacific Fleet, Navy Installations Command (CNIC), and Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC), NAVSUP has delivered 684,325 gallons of bottled and bulk water to affected individuals at seven distribution centers and 43 delivery locations. NAVSUP has also contracted for hygiene stations, laundry services, and hotel rooms to provide alternative lodging for those families.

RESTORE WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM AND REMEDIATE RED HILL WELL

In support of restoration of the water distribution system and remediating the Red Hill well, NAVSUP is providing end-to-end logistics support to the flushing plan approved by the Interagency Drinking Water System Team. To date, in support of NAVFAC and our other mission partners, NAVSUP has supported the transport of 25 granular activated carbon filtration devices from locations across the United States to affected areas on Oahu. NAVSUP will continue to support deployment of these devices until the water is certified “safe for human consumption” in each affected community.

NAVY INVESTIGATION & THIRD-PARTY ASSESSMENT OF RED HILL

As members of the Subcommittee are aware, Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet has directed an investigation into the operation, maintenance, safety, and oversight of the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. In addition, the Secretary of the Navy directed an unbiased, third-party assessment to understand the operations and system integrity of the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility in order to ensure fuel within Red Hill remains fully contained in tanks and pipelines, and to eliminate potential future releases into the environment.

To fulfill the direction of the Secretary, NAVSUP leveraged oil and gas industry executives and the Environmental Protection Agency to develop a Statement of Objective acquisition approach to solicit commercial “best-in-class” process safety management, risk management, and integrity management consultants. Contract award is anticipated during the second week of January 2022, with performance completion by the end of April 2022.

The results of the Navy's investigation, coupled with the third-party assessment, are expected to provide the Navy with a multi-dimensional view of the Red Hill Shaft contamination causes, and how the Navy can operate and maintain the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility to the highest possible standard, as required by the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2022.

CONCLUSION

I am wholly committed to rebuilding trust with our neighbors in Hawaii, our service members, and their families. My highest priorities are restoring safe drinking water so that families can return to their homes, supporting all investigations and assessments, and implementing mitigations and countermeasures to protect and preserve the Hawaiian environment and ensure the people of Hawaii and our military families have access to safe drinking water from the underlying aquifer. On behalf of NAVSUP, I thank you for the opportunity to discuss Red Hill and your continued support. I welcome any of the Subcommittee's questions.