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**UPDATE ON MATTERS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION
OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARIES FOR ENERGY,
INSTALLATION, AND ENVIRONMENT IN SUP-
PORT OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 NATIONAL
DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT**

HEARING

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
READINESS AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
UNITED STATES SENATE

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

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UPDATE ON MATTERS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARIES FOR ENERGY, INSTALLATION, AND ENVIRONMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

WEDNESDAY JUNE 25, 2025

UNITED STATES SENATE,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS AND
MANAGEMENT SUPPORT,
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
Washington, DC.

The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 2:34 p.m. in room SR-232A, Russell Senate Office Building, Senator Sullivan (Chairman of the Committee) presiding.

Committee Members present: Senators Sullivan, Fischer, Scott, Sheehy, Hirono, and Kaine.

OPENING STATEMENT OF SENATOR DAN SULLIVAN

Senator SULLIVAN. The Readiness and Management Subcommittee hearing is now in session. I want to begin by noting that this Committee is focused on readiness today, although, unfortunately you're not reading about it in the press or anything. It marks the 75th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War, which is a real lesson in American readiness that I think we in the Senate and hopefully in the Armed Services continue to learn from today. Because that was a—outbreak of that war was a real lesson and hard knocks in terms of readiness, and it's something I think we all need to remember.

Of course, to the remaining American veterans of the Korean War, we want to thank them for their service. I've never liked the term the Forgotten War. I think it should be called the Noble War because it was the United States coming to save a country from a communist invasion, many of whom we didn't know and young Americans sacrificed in enormous ways, 37,000 killed in action.

We in our country unfortunately barely even talk about that war. So, I wanted to begin by that. Our Committee meets today to receive testimony on the Department's military construction, energy installations, environmental and base closure programs in the review of the Defense Authorization Request of Fiscal Year 2026, I would like to welcome Assistant Secretary Marks to his first hearing since his recent confirmation.

So, Mr. Secretary, welcome, I congratulate you and look forward to working closely with you in this very important role for our mili-

tary and the Pentagon. I also thank the other esteemed witnesses for being here today and for their continued service to our country.

Each of you play an important role in ensuring our Armed Forces are ready at a moment's notice to defend our country. But right now, we are facing problems and challenges that are detrimental to that objective. While our personnel are the backbone of our military, the installations are what bring them together. Simply put, our decaying facilities are causing significant issues with regard to our warfighters and the locations and resilience of our bases could serve as a detriment to our national security during wartime.

With that in mind, I want to discuss our current basing posture in the Indo-Pacific in the context of dispersal, survivability, and logistics, including for bulk fuel and energy requirements. I believe we have over concentrated our basing and force posture in the Indo-Pacific at places like Guam and we should look for opportunities to both disperse and harden these facilities. Make them more resilient, and position ourselves to better support operational and strategic maneuver in a contested environment in this critical AOR [area of responsibility].

I would like to hear from each of you on the implementation of the Fiscal Year 2025 National Defense Authorization requirement to achieve 4 percent plant replacement value by 2030. This requirement came after a lack of priority from the services that led to crumbling infrastructure in many areas across the United States and the world. This has only driven up the cost in damage service readiness. We must take immediate action to mitigate this damage for many of these facilities throughout the world.

As Chairman Wicker said during the Air Force Posture hearing, "This is the law of the land." I would additionally like to discuss any updates each of you have in improving and maintaining unaccompanied housing. The poor living conditions which unfortunately include sewage overflow, mold, mildew, broken windows, decrease the quality of life and readiness for servicemembers mostly junior enlisted and their families, which of course, negatively impacts readiness across the services.

We must ensure that our servicemembers are not living in barracks that do not meet the standards set by the Department of Defense (DOD). Additionally, your thoughts on the Department's work in operational energy in how these systems can transform the modern warfighter are crucial to this Committee's work on contested logistics.

Finally, I would like to hear from each of the witnesses about your future priorities since the Department did not release the Future Year's Defense Program budget through 2030, we are still waiting for that. The challenges we are facing today are the result of years of pushing these problems aside, kicking the can down the road. We must work together to modernize our infrastructure to give our country and our troops the best footing possible for any contingency that is thrown their way.

Again, I want to thank the witnesses for attending today. I look forward to each of your testimony, and with that, I want to thank my Ranking Member, Senator Hirono, and ask her for her opening statement.

OPENING STATEMENT OF SENATOR MAZIE HIRONO

Senator HIRONO. Thank you, Chairman Sullivan. I want to thank each of our witnesses for your years of service and to the many hardworking civilians in your respective organizations, I thank them. This Subcommittee remains focused on ensuring that the Department of Defense is equipped not only to meet today's operational requirements but also to strengthen the long-term resilience, readiness, and well-being of our military installations.

I appreciate your engagement on each of these critical issues. I have been very focused on infrastructure and I'm glad that the chair recognizes the importance of modernizing and repairing our infrastructure, which we have not done a very good job on. I want to begin by expressing concern regarding this Department's ability to deliver timely, efficient, and cost-effective infrastructure, construction delays and cost overruns undermine readiness and public trust.

I will ask each of you to identify specific areas where the military construction process can improve and what steps are being taken to enhance accountability and performance. I recognize this is pretty much a perennial problem but when I ask each of you to identify very specific ways that we can do better, I mean, very specific things that are doable, things that we can see the outcomes of the improvements.

So, please think about that as I'm finishing my remarks. Another priority area is the quality of military housing, and apparently both of the chair and I certainly have visited military housing and see the needs there. So, both for families and unaccompanied servicemembers, quality housing directly affects morale, retention, and overall readiness. Significant work still needs to be done. For example, the Department's March report on its use of waivers highlighted 32 substandard facilities on Army installations. Yet we know the problem is broader.

That is why I am troubled to learn about the Army's plan to divert \$1 billion of facilities sustainment, restoration, and modernization funding to pay for operations at the Southwest border. These funds were originally intended for the repair and maintenance of facilities like barracks. This is only occurring because the Secretary of Defense has chosen at every turn to waive reimbursement as an option in the many requests for assistance from the Department of Homeland Security.

It's a curious choice made by the Defense Secretary especially since the DOD's fiscal year 2024 Agency financial report cited a deferred facility maintenance backlog of \$267 billion. That is a significant part of the DOD's whole budget. We have to do better people. We know that.

So, we need to understand how the Department plans to ensure that soldiers have access to safe, well-maintained housing considering this shift, this Committee asked the Army 3 weeks ago for simple details on planned versus executed facility sustainment, restoration, and modernization projects in fiscal year 2025. Yet we've not received anything to date. So, Dr. Waksman, I expect the Army to deliver answers as soon as possible to our requests.

Pivoting to the Indo-Pacific, as each of you know, several of the militaries more essential training areas across Hawaii are leased

from the State and are set to expire in the coming years. The training areas are foundational to joint readiness in the region and at the same time they hold cultural and historical significance to the native Hawaiian community. It is essential that any path forward respects that significance while ensuring our forces have access to the ranges and facilities that they need.

The Department must work in good faith with State officials and the community to ensure these leases are renegotiated in a way that is equitable to all parties. Regarding military construction in the Indo-Pacific, we have previously authorized the extensions of the H-2B visa programs to ensure sufficient labor for projects in Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, Secretary Marks, as a construction in the region accelerates, we need to understand the potential cost and readiness implication of these mission critical visas that they are extended.

I realize that the chair has asked the question as to the continuing spending that's going on in Guam. But if we intend to continue to do what we need to do in Guam, these visas are very necessary. Next, I'd like to touch on demand reduction and installation resilience. The Department's investment and operational energy programs not only reduces the logistics footprint for our warfighters but also enhances their combat capabilities as well. It is critical these programs continue to garner the bipartisan support they've had for years now.

Meanwhile, initiatives like the Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program and Sentinel Landscapes strengthen our installation readiness. These programs strengthen our installations—sorry. These programs not only improve energy security and mission assurance but also protect surrounding ecosystems and prevent encroachment on military basis.

Finally, I want to address the growing risks posed by extreme weather and natural disasters to our installations. Secretary Marks, as you experienced firsthand, these events have cost the Department tens of billions of dollars and directly impact mission readiness. It is imperative that DOD approaches these risks proactively so that joint forces better postured to adapt to the risks to military installation resilience. So, we can expect a lot more of these unpredictable weather events and as I know we should be better prepared to deal with the damage costs by these massive weather events. We have a lot of ground to cover today, so I thank each of you for being here and thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator SULLIVAN. Thank you, Senator Hirono, and now we're going to begin with 5-minute opening statements. If you have a longer written statement for the record, we'd be glad to submit that for the record. We'll begin with you, Secretary Marks.

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE DALE R. MARKS, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR ENERGY, INSTALLATIONS, AND ENVIRONMENT

Mr. MARKS. Well, Chairman Sullivan and Ranking Member Hirono and distinguished members of this Subcommittee thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. As you mentioned, the newly confirmed Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy Installations and Environment, I really do appreciate this oppor-

tunity to discuss the President's proposed fiscal year 2026 budget for the Department of Defense's Energy Installation Environment portfolio.

The President and Secretary of Defense have laid out a clear objective for the Department, achieve peace through strength. As the secretary has said, the threats we face are serious. Our investments to counter them must also be and that's what this budget is intended to do. I firmly believe that the strength and lethality of our military is built both on the weapon systems that defend us and on the readiness of our servicemembers and their families who accomplish this mission.

Make no mistake, our installations are weapons systems just like our ships, tanks, and planes. We must ensure that they're postured to carry out the entire spectrum of military operations. At the same time, we know that America is a target. Our installations are under threat not just from our adversaries but from aging infrastructure, extreme weather, and increasingly complex operational demands. Our budget request includes 17.9 billion in military construction funds, 27.3 billion in FSRM [Facilities Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization] and 3.8 billion in installation, operational energy investments and addresses these challenges by focusing squarely on military readiness and operational capability.

This ensures our resources directly support what matters most, maintaining ready forces and resilient OP installations that can operate effectively under any condition. In particular, we're focusing on energy dominance, infrastructure modernization, operational energy security and investing in our innovation and research programs in support of the warfighter.

At the same time, we recognize the resilience of our installations is enhanced by partnering with our defense communities and we're making a concerted effort to work with them on mutually beneficial initiatives that enhance redundancies and prevent risks to national security. We also recognize that our servicemembers' readiness starts at home.

We want to ensure our warfighters are able to deliver 100 percent of their effort to their missions without having to worry about issues with their housing or about the health and safety of their family members back home. So, our 1.9 billion in family housing and 1.2 billion unaccompanied housing request supports our commitment to ensuring that the DOD's housing portfolio provides a positive living experience for military personnel and their families.

We also continue to address risks to human health and environment through our environmental cleanup programs funded at 1.5 billion. We're moving in the right direction but I recognize we must do better on behalf of our servicemembers and their families. To accomplish these goals, the Department must ensure that we make the most efficient use of our resources and manpower to enable us to focus on our core mission of defending the Nation. Energy, Installations, and Environment (EIE) is coordinating several efforts to review current processes and regulations to create efficiencies and reduce costs, including a review of our Military Construction (MILCON) and FSRM investment portfolios, real property efficiencies and a review of our implementation of environmental laws and regulations.

Finally, as part of this administration's effort to counter China's malign actions in the Indo-Pacific, we continue to work with key stakeholders to address DOD's use of lands and natural resources in Hawaii through the Hawaii Coordination Cell. We're also undertaking holistic master planning effort to effectively sequence development, prioritize infrastructure needs and align support functions with mission growth on Guam.

We'll look forward to working with Congress to address issues such as further extension of the H-2B visa authorities. Going forward with some big issues to tackle such as meeting Congress' directive to significantly increase our FSRM investment to at least 4 percent of plant replacement value. I look forward to working with this Committee to address these challenges head on and fulfill our commitment to our soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and guardians. Thank you and I look forward to your questions.

[The prepared statement of The Honorable Dale R. Marks follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT BY THE HONORABLE DALE R. MARKS

INTRODUCTION

Chairman Sullivan, Ranking Member Hirono, and distinguished members of the Subcommittee: Thank you for the opportunity to discuss the President's proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Budget for the Department of Defense's (DOD) energy, installations, and environment programs. As the newly confirmed Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations and Environment, I look forward to working with this Committee in the coming months to ensure our installations are postured to support the President's and Secretary of Defense's focus on ensuring the U.S. military remains the most lethal and effective fighting force in the world.

The President and Secretary of Defense have laid out a clear objective for the Department: achieve peace through strength by reviving the warrior ethos and restoring trust in our military, rebuilding our military by matching threats to capabilities, and reestablishing deterrence by defending our homeland. To achieve these objectives, we must ensure our power projection platforms are postured to maximize our servicemembers' lethality and defend the homeland while remaining secure against a wide range of threats.

The President has also recognized that national security relies on establishing American energy dominance. The Department is laser-focused on implementing this critical national security imperative to unleash the United States' abundant natural resources and maintain our leadership in energy technologies and innovation. We are working across the interagency to advance these goals, with a key focus on the national security objectives in contained in the Executive Orders on Establishing the National Energy Dominance Council, Unleashing American Energy, Unleashing Alaska's Extraordinary Resource Potential, and Deploying Advanced Nuclear Reactor Technologies for National Security, among others.

In addition, we know that America is under threat. Our adversaries are targeting our critical defense, government, and economic infrastructure, both inside and outside our fencelines. Every domain is contested—air, land, sea, space, and cyber.

Our installation investments focus squarely on military readiness and operational capability. When we evaluate infrastructure improvements or assess environmental impacts, we apply one clear standard: how does this strengthen our warfighting capability? This mission-focused strategy ensures our resources directly support what matters most—maintaining ready forces and resilient installations that can operate effectively under any conditions. We will continue to assess weather-related impacts on our operations, mitigate weather-related risks, conduct environmental assessments as appropriate, and improve the resilience of our installations, but always through the lens of enhancing military effectiveness and operational resilience.

As the Secretary has said, the threats we face are serious and our investments to counter them must also be. That's what this budget does. We also know we have some big issues to tackle, such as meeting Congress's directive to significantly increase our facilities sustainment, restoration, and modernization (FSRM) invest-

ments to at least 4 percent of plant replacement value. I look forward to working with the Committee to address these challenges head-on.

SUPPORTING LETHALITY

The strength and lethality of our military is built both on the weapon systems that defend us, and on the readiness of our servicemembers, and their families, to accomplish this mission. Make no mistake: our installations are weapon systems, just like our ships, tanks, and planes. We must ensure that they are postured—in terms of quality, condition, and laydown—to carry out the entire spectrum of military operations.

The hard truth is that our installations are under threat, not just from our adversaries, but from aging infrastructure, extreme weather, and increasingly complex operational demands. In the past decade alone, weather-related damages have cost the Department over \$15 billion.

Our adversaries understand these vulnerabilities. They actively seek to exploit our dependencies on energy and water infrastructure, attempting to degrade our ability to deploy forces, undermine our deterrent capabilities, and put our installations at risk. These disruptions directly impact warfighter health and safety, training and testing equipment reliability and performance, critical infrastructure functionality, and overall force readiness and lethality.

To maintain mission readiness and sustain the installations that make deterrence credible, the Department is investing over \$1.5 billion to ensure availability of energy to meet installation missions, provide diverse sources of energy for onsite generation, field microgrids and energy storage, deploy energy efficiency upgrades, and pursue innovative and resilient technologies like small modular nuclear reactors. Continued investment in energy efficiency through Energy Saving Performance Contracts (ESPCs) and Utility Energy Services Contracts (UESCs) with DOD's industry partners bolsters installation energy resilience by reducing the installation energy demand and need for backup resources during commercial grid disruptions.

One of the Department's most significant energy infrastructure investment initiatives is the Energy Resilience and Conservation Investment Program (ERCIP). The fiscal year 2026 budget request includes \$723 million (\$684 million in construction projects and \$39 million in planning and design funds) for ERCIP, focused on deploying cutting-edge technologies, including advanced energy storage systems, next-generation geothermal and nuclear capabilities, and sophisticated microgrid networks—all essential to maintaining the military's operational readiness.

The Department also must enhance the operational energy posture of Joint forces. In fiscal year 2024 alone, the Department consumed 68 million barrels of fuel at a cost of \$10.7 billion, with nearly half of that fuel being purchased overseas. As we operate in increasingly austere and contested environments, we need to ensure that air, sea, land, and space platforms are assured the supplies of energy needed to deter and, if needed, defeat adversaries.

The fiscal year 2026 budget request includes \$2.3 billion to enhance the operational energy posture of Joint forces. These investments include enhancements to the range, endurance, and on-board power of combat vehicles, advanced propulsion to increase the range and endurance of surface combatants, increased standardization, safety, and capabilities of advanced energy storage technologies, next-generation adaptive propulsion, and mission planning and execution tools to maximize combat capability per gallon of fuel.

The Department is revolutionizing how we plan for energy needs and mitigate energy-related risks in combat operations. Our new Resilient Logistics Operations & Analytics Demonstrator (RELOAD), a collaborative project with DARPA and other defense partners, is significantly improving our ability to make informed decisions about capability development, bulk fuel posture, and operational concepts. RELOAD uses advanced analytics to identify critical shortfalls in the Joint Logistics Enterprise, ensuring we can effectively distribute, store, and deliver fuel to the warfighter. By providing comprehensive operational impact assessments of new technologies, alongside program evaluations of cost and schedule performance, RELOAD empowers Departmental leaders to proactively address energy-driven operational risks and optimize resource allocation.

These efforts are underpinned by critical Defense-wide innovation programs that set the technical direction for the DOD by funding the development and demonstration of mission-critical energy capabilities and helping them through the acquisition process. These include the Operational Energy Capability Improvement Fund (OECIF) and the Operational Energy Prototype Fund (OEPF), which deliver game-changing technologies focusing on Energy Dominance (through advanced command and control), Energy and Power Projection (through revolutionary endurance and

propulsion systems) and Energy Surety (through next-generation storage solutions). These programs have delivered remarkable successes, including advances in nuclear fuel technology, wireless power transmission, and unmanned aircraft endurance. For fiscal year 2026, the Department's request for \$169 million for OECIF and \$55 million for OEPF focuses on critical capabilities like airborne energy delivery in contested environments, improved power management, and advanced energy storage.

While our military operations depend heavily on energy infrastructure, much of that infrastructure lies outside our fencelines. The most powerful military in the world relies on civilian infrastructure to train our forces, power our bases and project power globally. With this vulnerability in mind, we are conducting comprehensive assessments of our Nation's power and fuel infrastructure, focusing particularly on coastal vulnerabilities, while simultaneously evaluating strategic priorities like the development and deployment of advanced nuclear technologies and partnerships in artificial intelligence and data center development. These initiatives not only align with the President's vision of American energy dominance but ensure our military maintains the power it needs to defend our Nation's interests at home and abroad.

Supporting Defense Communities and Promoting Compatible Development

The Department recognizes that the resilience of our installations is enhanced by partnering with, not competing against, our defense communities. Our defense communities are critical enablers that support our defense installations and ensure our servicemembers have the resources they need to carry out their missions. At the same time, they face many of the same threats our installations face. We know our adversaries are targeting supporting infrastructure like electrical grids and water systems, and our communities are just as, if not more, exposed to natural hazards than our installations. As such, we are making a concerted effort to work with our defense communities on mutually beneficial initiatives via direct support or planning while also ensuring military operations, mission support, and warfighter capabilities remain unimpeded and to prevent risk to national security by incompatible development.

Key to these efforts is the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC). OLDCC provides technical and financial assistance to states, counties, municipalities, regions, and other communities to foster cooperation with military installations to enhance the military mission; achieve facility and infrastructure savings and reduced operating costs; address encroachment and compatible land use issues; increase military, civilian, and industrial readiness; and support military families. OLDCC will leverage the requested \$159.5 million to work with defense communities to further the Secretary's priorities, ensuring their efforts both enhance the readiness and lethality of military installations, ranges, and test facilities and provide benefits back to the communities.

To date, OLDCC has awarded 11 grants in fiscal year 2025, to include:

- A grant to the University of Alaska Fairbanks to work with Eielson Air Force Base, Fort Wainwright, the State of Alaska, and local utility on permitting for a natural gas pipeline, respond to other energy requirements, and address housing affordability issues.
- A grant to County of McMullen, Texas to design a single access road to the ROTHRTX (Relocatable Over the Horizon Radar) location and to obtain funding to carry out improvements. These efforts will enhance the readiness of the McMullen Range, the only United States-based radar system in USSOUTHCOM's surveillance architecture, including enhancing detection and surveillance capabilities along the southern border, and strengthen mission readiness and lethality at Naval Air Station Kingsville.
- A grant to the city of Virginia Beach Department of Public Utilities to plan and design 1.5 miles of a new 30-inch diameter water transmission main to support potable water and water suppression needs at Naval Air Station Oceana and Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story, ensuring the installations' readiness and lethality.
- A grant to Belle Chasse Academy, Inc., a charter school in Louisiana, to design, renovate, and expand current facilities. This project provides expanded capacity for 30-year student use and supports learning for the more than 650 military-connected students (90 percent of the enrollment), military families and warfighters, enhancing lethality and readiness by improving recruitment and retention.

Of note, last month, OLDCC published two Notice of Funding Opportunities for the Fiscal Year 2025 Defense Community Infrastructure Program and the Community Noise Mitigation Program; both will be awarded by the end of the fiscal year.

In addition to directly supporting our defense communities, the Department recognizes that the condition of the lands and waters on-and off-installation affects our ability to conduct weapons system testing, realistic live-fire training, and essential operations that are vital to preparing a more lethal and resilient combat force. Ensuring that the land and waters surrounding our installations are compatible with military mission requirements is critical to ensuring unencumbered warfighter access to lands and ranges that replicate the operational environment in which they fight. The Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program provides this assurance. Our fiscal year 2026 budget request for REPI is \$158.3 million, which will fund cost-sharing agreements between the Military Services, other Federal agencies, State and local governments, and private partners to avoid or remove land use conflicts near military installations, minimize environmental restrictions that limit military activities, and improve the resilience of military installations, while addressing mission-essential considerations, including flight hazards, operational security, and wildland fire resilience.

DOD manages and maintains nearly 27 million acres of land, water, and airspace across the United States and its territories that have the principal purpose of supporting mission-related activities and furthering the national defense strategy. Realistic environments are essential to field testing new technologies and for the military to train, which requires access to deserts, grasslands, rainforests, tundra permafrost, coastlines, and other ecosystems. Training and testing in varied ecosystems prepare our warfighters for any of the challenges they may face while conducting global operations. Without sustained strategic investment and management, DOD lands can be degraded or eliminated, resulting in a net loss in the ability of these military installation lands and waters to sustain a combat-ready and lethal military force. To address these issues, the Department is requesting \$599.9 million in conservation and environmental management funding. Through programs such as REPI, the Military Aviation and Installation Assurance Siting Clearinghouse, and DOD Legacy Resource Management Program, the Department can stimulate mutually beneficial and cost-effective partnerships between local communities, Federal and State agencies, and non-governmental organizations to support DOD's ability to operate seamlessly across domains and maintain its strong record as a steward of our Nation's natural, cultural, and historical heritage.

IMPROVING EFFICIENCY

The Secretary of Defense has issued a clear directive to focus on eliminating waste and duplication to enable the Department to focus on its core mission of defending the Nation. In support of this directive, EI&E is coordinating several efforts to review current processes and regulations to create efficiencies and reduce costs.

MILCON and FSRM Review

For fiscal year 2026, the Department is requesting \$17.9 billion for Military Construction (MILCON) and \$27.3 billion in Facilities Sustainment, Restoration & Modernization (FSRM) funding. Given the size and scope of the Department's infrastructure footprint, these investment portfolios represent a significant opportunity to maximize the effectiveness of the taxpayer dollars while improving the readiness and lethality of our warfighters.

Under current processes, a military construction or large-scale FSRM project can take 5 years to be incorporated in a budget request to Congress and once funded, can take potentially another 4 years to obtain beneficial use. The Department must develop more timely and flexible processes and organizational structures to enable more agile delivery of infrastructure needs.

As such, the Deputy Secretary of Defense has directed a 60-day review of the Department's MILCON and FSRM portfolios. My office is developing recommendations for proposed regulatory or statutory changes, updates to DOD policy, and process improvements that improve cost structure, efficiency of execution, and lifecycle sustainment. In support of this, we are aggressively streamlining the Department's regulations such as the Unified Facilities Criteria, evaluating how to build additional accountability into our processes, and pursuing additional contracting authorities to allow us to execute like the private sector.

The Department appreciates the authorities Congress has provided in recent National Defense Authorization Acts (NDAA) to make our processes more efficient, including increases to the unspecified minor military construction (UMMC) threshold in the fiscal year 2023 NDAA, the pilot program permitting replacement of failing barracks in the fiscal year 2024 NDAA, and the increase in the threshold for acquisition of low cost interests in land and a pilot program to optimize our footprint using UMMC in the fiscal year 2025 NDAA. We look forward to working with Con-

gress to further our common goal of making efficient and effective investments in DOD infrastructure.

The Department also shares Congress' interest in ensuring that the current DOD construction agent model maximizes efficiency, is responsive to the needs of the Department, and minimizes redundancy and unnecessary costs. Consistent with Section 2877 of the fiscal year 2025 NDAA, my office has entered into a contract with the RAND Corporation to review the roles and responsibilities for executing construction projects. We will work closely with the Military Departments to ensure the Department collectively provides a timely objective report on this critical issue.

Real Property Efficiencies

As part of EO 14222, Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency" Cost Efficiency Initiative, and as required in Section 2850 of the fiscal year 2025 NDAA, the Department is working to reduce its leased space inventory. The Secretary of Defense has directed us to reduce our administrative and warehousing leased costs by 30 percent within the next 18 months. To achieve this reduction, we have implemented regular building occupancy reporting that enables us to identify existing spaces with capacity and focus our personnel laydown within our installations. The reduction is a critical step in enabling the Department to focus on its core mission of defending the Nation by eliminating waste and duplication to maximize the value of our real eState portfolio.

Reviewing Processes for Complying with Environmental Regulations

Another area of opportunity to improve efficiency and improve our delivery of capability to our warfighters is to eliminate delays within the environmental permitting process. As part of its response to Executive Order 14154, Unleashing American Energy, the Department is working with other key stakeholders in the Administration to streamline how DOD implements the National Environmental Policy Act. The Department recognizes that we have an immense responsibility to the natural resources entrusted to us and we are working to ensure we are maximizing our readiness and resilience while also fulfilling our environmental stewardship obligations.

QUALITY OF LIFE

Our servicemembers' readiness starts at home. They should be able to focus on their missions without having to worry about issues with their housing or about the health and safety of their family members back home. The Department remains committed to ensuring that these issues are addressed so that our soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and guardians can bring 100 percent of themselves to their missions.

HOUSING

Housing is both a crucial quality of life issue and a critical mission-enabling asset. Our servicemembers and their families rightly expect and deserve safe and secure places to live in return for the sacrifices they make for our Nation. While the Department has taken significant action to improve its management and oversight of its housing portfolio, we can and will do better. The Department remains committed to ensuring that all servicemember housing—whether it is government-owned, government-controlled, or privatized—meets appropriate life, health, and safety requirements and provides a positive living experience for military personnel and their families.

The Department's fiscal year 2026 Family Housing budget request includes \$1.9 billion to fund construction, operation, and maintenance of government-owned and leased family housing worldwide; invest in select military family housing privatization projects and provide oversight of privatized housing and lodging projects; and provide housing referral services to assist military members in renting or buying private sector housing. Additionally, the budget request includes \$1.2 billion in Unaccompanied Housing (UH) investments, another step in the Department's efforts to continue addressing the issues highlighted in the 2023 Government Accountability Office (GAO) report on Military Barracks.

Over the past year, the Department has made significant strides in reforming its oversight of its UH portfolio and implementing the fiscal year 2024 NDAA requirements. The Department published UH guidance on civilian oversight, issuances of waivers for privacy and configuration standards, updated design standards, a uniform index for evaluation of UH conditions, and standardized requirements and procedures for maintenance work orders. The Department also engaged quickly with the GAO to resolve open recommendations under their review of Military Barracks;

as of today, the GAO has closed 12 of the 31 recommendations for the Department and is considering the Department's requests to close 3 additional recommendations.

Resident feedback is a key indicator of the Department's progress in providing safe and secure housing to all servicemembers and as such, updated its housing tenant satisfaction survey to be applicable to all housing, including unaccompanied. Most of the military Services executed their housing satisfaction surveys this year, and we look forward to sharing the results with Congress later this year.

The Department also continues to explore leveraging privatization as a tool to improve UH by evaluating the results of the Services' pilot projects and incorporating the lessons learned from the broader Military Housing Privatization Initiative (MHPI). The Department currently has eight existing UH privatization agreements—six within the Department of the Army portfolio and two within the Department of the Navy.

These privatized UH projects offer apartment-style accommodations rather than the dormitory-style accommodations of traditional government-owned UH and provide authorized servicemembers with high-quality, cost-effective options for on-installation residences in high-cost or challenged housing markets, to include remote and isolated installations. While these residences are generally reserved for more senior enlisted personnel who have already lived in traditional UH, the Navy's pilot authority under 10 USC § 2881a allows them to issue a higher rate of

partial basic allowance for housing to enlisted servicemembers, ship or shore based, in the ranks of E4 and below who may otherwise be mandatorily assigned to permanent party UH. The Department will continue to seek innovative ways to provide high-quality UH to servicemembers required to live on-base at cost-savings to the government.

Military Housing Privatization Initiative

The Department continues to enhance the MHPI program and improve our oversight of the private sector MHPI companies that own and operate MHPI housing projects. As a result of our collaboration with the MHPI companies, all 18 rights set out in the MHPI Tenant Bill of Rights (TBoR) are fully available at all but one of the nearly 200 installations with privatized housing, representing approximately 99 percent of military families residing in MHPI housing. We will continue our efforts to educate and engage Service Members and their families to ensure they are aware of and take full advantage of the TBoR.

The Department continues to work on full implementation of other MHPI reforms. In August 2024, the Department deployed the housing complaints data base and is utilizing information received from tenants through the data base and our valued Military Service Organization partners to enhance the system as it approaches its 1-year anniversary. In addition, the Department is over 85 percent complete on its mandatory, one-time inspections of government-owned and controlled family and privatized housing. The Departments of the Navy and Air Force are both 100 percent complete and we will soon be submitting an interim report on their behalf to annotate their closure and report their findings.

The Department is committed to working closely with you and the committee staff to ensure the long-term success of the MHPI program and we will remain diligent in our oversight to ensure DOD's privatized housing projects deliver quality housing and a positive living experience for military personnel and their families.

DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION

The Department must take deliberate and sustained action to address risks to human health and the environment resulting from past DOD activities and enhance mission readiness by completing cleanups and restoring DOD lands for effective use. Our environmental cleanup program includes the Installation Restoration Program (IRP) and Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP). The IRP is focused on cleanup of hazardous substances, pollutants, and contaminants, while the MMRP is focused on responding to unexploded ordnance and munition constituents at former military ranges. These programs encompass active installations, Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS—sites that DOD transferred to other Federal agencies, states, local governments, or private landowners before October 17, 1986), and sites DOD transferred to other entities as part of its Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) activities. We are requesting \$1.5 billion for these programs, including \$1.1 billion for environmental restoration on our active installations and FUDS properties and \$380.5 million for BRAC environmental.

To date, the Department, in cooperation with State agencies and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), has completed cleanup activities at 86 percent of Active and BRAC IRP and MMRP sites, and FUDS IRP sites, and is now monitoring the results. During fiscal year 2024 alone, the Department completed cleanup

at 121 sites. Of the roughly 40,900 restoration sites, 34,379 are now in monitoring status or have completed cleanup.

Our focus remains on continuous improvement initiatives in the restoration program: minimizing overhead, adopting new technologies to reduce cost and accelerate cleanup, updating criteria used to prioritize sites for cleanup, and improving our relationships with affected communities through increased dialog and public engagement. These initiatives help ensure that we maximize our available resources to complete cleanups.

While the Department continues to make progress on completing cleanups, the remaining sites are some of the most complex cleanup sites. Chemicals of Emerging Concern and others like per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) continue to pose challenges for DOD's cleanup programs as new science requires reconsideration of previous decisions and more expensive solutions to protect our servicemembers, their families, communities, and the environment. Additionally, some complex sites have either no feasible or only inefficient solutions for cleanup and, as a result, the Department is making significant investments in environmental technology to identify new potential remediation methods in partnership with industry and academia.

In particular, the recent EPA drinking water standards for certain PFAS are extremely low and present a significant challenge for the Department. DOD is committed to prioritizing and responding to locations where known levels of PFAS in private drinking water wells are the highest, while also focusing on installing sustainable treatment solutions, but this effort will take time and substantial future resources.

In addition to our cleanup activities, the Department continues to prioritize efforts to eliminate the use of Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) at military installations. Over the past few years, the Department has undertaken an aggressive initiative to develop and demonstrate fluorine-free alternatives to AFFF. As of May 2025, six products have passed the DOD qualification process. These products are now available for purchase, and the Military Departments have used them to make significant progress in their efforts to transition away from AFFF use in more than 6,000 mobile assets and approximately 1,000 facilities.

INDO-PACIFIC PRIORITIES

HAWAII

The relationship between the U.S. Military and Hawai'i has been a critical piece of U.S. military and diplomatic strategy for over 125 years. Hawai'i's strategic location in the Pacific, unique training and port areas, and support for critical defense missions make it a cornerstone of our posture in the Indo-Pacific region. In support of this indispensable defense mission, the Military Departments have jurisdiction over approximately 222,000 acres of land in Hawai'i, roughly 4 percent of Hawai'i's land base. This includes approximately 45,300 in lands leases from the State of Hawai'i which are going to expire between 2029–2032. These lands provide ideal locations for specialized defense capabilities, multi-domain operating areas to generate future force readiness, and training ranges that our Joint Force leverages with allies and partners.

Retaining these mission critical training lands is a top priority to support the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM) warfighter.

The Department recognizes that past incidents, particularly the fuel and concentrated AFFF spills at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility and the diesel spill at the Maui Space Surveillance Complex, have resulted in a loss of public trust between the DOD and Hawai'i residents. The situation has underscored the importance of working collaboratively with stakeholders to address DOD's use of lands and natural resources in Hawai'i.

Military personnel in Hawai'i are working to engage consistently, respectfully, and transparently to strengthen relationships in support of the shared goals of national security, economic prosperity, and a healthy environment. The Hawaii Coordination Cell (HCC), established last year within EI&E, is working closely with the Military Departments, USINDOPACOM, and OSD counterparts to support a comprehensive and coordinated approach to support these efforts. The HCC serves as a primary point of contact for State and local officials, businesses, community organizations, and interested stakeholders to connect with military personnel, engage in dialog about key issues of concern and create opportunities for collaboration. These activities are essential to enable the continuation of the critical military missions in Hawai'i.

CONSTRUCTION ON GUAM

The Department is preparing to execute several critical posture initiatives in Guam that will help to ensure a free and open Indo-Pacific. These initiatives will require unprecedented levels of military construction to ensure our forces have the right infrastructure to organize, train, equip and, if necessary, deliver lethal combat power. These efforts include the relocation of marines from Okinawa, the deployment of the Integrated Air and Missile Defense of Guam capability, and Polaris Point expansion. Additionally, this surge in military construction activity will address damages caused by Typhoon Mawar. The increasing demand for military construction, compounded by labor and material shortages posed by Guam's remote location, prompted the Department to pursue a comprehensive approach to supporting delivering the right capabilities to USINDOPACOM and the warfighter.

To address these challenges, the Department is undertaking a comprehensive master planning effort to effectively sequence development, prioritize infrastructure needs, and align support functions with mission growth. This plan will consolidate all construction activities across Guam, offering a cohesive and forward-looking vision for the island's development. Furthermore, the Department is working to integrate and synchronize military construction efforts the Military Departments, Defense Agencies, and DOD Field Activities. This approach is designed to ensure the timely delivery of critical capabilities and quality-of-life improvements for warfighters. The master planning initiative will serve as a dynamic tool, accounting for mission timelines, dependencies, programming and design needs, environmental factors, extreme weather considerations, and other essential requirements to guide future infrastructure investments.

CONCLUSION

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this energy, installations, and environment program update. We appreciate Congress' continued support for our enterprise and look forward to working with you.

Senator SULLIVAN. Thank you, Secretary Marks. I appreciate you touching on the 4-percent issue and a master plan for Guam. That's all important.

Dr. Waksman, we want to hear from you now.

STATEMENT OF DR. JEFF L. WAKSMAN, ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY FOR INSTALLATIONS, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Dr. WAKSMAN. Thank you. Chair Sullivan, Ranking Member Hirono, and distinguished Members of the Subcommittee, thank you for inviting me to provide an update on the Army's Energy Installation and Environmental programs.

Our installations are no longer sanctuaries away from the fight. To ensure mission success our installations must be modern, resilient, and hardened to support any and every mission, whether they're at home or abroad.

Achieving these requirements necessitates a sustained and focus effort. Our investments and installations must facilitate warfighter training, lethality, and readiness. The critical services that enable installations to function must be secure and reliable. Last, installations must be as efficient and effective as possible. To facilitate the modernization transformation of installations, this year's budget requests \$8.7 billion for facility sustainment, restoration, and modernization, another 3.1 billion requested for new planning and construction. Beyond the funding request in the President's budget, our privatized housing partners plan to invest more than \$2 billion in our homes over the next few years.

Part of enabling our readiness and lethality is ensuring quality housing for both unaccompanied soldiers and their families. The

Army recognizes that its deferred maintenance backlog has grown over many years and has caused unintended consequences with both housing and operational facilities. While the Army continues to prioritize funding toward our permanent party unaccompanied housing, we are bouncing investments in our mission-oriented facilities. For privatized family housing portfolio, we have made many improvements to the Army's oversight of our housing providers. This includes new quality control mechanisms and third-party inspections of our homes, allowing our installations' leaders to verify the quality and status that were completed.

To project power and provide resiliency or installations, associated services need to be able to rapidly recover from a disruption, whether natural or manmade. The Army continues to explore a variety of technologies that provide more reliable energy to our installations and soldiers to include nuclear energy. To help improve the resiliency of our energy systems beyond the generation source, the Army continues to conduct black start exercises which provide us with vital information about the interconnection of critical assets on our installations and increase our resiliency.

We thank Congress for your continued support of our energy resilience programs. Our installations must also provide realistic world class training environments to maximize our warfighters lethality. To that end, our environmental programs are critical to meeting statutory requirements for preservation of training lands and to ensure that the water on our installations is safe for consumption.

One of our most critical training ranges is the Pohakuloa Training Area in Hawaii, which allows combat training geared toward the Indo-Pacific. The Army continues to work with the State government and local Hawaiians to ensure that these training lands can continue to support this vital training, while also addressing the concerns of the local community.

The Army is also improving our business practices by working with private partners to find ways to deliver higher quality and more economical support installations. As an example, our use of energy saving performance contracts and intergovernmental support agreements save us millions of dollars each year and help us to develop and improve partnerships with our local defense communities.

In closing, the Army continues to strive to make many of these critical investments designed to deliver the highest quality, most efficient and safest army installations possible to support lethality, readiness, and warfighting.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Committee, and I look forward to your questions.

[The prepared statement of Dr. Jeff Waksman follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT BY DR. JEFF WAKSMAN

INTRODUCTION

Chairman Sullivan, Ranking Member Hirono, and distinguished members of the subcommittee, thank you for this opportunity to discuss the Army's priorities for installations, energy, and environment. In order to deliver on the President's promise to deliver peace through strength, we must have strong, resilient, and reliable military installations and infrastructure. Our ability to protect and project combat

power from installations around the world is no longer guaranteed or routine. Installations must be agile and adaptable, matching capabilities to threats to deter our adversaries and demonstrate strength around the world.

Over the last year, the Army has made meaningful progress to increase the adaptability, resiliency, and quality of our installations, but more needs to be done to fulfill our commitment to our soldiers, their families, and the American people. Working with Congress, we will continue to build on our efforts in 2026 and beyond.

We must ensure predictable resourcing to enable our installations to modernize at pace with our Army's transformation efforts. In support of the Interim National Defense Strategic Guidance, we must first target our investments to be in the right locations and in the right types of facilities. These investments will help to ensure our warfighters have sufficient operational and support facilities. Second, we must transform our installations and services to ensure they are not only reliable, but also resilient—able to adapt to new missions while quickly recovering from disruptions and overcoming new and emerging threats. Our installations must stand ready to support not only the Army, but the entire Department of Defense, no matter the mission—whether at home or abroad. Finally, our installations must be efficient and effective to ensure that taxpayer investments are returning value in building warfighter readiness.

FACILITY INVESTMENTS

The Army uses a deliberate process to prioritize military construction and other facility investment, which is used to produce a Facility Investment Plan (FIP)—a prioritized list of projects, by component, under consideration from which the Army develops infrastructure requirements. This prioritization considers several factors from our commanders and senior leaders, including the relative importance of various facility types, the installation's location, and the installation's primary mission. The FIP is used to inform the Army's annual budget request.

The Army continues to work with the other military departments and the Office of the Secretary of Defense to ensure our infrastructure investments are synchronized with the Department's mission. We acknowledge the establishment of minimum FSRM requirements for the coming years in the 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) and the Army looks forward to working with Congress to develop a strategy to resource this mandate.

UNACCOMPANIED HOUSING—BARRACKS

Our first and highest priority is to take care of our warfighters and ensure they have proper facilities to conduct training and live. The challenge we face is a substantial backlog of deferred maintenance that built up over many years. The Army, with the support of Congress, has significantly increased annual investment over the last few years to address this backlog, but these investments sometimes take a number of years to realize their effect. This year, for the first time, the Army will open the annual Tenant Satisfaction Survey to soldiers living in our barracks to help assess whether investments in our barracks are improving soldiers' quality of life. In addition to making long-term investments, the Army is also taking immediate action in situations where living conditions are unacceptable with Commanders moving soldiers into appropriate living conditions.

Investments in the Army's permanent party barracks with construction and modernization continues to grow. The Army plans to program a portion of the sustainment funding to meet 100 percent of the requirement for permanent party barracks to prevent accelerated degradation of these facilities.

The Army continues to look for new and innovative ways to maximize our facility investments to improve our barracks quality and reduce the costs to taxpayers. Last year, the Army initiated a privatized barracks project at Fort Irwin, California, where a life-cycle cost analysis showed it is more cost-effective to have a private company build and manage the barracks than to build government-owned barracks. The Army currently has five other locations with privatized barracks, with another two locations under development.

ARMY FAMILY HOUSING

Taking care of our warfighters is also taking care of their families. The Army takes care of our families whether their warfighter is at home or not. The Army continues to make significant progress to provide high-quality family housing—both government-owned and privatized.

The Army has made significant investments in overseas family housing, which is mostly government-owned housing. In fiscal year 2025, the Army has planned \$752 million for operations, maintenance, leasing, oversight, and construction. We thank

Congress for supporting the Army's request to extend certain authorizations in the fiscal year 2025 NDAA—these extensions are critical as the overseas coordination required for some of the projects takes longer than domestic projects.

In addition to ensuring high-quality government-controlled housing, the Army is working to provide the high-quality privatized housing our soldiers deserve. Over the next 3 years, privatized housing providers will invest over \$2.4 billion for the construction of over 2,000 homes, renovations of 7,000 homes, and other developmental work. Over the last 2 years, the Army has implemented several oversight reforms to better hold privatized housing providers accountable for maintaining the high-quality privatized housing our soldiers deserve. These efforts have included strengthening and clarifying enforcement language in ground leases, conducting house-by-house inspections, implementing quality assurance of construction and renovations, and developing a standardized quality assurance maintenance program that will be applicable to all privatized housing companies doing business with the Army.

By the end of fiscal year 2026, the Army will complete third-party inspections of all our family housing inventory. When our inspections reveal deficiencies in work performed, the Army privatized housing provider or installation Director of Public Works reacts quickly to rectify the situation via the housing provider. The Army also conducts an annual Tenant Satisfaction Survey to assess the quality of our homes and keep housing providers accountable for maintaining those homes. I am pleased to report that last year's survey results showed a notable increase in tenant satisfaction from prior years.

SAFETY AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

The Army needs confident, trained, and fit soldiers to generate readiness and project combat power. Those capabilities are diminished when our warfighters are taken out of the fight due to injury or unsafe facility conditions. The Army continues to work on decreasing preventable injuries, especially in training environments. Additionally, our investments in modern and safe facilities reduce preventable health risks posed to our soldiers.

The Army is working to resource and implement the tactical vehicle data record pilot program enacted in the fiscal year 2023 NDAA. These recorders will provide critical data to support mishap investigations and will give us the capability to proactively improve driver and passenger safety by identifying hazards for mitigation. The recorders will also provide the potential for daily monitoring of each vehicle and will give individual feedback for improving driver performance.

Additionally, the Army continues to review the potential risks of blast overpressure on our warfighters and civilians. The Army conducts health hazard assessments for equipment—to include weapon systems—as part of design, testing, and new equipment training. The Army utilizes scientific collection and measurement methods to develop and publish standardized training procedures, providing leaders and soldiers guidance on proper use, required mitigation steps, and potential risks related to blast overpressure. When new scientific methods or tools are developed or monitoring indicates emerging injury trends, the Army reassesses and publishes updated training guidance.

INSTALLATION RESILIENCE

Modernized installations, which include ensuring access to reliable power and water, are vital to assuring mission success. Given our installations primarily rely on commercial utilities for energy and water, we must ensure they are protected from external disruptions and can quickly recover. Vulnerabilities, both natural and man-made, associated with interdependent electric power grids, natural gas pipelines, and water resources and systems can jeopardize installation security and mission capabilities.

To assess these potential risks to our water and energy systems, 98 percent of our installations have completed Installation Energy and Water Plans to identify requirements and risks, and to develop mitigation techniques. For example, the Army is deploying microgrids on installations, conducting Black Start Exercises (BSEs), and testing the cyber domain through the Cyber Readiness Resilience Exercises.

In addition to decreasing installation operational costs, efforts to reduce energy and water consumption increase resilience as less water and energy are needed to meet mission requirements if service is disrupted. The Army reduced energy use by 17.8 percent since fiscal year 2003, and reduced water consumption by 25 percent compared to a fiscal year 2007 baseline—a reduction of 13.5 gallons of water per square foot.

Army has explored power generation assets that can be combined with specific circuitry to allow the islanding of our installations, providing resilient energy for critical functions, including deploying microgrids. Army currently has 32 operational microgrids at 25 installations.

To test our energy resiliency, BSEs allow installations to experience the impact of a power outage from a service disruption. The Army has completed 20 BSEs, including, eight exercises in fiscal year 2024, and is planning six more in fiscal year 2025—two of which have been completed and five in fiscal year 2026. In fiscal year 2024, Army conducted our first cyber resilience readiness exercise at Fort Carson and is planning an additional exercise in fiscal year 2025. These exercises focus on understanding the potential effects and consequence of cyber vulnerabilities on energy and water systems that support critical missions, to include power denial as a primary consequence.

To be more efficient with taxpayer investments in our installations, the Army's Office of Energy Initiatives (OEI) continues to explore public-private partnerships that reduce the need for appropriated funding and employ a wide array of energy technologies in support of installation mission operations. The OEI looks to leverage the value of underutilized installation land for the development of energy-generation facilities that will enhance energy resiliency. Rather than a monetary rent payment for leasing installation lands, the Army typically seeks in-kind consideration to satisfy the fair-market value requirement. For energy-generation facilities, this includes the ability to prioritize power from the project to support critical missions during grid disruption. The Army's collaboration with private industry (both public utility companies and independent power producers) has resulted in approximately \$677 million of private-sector investment and over \$764 million of avoided operational costs for the Army.

MITIGATING RISK AND BUILDING OCONUS RESILIENCE

The Army is doing comprehensive energy and water resilience planning at installations worldwide, including in the U.S. Central Command, U.S. European Command, and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM) regions. These forward installations are critical to assuring the Army's readiness and maintaining warfighting skills, with special emphasis on the unique threat picture and host nation requirements in each area. In USINDOPACOM, fuel logistics and vulnerable island locations present unique energy challenges. The Army is building energy resilience across USINDOPACOM by developing microgrids, implementing energy and water efficiency measures, and ensuring adequate fuel reserves to support operations during potential disruptions.

NUCLEAR ENERGY

The Army continues to follow Congress's lead in exploring the viability of nuclear energy as a stable and reliable source of energy for our mission-critical operations. The fiscal year 2019 NDAA directed the Department of Defense to develop a plan to deploy a small modular advanced nuclear reactor for installation resilience, which is being led by the Air Force. The Army continues to monitor the progress of the resulting pilot program. Meanwhile, the Army is quickly working to deliver on the President's directive in Executive Order 14299, "Deploying Advanced Nuclear Reactors for National Security", to begin operation of an advanced nuclear reactor on an installation by 2028. The Army expects to have additional details at a later date.

INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT EFFICIENCY

The Army still has a large inventory of closed installations that are experiencing increasing costs for environmental remediation before the land can be redeveloped. The Army continues to work to leverage private capital to complete this work so minimal costs are paid by taxpayers.

In fiscal year 2025, the Army completed transfer of all surplus acres at Fort Gillem and Stratford Army Ammunition Plant. The Army also closed Pueblo Chemical Depot and is preparing to dispose of the 7,000 acres of excess land. We also thank Congress for enacting a provision in the fiscal year 2025 NDAA to address the outcome for the former Army Navy Hospital in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

For our current installations, the Army continues to use Energy Savings Performance Contracts (ESPCs), Utility Energy Savings Contracts (UESCs), and Intergovernmental Service Agreements (IGSAs) to improve installation efficiency and lower facility operational costs across all utilities and services. The Army is working to award nine ESPCs and UESCs totaling \$338 million in fiscal year 2025. For fiscal year 2026 and fiscal year 2027, the Army hopes to award another 22 contracts with \$570 million in private investment. Resilience enhancements remain a focus for

ESPCs and UESCs, including a planned natural gas pipeline providing 16 megawatts of power generation at Fort Irwin and numerous industrial equipment upgrades to improve operational efficiency at Anniston Army Depot. The Army's 160 IGSAs include agreements for environmental services, waste management, and dozens of other community partnerships. Going forward, we intend to increase our use of ESPCs, UESCs, and IGSAAs to reduce the long-term costs of our installations.

HISTORIC HOUSING

The Army thanks Congress for its assistance in streamlining the management of our historic housing inventory, which encompasses over 30,000 homes, and ensuring compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Army installations and privatized housing partners may now implement management actions on the inventory of historic housing without further NHPA requirements. The Military Housing Association recommends other services look at the Army's successful programmatic approach to address their challenges in managing historic homes.

A few examples of the effectiveness of the Army's programmatic approach include \$14 million in savings at Fort Leavenworth, \$5 million saved replacing historic windows at Fort Belvoir, and over \$2 million saved in roof replacements on historic homes at Fort Bliss. These savings and those from other renovations can be applied to current and future housing projects.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND REMEDIATION

The Army remains committed to addressing environmental remediation issues and protecting the environment from unnecessary contamination. The Army continues to look for ways to modernize environmental compliance and looks forward to working with Congress to address the growing costs of compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The Army recognizes that exposure to certain levels of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) pose a risk to our warfighters and surrounding communities. The Army acknowledges that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has established maximum contaminant levels for PFAS in drinking water and the Army will continue to prioritize actions to address drinking water wells impacted with impacts from its releases in a transparent and systematic manner.

The Army has been proactive in addressing PFAS releases on- and off-installation, including the adoption of a risk-based approach to prioritize actions at sites with higher PFAS levels first. This "worst first" approach is consistent with OSD guidance. The Army follows the Federal cleanup process to investigate and assess if remedial actions are needed. Of the 345 installations where PFAS may have been stored, used or released, 235 installations are moving to the next, more-intensive level of investigation. Efforts to transition vehicles and facilities from aqueous film-forming foam to fluorine-free alternatives continue to be implemented across the Army to decrease PFAS exposure.

CONCLUSION

Providing safe, reliable, and high-quality installations for soldiers, families, civilians, and defense communities is critical to ensuring the Army can remain adaptable to mission requirements around the world. To maximize installation support of the Army's lethality, we must continually evolve facility investment programs to support efficient and modern installation management. This requires the Army to continue investing in quality of life and the resiliency of our installations and services.

Senator SULLIVAN. Thank you, Dr. Waksman. Next, Ms. Johnson Turner.

STATEMENT OF MS. BRENDA M. JOHNSON-TURNER, PERFORMING THE DUTIES OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY FOR ENERGY, INSTALLATIONS AND ENVIRONMENT

Ms. JOHNSON-TURNER. Good afternoon, Chairman Sullivan, Ranking Member Hirono, and Members of the Subcommittee. Thank you for the invitation to speak with you today on the Department of Navy's Energy Installations and Environment Portfolio.

Our marines, sailors and dedicated civilians serve with urgency to defend, project peace through strength and when needed defeat our enemies. This portfolio provides direct support to the warfighters and their families and it's foundational to all that we do. We appreciate your support for the resources required to train like we fight and win decisively.

Warfighting excellence starts on our installations, our power projection platforms. The resilience of our installations is paramount and I remain deeply committed to ensure that we provide the infrastructure to support our sailors, marines, civilians, and all of our critical missions.

Unfortunately, much of our aging infrastructure is not in good condition. As an institution, we have allowed these assets to degrade over time. The average age of our infrastructure is over 50 years old and beyond its useful life. However, we have expanded the planning horizons to ensure that the important investments we make at our installations have the greatest impact.

In a similar fashion, the Navy continues to make significant investments in the Shipyard Infrastructure Optimization Program to improve submarine aircraft carrier nuclear maintenance at the Navy's four public shipyards. With 40 projects completed to date, we are already seeing the return on investment with increased nuclear maintenance throughput so that our aircraft carriers and nuclear submarines can get back in the fight on time.

The housing portfolio, we know our marines and sailors are better fighters if they know that their families are living in safe quality housing. Our housing portfolio must meet appropriate life health and safety requirements to provide a positive living experience for our servicemembers and our families.

For our barracks, the Marine Corps remains committed to The Barracks 2030 plan. Over the past 24 months, the marines have initiated repairs and renovations at 23 barracks. In the past 3 years, the Navy has renovated 14 barracks that improves the quality of life for our sailors. With the planned expansion of the public private venture projects for both the Hampton Roads and San Diego regions, we will provide an additional 11,000 beds.

The results are very clear, expanding Public-Private Venture (PPV) across the un account housing portfolio increases quality of life. We continue to be thankful to Congress for the authorities provided to get after our infrastructure challenges. We are reviewing our critical infrastructure to fully address the gaps in modernization and recapitalization, and addressing the challenges and threats to infrastructure.

Our work inside the fence line is important to serving as good defense community partners outside the fence line. We will continue to partner with communities and utility providers to decrease vulnerabilities. The Department of the Navy is also examining military construction improvements and alternative construction material to deliver resources to the warfighter faster.

In addition, the Department continues to make progress on completing environmental cleanups and remains focused on chemicals of emerging concern like Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). All in all, these tangible improvements are necessary to

ensure the long-term strength and readiness of our force but we have more work to do.

We appreciate Congress's continued support, and I look forward to your questions.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Brenda Johnson-Turner follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT BY MS. BRENDA JOHNSON-TURNER

INTRODUCTION

Chairman Sullivan, Ranking Member Hirono, and distinguished members of the Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on the Department of the Navy's (DON) Energy, Installations and Environment portfolio. We continue to invest in critical readiness enablers, which is foundational to making sure that the DON remains the most formidable maritime force the world has ever known—for the next 250 years and beyond.

DEPARTMENT OF NAVY PRIORITIES

Secretary Phelan has set forth three focus areas that will guide the vision for the United States Navy and Marine Corps: 1-Strengthen Shipbuilding and the Maritime Industrial Base; 2-Foster an Adaptive, Accountable and Innovative Warfighter Culture; and 3-The Health, Welfare and Training of Our People and Their Families. These three priorities will steer the DON and shape the future of our fleet and force. As we commemorate the 250th anniversary of the founding of our Navy and Marine Corps later this year, our focus will be on maritime warfighting dominance far into the future.

In my capacity in Performing the Duties of Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations and Environment, I fully support both the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the Navy's guidance by delivering critical readiness enablers by, with and through our 95 Navy and Marine Corps installations, our power projection platforms on the shore. We long for peace, but we must prepare for war.

Critical Infrastructure

Navy and Marine Corps installations are power projection platforms from which naval forces train, deploy, and maintain forward presence to enable geographic Combatant Commanders to meet operational requirements. The DON continues to review our critical infrastructure to fully address the gaps in modernization and recapitalization. Through the DON's Critical Infrastructure Synchronization Forum, we continue to work through the challenges of infrastructure resilience, and to address the threats to infrastructure in support of critical mission.

Recapitalization of our infrastructure and demolition of excess, failing infrastructure will ensure that our forces, systems, and facilities can continue to operate in the future fight. The DON will continue to address vulnerabilities, but also to restore and sustain core utility infrastructure including water and electricity grid protection from cyber threats.

Military Construction

The Secretary of Defense has issued a clear directive to focus on eliminating waste and duplication to ensure the Department can focus on its core mission of defending the Nation. To improve the readiness and lethality of our Warfighters, the DON is in full support of a Deputy Secretary of Defense directed effort to conduct a 60-day review of the Department's Military Construction (MILCON) and Facility, Sustainment, Restoration and Modernization (FSRM) programs.

We will continue to invest in new platforms, technologies and infrastructure that will add capability for our forces and address maintenance requirements in order to meet readiness requirements. Examples of military construction projects that are building a more lethal force include:

- Weapons Magazines at Naval Weapons Station Yorktown
- Network Modernization at Pacific Missile Range Facility in Hawai'i
- Aircraft Development and Maintenance Facilities at Naval Air Station Patuxent River
- Maintenance Facility and Marine Air Group Headquarters at Cherry Point
- Aircraft Maintenance Hangar at Cherry Point
- Communications Towers at Twenty-Nine Palms

We recognize that infrastructure in support of critical missions at installations goes beyond piers, hangars, runways, training and support facilities where our

teammates work, train and live. It is also the energy, water and utility systems that serve as the backbone of our operations. We continue to invest in new electrical infrastructure to increase resilience and warfighting readiness. The MILCON program also includes projects that enable forward-deployed naval forces. One example in Guam is the repair of the ocean facing Glass Breakwater. This repair project will provide protection for the base piers, anchorages and the main commercial supply port for this strategic location in the Indo-Pacific region. In Nevada, the procurement of additional land to support the Fallon Range Training Complex Modernization remains a Department priority and we have acquired six parcels to date.

We will continue to enhance the resilience of our installations by replacing and updating inventory, utilities and facilities using every program and tool available, but we will focus on actions that enhance lethality and operational resilience of our marines and sailors.

Facilities Sustainment, Restoration & Modernization Investments

The Navy budget request targets key shore capability areas such as utility systems, Unaccompanied Housing, airfield operations, waterfront operations, depot maintenance, and ordnance facilities, as well as continued demolition funding to address excess facility footprint. The request also increases sustainment funding to 100 percent of the modeled requirement for Nuclear Deterrence Facilities, infrastructure in support of Navy C5ISR missions related to Naval Operational Architecture, Unaccompanied Housing, and fitness centers. The Marine Corps budget request continues efforts to eliminate poor and failing facilities and improve Quality of Life through Force Design 2030 initiatives. We acknowledge the Congress's focus for additional investment in our facilities by establishing minimum FSRM requirements in the 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The DON intends to focus increased investment in all sources of spending on FSRM while simultaneously placing emphasis on the demolition of excess facilities and ensuring MILCON requirements are clearly aligned to operational requirements.

Navy shore infrastructure is a critical enabler for fleet operations in support of national security.

Shipyards Infrastructure Optimization Program

To keep our Nuclear Fleet ready, we continue to modernize our four public shipyards through the Shipyard Infrastructure Optimization Program (SIOP). As we acquire the nuclear submarines and aircraft carriers we need today and invest in the development of the next generation of platforms and capabilities for the future fight, we will require consistent investments in the infrastructure that enables these platforms, and we appreciate Congress' shared focus on this national security priority.

As the Navy executes its largest-ever facility projects through SIOP, we continue to build collaborative relationships, set more realistic schedules, develop better forecasting tools and ensure that resources are allocated efficiently. With a concerted team effort between the DON and industry, we will streamline construction timelines, improve workforce readiness and maintain the operational superiority of our fleet.

Authorities and Acquisition

Across the DON team, we continue to prioritize increased use of our Title 10 authorities in real eState, energy, Intergovernmental Support Agreements and Other Transaction Authorities to solve installation infrastructure challenges outside traditional MILCON and FSRM funding. In the real eState portfolio, we continue to examine 10 U.S.C. §2809 (Long-term Facilities Contracts for Certain Activities and Services) and §2812 (Lease-Purchase of Facilities), to identify opportunities to improve our facilities. We are working with OSD to examine scoring requirements so that we can find projects that align to the maximal solution needed to exercise these authorities. One initiative currently underway combines multiple authorities for a new 75-acre aviation maintenance complex between Fleet Readiness Center East and North Carolina Global TransPark. The initiative, an innovative partnership, is the first of its kind within the Department of Defense. Leaders anticipate it will offer economic growth opportunities in the Eastern North Carolina area and save millions of taxpayer dollars that fund military aircraft maintenance.

Good Defense Community Partners

The DON serves in defense communities in 95 locations around the globe. We recognize the need to be good community partners and work with both our civic and business leaders to improve the resilience of our military installations inside and outside the fence line. These partnerships promote the value of military installations and strengthen communities through collaborative planning and implementa-

tion in support of America's military. Our marines and sailors are better warfighters when they know that their families are living in safe, resilient communities.

Our strong Environment & Mission Readiness program supports operational requirements and mission schedules in areas such as critical infrastructure recapitalization, force laydown, platform home-basing, range modernization, warfare training and weapons system testing. The program will also continue environmental restoration on installations, most notably the ongoing response following fuel releases at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility in Hawai'i. On Per-and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) response, as part of comprehensive Department of Defense-wide efforts, the DON response to address our historical releases of PFAS to the environment protects the health and welfare of our servicemembers and civilians, their families and the surrounding defense communities.

Indo-Pacific Region

We remain steadfast in our commitment to the government and citizens of the territory of Guam. We face an unprecedented pace of our mission growth on Guam. Infrastructure and facilities are required to support the expansion of our on-island infrastructure footprint. We greatly appreciate Congress' approval of an extension of the H2B visa program through 2029 and look forward to working with the Office of the Secretary Defense and the other services to further extend the visa program to meet construction requirements. Further extension of the H2B visa authority will ensure cost stability in construction contract bids for critical infrastructure projects on Guam. Ensuring new infrastructure is delivered on time and within costs will be a critical enabler to re-establishing deterrence in the Indo-Pacific.

We remain committed to working with our government partners and stakeholders in Guam, as well as our partners across the DOD, to ensure the success of the transition of our personnel. We appreciate this committee's support as we carry out this process in a manner that will enhance the readiness of our forces throughout the region.

The relationship between the DON and the State of Hawai'i has been a critical piece of U.S. military and diplomatic strategy for over 125 years. Hawai'i's strategic location in the Pacific, unique training and port areas and support for critical defense missions make it a cornerstone of the DON's posture in the Indo-Pacific region. In support of this indispensable defense mission, the DON leases land, primarily adjacent to U.S.-owned installations, that provides ideal locations for specialized defense capabilities, multi-domain operating areas to generate future force readiness and training ranges that our Joint Force leverages with allies and partners. Mission ready and modernized ranges are essential to the Department's mission to organize, train, and equip combat ready naval forces to deter and win wars.

The DON will continue to demonstrate our unwavering commitment to collaboration and transparency with our partners in Hawai'i, and work closely with the Department of Defense Hawai'i Coordination Cell, to enhance our collaboration with the people of Hawai'i to protect and preserve the Hawaiian lands on which we operate.

Housing for our Sailors, Marines and Families

Protecting the health and safety of our sailors, marines and their families contributes to warfighter readiness. We are focused on the early identification and resolution of family housing issues, as well as improving processes and oversight of our residents' experiences. The Navy is coordinating with the Public Private Venture partner in the Southeast region, with a keen focus on Key West, Florida, to improve the overall condition of the homes to meet quality living standards for our Navy families. For Unaccompanied Housing (UH), we are focusing on facilities improvement, professional management and resident satisfaction.

To address the UH conditions and shortages, the DON is reviewing our inventory to inform how we optimize MILCON projects and privatization initiatives. Both the Navy and Marine Corps utilize models to make data informed decisions on facility investments. The Marine Corps continues to use the Capital Planning Tool (formerly the Readiness Maximization Tool) to leverage a tiered and targeted approach to facility lifecycle management. This tool enabled the reduction of footprint while prioritizing investments where they will have the most impact.

We continue to work with sister services and the Office of the Secretary of Defense on implementation of the NDAA and recent Government Accountability Office (GAO) recommendations. The Navy continues to implement the Forging Communities of Excellence initiative which includes three distinct lines of effort on facilities improvement, workforce development and quality of life. In addition, the Secretary of the Navy has directed all Navy Region Commanders to conduct a 100 percent barracks inspection to assess living conditions for all Navy sailors worldwide. I look

forward to sharing the inspection results with you. The Marine Corps' Barracks 2030 initiative lays out an ambitious plan to improve the Marine Corps management of barracks, modernize the inventory and update the refresh rate of materiel. The Marine Corps completed a 100 percent wall-to-wall environmental, health and safety inspection of every barracks room to establish the baseline conditions of habitability. The deficiencies found were in line with the September 2023 GAO report and underscores the importance of swift resolution of maintenance actions.

Military Housing Privatization Initiative Family Housing

For the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, we are reinforcing DON oversight and exercising active leadership to ensure that the families who live in privatized housing have the tools and support they need. Starting with the Fiscal Year 2020 NDAA, the DON housing team implemented many oversight and Quality of Life (QoL) initiatives including full implementation of the Tenant Bill of Rights, universal lease, completion of the third-party inspection of homes, increased resident advocates and home inspectors, and other NDAA and audit recommendations. We continue to improve on the tools to perform better analyses of our processes, policies and the overall program to ensure higher levels of service and satisfaction for our sailors, marines and their families.

Government-Owned Family Housing

The DON's government-controlled inventory of over 8,500 homes is primarily located in locations, such as Japan, Guam and Cuba, and a few locations in the United States. The DON continues to fund the operations, oversight and sustainment, and modernization of these homes while focusing on the growing housing requirement in Guam. We have seen the efforts and self-improvement techniques, which include increased communication with the servicemembers, their families and third-party inspectors that are utilized in privatized housing, enhance government-owned housing oversight and servicemember engagement.

Unaccompanied Housing

UH supports Navy and Marine Corps Readiness by providing eligible single sailors and marines with housing and related services in support of the DON's mission and readiness. The DON is using targeted investments and policy changes to improve the condition of inadequate UH and identification of a sustainable, optimized UH program to ensure safe and reliable housing for all sailors and marines. The DON's current government-owned UH inventory consists of approximately 108,611 bedrooms in 1,343 UH buildings throughout the DON's installations. In 2024, the Navy's Restoration and Modernization investments yielded an overall improvement of 1,011 beds, eliminating 451 inadequate beds. In 2024, the Marine Corps repaired or renovated 11 barracks that provide housing for approximately 4,200 marines. The objective is clear: to provide safe, healthy, and professionally managed living quarters that allow marines to rest and recover after demanding training or operational deployments. At the end of fiscal year 2024, 79 percent of Navy UH and 83 percent of Marine Corps UH have a Building Condition Index evaluated as adequate. We have utilized all tools to improve the remainder of our inventory, to include the expansion of the QR code maintenance reporting program to expedite maintenance actions. The Navy and Marine Corps anticipate increased investment in the UH program.

The two pilot program projects to privatize UH have significantly increased QoL for our sailors and marines. The first pilot project in San Diego which consists of 2,398 beds, was privatized in 2006 and continues to score the highest of all privatized efforts inside the DON's privatized housing portfolio. The second privatized UH project was established in 2007 in the Hampton Roads fleet concentration area, consisting of 3,682 beds, and is also a QoL success. The GAO report on Military Unaccompanied Housing noted that servicemembers living in privatized barracks consistently stated that they were satisfied with the condition of their housing, which led to an improvement in QoL. The Navy is working on expansions for our two locations that utilized the pilot authority for additional privatized UH in San Diego and Norfolk.

To further the DON's effort to address shortages of covered military unaccompanied housing, we are actively developing a strategy to use authorities to lease, operate, maintain, or otherwise contract for real property. This strategy will provide installation leadership with options to select the appropriate approach that best meets the needs of their installation in a cost-effective and timely manner while maintaining mission readiness.

Energy Dominance

Energy dominance is vital to the security of our Nation and underpins the DON's ability to contribute to achieving "Peace through Strength" by ensuring naval forces have assured, continuous access to the necessary types and amounts of energy needed to maintain a global presence, deter adversaries, respond to crises, and, if necessary, fight and win our Nation's wars. From the installation to the battlefield, whether for facilities, weapons systems, or warfighting platforms, the DON Energy and Water Program supports rebuilding our military and reestablishing deterrence by driving installation and operational theater vulnerability assessments and capability advancements to enhance requirements development which overmatch evolving threats.

The DON invests in shore energy and water initiatives to ensure that our installations remain the power projection platforms from which we man, train and equip our sailors and marines and that installations are resilient to a broad spectrum of threats. Using acquisition authorities like energy savings performance contracts and power purchase agreements allows the DON to achieve energy and water efficiencies and create power generation and storage. Security and resilience solutions pursued by the Navy and Marine Corps directly support the objective of the President's Executive Order 14156, Declaring a National Energy Emergency, directive to collaborate across government and with industry to deliver and expedite the completion of critical energy infrastructure and drive improvements to the DON's aging utility systems, facilities and building control systems for improved cybersecurity, physical hardening and reduced sustainment costs. The DON collaborates with local communities, industry, and other government entities to identify and implement regional resilience and security solutions, which are tested through Black Start Exercises and joint resilience planning efforts that look inside and outside the fence line to inform what is needed to harden our critical infrastructure. In addition, the DON has privatized water utilities at Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Naval Station Mayport and began the process to solicit privatization of the electrical system at Norfolk Naval Shipyard. The DON recognizes and appreciates the infrastructure sustainment, supply chain and military resilience benefits of engaging with the utility industry to ensure consistent, reliable, high-quality energy and water for warfighter requirements.

It is imperative to harden our defense critical utilities infrastructure and to mitigate vulnerabilities in our facility related control systems to prevent the weaponization of our utilities. These efforts seek to prevent and mitigate attempts by our adversaries from exploiting our utility and building systems, ensuring these systems are cybersecure and available to drive toward improved mission readiness and warfighter capability. The DON has invested in energy resilience technologies such as cyber-secure microgrids and other technologies that are already available in the United States., thereby reducing our reliance on vulnerable or adversarial foreign supply chains.

The DON's ability to fight and win is dependent upon reliable access to energy when, where, and in the quantities required. Operational energy investments expand energy generation, storage and use options to provide agility to the warfighter while operating in all domains supporting the operational requirements of Contested Logistics, Expeditionary Advanced Base Operations and Distributed Maritime Operations. To increase warfighting capability without increasing fuel availability demands, the DON is working with the whole of government on safe and standard advanced batteries that cut across domains and warfighting functions, which will enable directed energy and long-dwell/long-duration unmanned systems, and reduce logistics demands and weapons systems' sensing signatures.

CONCLUSION

Thank you for your steadfast commitment to our sailors, marines, civilians and their families and for your purposeful focus on our upcoming budget request. I look forward to our continued partnership as we work together to ensure the Navy and Marine Corps remain the most formidable maritime fighting force in the world.

Senator SULLIVAN. Thank you, Ms. Johnson-Turner. Mr. Saunders, you're next.

STATEMENT OF MR. MICHAEL E. SAUNDERS, ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE FOR ENERGY, INSTALLATIONS AND ENVIRONMENT

Mr. SAUNDERS. Chairman Sullivan, Ranking Member Hirono, and distinguished Members of the Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support, on behalf of the Department of the Air Force (DAF), and the nearly 645,000 Active and Reserved component airmen and guardians, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. I welcome the occasion to discuss the Department's fiscal year 2026 budget request for our energy installations and environment programs.

Our partnership with this Subcommittee has been foundational to ensuring that we maximize the lethality and warfighting capability of our 177 DAF installations across the globe. One of our top priorities for the DAF is the quality of life of our airmen, guardians, and their families. Therefore, we focus our investment and innovation on our housing, dormitories, and child development centers.

To this end, we have initiated our first ever commercial on base apartment complex at Edwards Air Force Base and are seeking to privatize our Continental United States (CONUS) lodging in order to modernize and ensure robust sustainment. We're also implementing Wi-Fi for servicemembers in our unaccompanied housing. In addition to quality of life, the health and safety of our servicemembers, their families and the surrounding communities remain among our highest priorities.

As such, the DAF remains committed to fulfilling our PFAS related cleanup responsibilities in accordance with the Federal law, implementing the new PFAS drinking water standard and promoting transparent collaboration and engagement with surrounding communities. Today, the DAF is undeniably focused on ensuring our installations are ready to support air and space operations in an era where China is expanding, modernizing, and diversifying its entire military.

As power projection platforms, the readiness of the Department of the Air Force's Installations is critical to our national security. The DAF's Installation in Infrastructure Action plan or I2AP, is the guiding revitalization of our installations to ensure the Air Force and Space Force can deliver combat power with the necessary speed, range, and intensity to deter adversaries.

The I2AP sets clear objectives, goals, and key actions to align installations with critical mission capabilities, optimize vital infrastructure, and maximize mission assurance. We appreciate the Subcommittee's support for improving our infrastructure with the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) budget provision on FSRM. This will greatly improve our facility conditions. However, we will struggle to meet this budget requirement in full without first optimizing our inventory. Sustaining the associated excess infrastructure forces us to invest critical dollars in areas that do not directly contribute to warfighting and contributes to significant backlogs and maintenance and repair.

Therefore, we're increasing demolition and freeing up scarce resources by pursuing several innovative approaches such as expanding the use of enhanced use leases, strategic real estate opportuni-

ties, and developing city base opportunities. To that end this week, my team is in Massachusetts working with the State, local and installation leaders to explore opportunities at Hanscom Air Force Base.

To achieve peace through strength, we must also ensure our installations can remain resilient through disruptions, reducing our reliance on vulnerable energy sources and rapidly fielding emerging technologies is essential to defending the homeland and strengthening deterrence. The DAF continues to pursue microgrids and utilize third party financing and innovative partnerships to modernize and improve resiliency.

We're also steadfast in our pursuit of commercial micro reactor technology to include a recent announcement of a notice of intent to award a power purchase agreement at Eielson Air Force Base in Alaska. In closing, the DAF is committed to ensuring our installations provide the Nation with the warfighting capability it needs to deter our adversaries and to provide or providing high quality of life for our airmen, guardians, and their families to ensure we maintain a lethal and combat credible force.

Thank you for your continued support of our airmen and guardians and I look forward to taking your questions.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Michael E. Saunders follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT BY MR. MICHAEL E. SAUNDERS

INTRODUCTION

Chairman Sullivan, Ranking Member Hirono, and distinguished Members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to provide you with an update on Department of the Air Force (DAF) energy, installations, and environment programs.

Today, our Nation finds itself in a strategic competition with our adversary China. The People's Liberation Army is expanding, modernizing, and diversifying its entire military—including cyber, space, and nuclear forces—at a rapid pace to support revisionist goals and objectives. These developments pose unique and fundamentally new challenges for deterrence, and while conflict is certainly not inevitable, the risk of military confrontation is increased in this environment. This new strategic environment demands that we rebuild the lethal and ready force to provide the warfighting capability our Nation needs to compete and win.

To that end, the DAF's Installation Infrastructure Action Plan (I2AP) is re-optimizing our installations to ensure the Air Force and Space Force can deliver combat power with the necessary speed, range, and intensity to deter adversaries and win decisively, if needed. Throughout every stage of conflict, our installations serve as warfighting platforms and provide the bedrock for our readiness and lethality. They also address quality-of-life needs of our airmen and guardians while maintaining readiness to respond swiftly to mission needs, even in the face of attack. Indeed, the ability of our installation to fight through these challenges and quickly recover is critical to success. Our airmen and guardians depend on ready and resilient infrastructure, reliable on-demand energy, and safe environments to defend the homeland and deter our adversaries—and we are committed to providing them with nothing less.

INSTALLATION INFRASTRUCTURE AND READINESS

The DAF relies on its Military Construction (MILCON) and Facilities, Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization (FSRM) programs to provide ready and resilient installations. Yet, solely relying on direct investment at the currently budgeted levels is insufficient to reverse the longstanding trend of deteriorating facilities and failing infrastructure. Our installation portfolio of 177 installations, 69,000 facilities, and 183 million square yards of airfield pavement and is not sized to optimize the vital infrastructure of the current force structure.

Therefore, the DAF is re-optimizing its Air and Space Forces, including installations, to match the pacing threat while focusing on the Department of Defense's priorities to revive the warrior ethos, rebuild the military, and reestablish deterrence.

However, approximately two decades of assuming risk in infrastructure investment, coupled with the burden of excess infrastructure, has led to a backlog of maintenance and repair requirements and degraded infrastructure. The Department's I2AP works to mitigate these challenges by setting clear objectives, goals, and key actions to align installations with critical mission capabilities; optimize vital infrastructure; and maximize mission assurance.

To achieve these objectives, the Department is instituting data-driven, proactive policies and streamlining processes. Examples include policies that centralize enterprise funding, focus on the most critical infrastructure, and prevent expenditures on unauthorized or excess facility spaces. The Department is also working to reduce costs to operate and sustain infrastructure through innovative cost-sharing and strategic Plant Replacement Value reduction initiatives. These initiatives include the potential transfer of portions of installations to other government or commercial entities and expanding utility privatization where data shows it would reduce outages and improve utility system conditions. This strategic framework will guide investments toward modernizing mission critical infrastructure, enhancing resiliency, and curtailing long-term operating and sustainment costs.

Excess Infrastructure

The DAF currently carries significant excess infrastructure along with a \$49.5 billion maintenance and repair backlog that continues to grow. Since 1990, the Department has reduced in size considerably, including a nearly 40 percent reduction in Active Duty end strength and a 60 percent reduction in fighter squadrons, but it has only reduced its CONUS footprint by 15 percent. Moreover, roughly half of all infrastructure across the DAF is currently in a moderate or high-risk condition. While the DAF has prioritized its resources to keep critical mission generating infrastructure (e.g., runways) in good working order, such prioritization has come at the expense of our supporting infrastructure. For example, over 70 percent of utility infrastructure on DAF bases in the Indo-Pacific are in a high-risk condition. This problem is exacerbated by the highly corrosive tropical or arctic environments of many facility locations and by limited skilled local labor in others. Meanwhile, our buying power has eroded, with construction costs rising roughly 50 percent in the last 10 years and far outpacing the annual inflation rate.

The DAF acknowledges the section 2680 in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for fiscal year 2025 requirement to fund infrastructure investment at 4 percent of plant replacement value by fiscal year 2030. This will help us restore facility condition to acceptable levels, but we will struggle to meet this requirement in full without optimizing our inventory.

Despite these challenges, we are aggressively moving forward with our I2AP, which employs innovative approaches, leverages third party investment, and prioritizes resources to the most critical warfighting needs while driving down the cost to deliver and operate our installations. This includes solutions such as Enhanced Use Leases, Strategic Real Estate Opportunities, and Intergovernmental Support Agreements (IGSAs) that enable the DAF to partner externally with industry, communities, and other agencies for mutual benefits. These solutions also help us identify where we can transfer portions of our installations as a means of reducing our infrastructure sustainment costs.

For example, 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) converted Otis Air National Guard Base in Massachusetts from a Fighter Wing to an Intelligence Wing in 2008. In 2025, we are finally optimizing the base to meet its current mission. When divestment of excess land is complete, it will represent approximately 90 percent decrease in acreage.

We are also increasing our annual demolition investments, targeting the removal of excess and severely degraded infrastructure. Moreover, the Department recently instituted a policy requiring all new construction and actions that result in adding square footage to our real property inventory to be offset with equivalent demolition or disposal in order to limit footprint growth and the associated sustainment responsibility.

Military Construction

The Department seeks to execute MILCON investment to support the Interim National Defense Strategic Guidance priorities by focusing on preparing our installations as warfighting platforms and deterring our sole pacing adversary.

A significant focus of our MILCON program is to support the bed down of new weapon systems to rebuild the military and reestablish strategic deterrence. Programs like the Sentinel Ground Based Strategic Deterrent and the B-21 Raider recapitalize two thirds of the Nation's nuclear triad and ensure we maintain a credible

and capable nuclear deterrent capability. Our program also supports Combatant Commanders, with a focus on Indo-Pacific Command, and their most critical requirements to build a more lethal and ready force. Finally, our program seeks to recapitalize current mission facilities that have outlived their useful life or no longer meet mission requirements. We are also working to enhance quality-of-life for our servicemembers and their families with new Child Development Centers and dormitories.

Additionally, the Department seeks to leverage innovative approaches within our MILCON program to maximize taxpayer dollars and the Department's ability to deliver combat power. We are utilizing Other Transactional Authority provided by Congress to pilot innovative construction techniques and project delivery constructs. The on-going \$3 billion rebuild of Tyndall Air Force Base (AFB), Florida, incorporates lessons learned from the storm which destroyed it and novel approaches to installation planning and construction. This Installation of the Future will be resilient, efficient, and innovative and will serve as a model for future construction.

Facility Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization

DAF analysis reveals that the current budget can sustain approximately 65 percent of the enterprise. The balance of the infrastructure is equivalent to approximately 19 installations, further evidence that existing infrastructure investments are spread too thin to effectively maintain the DAF enterprise. Maintenance and repair funding levels have not kept pace with the rising cost of construction, leading to compounding sustainment costs, widespread degradation, and increases in infrastructure issues that adversely impact mission execution. Aging facilities and antiquated control systems further compound these threats, making installations vulnerable to adversaries and placing mission generation at risk.

To mitigate this, the I2AP guides DAF FSRM program investment to address the facilities and infrastructure that are most critical for generating warfighting capability, while also improving quality-of-life initiatives for our airmen, guardians, and their families.

Sustained progress requires a long-term vision. The minimum FSRM funding thresholds established in the fiscal year 2025 NDAA, ramping to 4 percent of the Plant Replacement Value by fiscal year 2030, are not merely about maintaining the status quo—they represent critical and strategic investments for reversing years of accumulated infrastructure degradation and reducing the substantial deferred maintenance and repair backlog. This will help us restore facility conditions—but these investments must be applied to an optimized portfolio to ensure they enable our installations to remain ready, resilient, and credible warfighting platforms that our national security demands.

Spaceport of the Future

Our Spaceport of the Future (SOTF) program is an all-encompassing initiative where the Space Force is taking a comprehensive approach to look at all factors contributing to range costs and launch throughput. SOTF focuses investments into our aging launch infrastructure to ensure the DOD's ability to provide world-class launch capability to public and commercial partners. These investments are necessary to preserve and advance national security interests and reestablish deterrence with capacity to support launch and test operations on demand.

Sentinel Program

The Minuteman III Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM), first deployed in 1970, is the world's oldest land-based strategic missile system and must be recapitalized to provide the Nation a safe, secure, and reliable nuclear deterrent capability. The Sentinel program recapitalizes 450 missile launch facilities across multiple states and upgrades command and maintenance infrastructure to ensure operational readiness through at least 2075. Following the Office of the Secretary of Defense's thorough review and certification of the program, the Sentinel program is moving ahead. The DAF is continuing requirements definition, assessment of acquisition strategies, exploration of the design trade space, and seeking ways to generate competition to drive cost and schedule risk down. Notably, the program office recently decided to minimize risk by pursuing the construction of new silos instead of reusing the existing silos.

Installation Resilience

DAF installations, both enduring and expeditionary, are warfighting platforms from which the DAF successfully executes its core missions. DAF installations are the foundation of combat readiness and must be capable of supporting the lethality and readiness of the force. Strengthening installation resilience, reducing reliance

on vulnerable energy sources, and rapidly fielding emerging technologies are essential to defending the homeland and sustaining deterrence.

The DAF is utilizing third-party financing and innovative partnerships with industry that modernize our utilities and drastically reduce system outages at our bases. We are also continuously reviewing our utility privatization portfolio to enhance resilience across our installations. The DAF has privatized 25 percent of our utility systems and continues to explore the viability, costs, and benefits of additional systems at several bases. These vital investments deliver improved utility infrastructure, reliable systems with redundancy for emergency preparedness, and greater installation energy resiliency.

Energy and Water Resilient Infrastructure

In line with recent Executive Orders on Unleashing American Energy and Declaring a National Energy Emergency, the DAF is focused on maintaining national security and military preparedness by ensuring reliable, diversified, and affordable energy at every one of our installations.

Our vision of “Mission Assurance through Energy and Water Assurance” emphasizes sustainment of warfighting capabilities while optimizing resource use through enhanced planning, technology, and process improvements. We assess near and long-term energy and water requirements based on the installation’s resiliency needs, cost considerations, and opportunities to leverage more reliable and abundant domestic sources.

The DAF conducts Energy Resilience Readiness Exercises (ERREs), also known as “black start exercises,” to help installations assess mission readiness at degraded energy levels. During an ERRE, an installation intentionally disconnects from commercial power for 10 hours to assess onsite backup power systems and validate (and in some cases, identify) infrastructure and mission interdependencies. This allows us to actively test key enabling systems under “blue sky” conditions to identify gaps in energy and mission capabilities.

Similarly, we are conducting the Water Resilience Readiness Exercises (WRRE) Pilot Program, an initiative designed to help installations assess water vulnerabilities and strengthen response strategies. WRREs will provide critical insights to shape enterprise-wide policies, ensuring all bases are better equipped to manage water risks. There are currently four installations in the pilot phase of the program, Dyess AFB in Texas, Hill AFB in Utah, and Cannon AFB and Kirtland AFB in New Mexico. Lessons learned from these installations will inform broader water resiliency efforts as we seek to reestablish deterrence and defend our homeland. The DAF is also pursuing innovative solutions to build energy-efficient and resilient systems for improved energy security and mission assurance. We are changing the overall DAF approach to future energy initiatives by exploring diversified energy opportunities such as advanced nuclear, geothermal, battery energy storage, installation microgrids, and other forms of onsite generation that enhance energy resilience. We continue to partner with the Defense Innovation Unit (DIU) to execute prototype agreements with non-traditional defense contractors as we explore the potential for onsite resilient baseload power via geothermal energy. One promising site is Mountain Home AFB in Idaho, and the potential for a second installation is being evaluated.

At Eielson AFB in Alaska, the DAF continues to pioneer the first commercial application of a microreactor on DOD property, laying the groundwork for future advanced nuclear energy projects. Technologies such as small modular reactors and microreactors will help deliver more reliable and resilient energy to our installations. This increased resilience is particularly critical at strategic and austere locations such as Eielson AFB. In addition, we are partnered with DIU on their Advanced Nuclear Power for Installations (ANPI) project, which aims to put a microreactor on an Air Force location that is still being determined.

Community Partnerships

Community Partnerships are mission force multipliers that promulgate resources and information, reduce costs, increase interoperability, prepare for contingencies and disasters, and unify the civic-base community. The Air Force Community Partnership Program offers a framework through which installations and communities can work together in innovative ways to tackle shared challenges through shared solutions.

Building on the successes of IGSAs under 10 USC § 2679, the DAF implemented innovative applications of this authority to reduce overall operating costs. For instance, Air Force Materiel Command and the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (AZDEMA) entered an IGSA to meet weapon system storage requirements for both new and existing acquisitions. This partnership leverages

AZDEMA's manpower, equipment, time, and materials, and the DAF avoids the costs to construct, or upgrade, facilities.

Additionally, Tinker AFB in Oklahoma partnered with the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments to enhance emergency 9-1-1 support. Through this IGSA, Tinker AFB gains access to the existing 9-1-1 system used throughout Central Oklahoma, avoiding the high costs associated with updating or replacing their current system, while also ensuring efficient response times and improved interoperability.

Finally, Andersen AFB will enter its first IGSA with the Guam Department of Agriculture for stray animal management. This is the first DAF IGSA in a U.S. territory and the first where services are shared between the installation-community partners, rather than provided or received from the community partner to the installation. Andersen AFB provides manpower, equipment, and materials, and the GovGuam Department of Agriculture provides shelter, animal adoption services, neutering services, and village education events. This partnership is estimated to save approximately 320 hours for the pest management program by reducing the number of stray animals on the installation. It also serves as a model for future IGSA's across a range of DOD installation support services in Guam.

The Defense Community Infrastructure Program is a competitive grant program designed to address deficiencies in community infrastructure that supports military installation readiness and lethality. Vibrant relationships between the DAF and our installation communities were instrumental to the Department of Defense awarding approximately half of the \$100 million in grants awards in fiscal year 2024 to DAF communities. These awards include \$13 million for March Air Reserve Base, California—Grantee: Western Municipal Water District of Riverside; \$10.7 million for Peterson SFB, Colorado—Grantee: city of Colorado Springs; \$5.3 million for United States Air Force Academy, Colorado—Grantee: Colorado Springs Utilities; \$11.6 million for Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota—Grantee: Grand Forks County; and \$8.9 million for Rickenbacker Air National Guard, Ohio—Grantee: Columbus Regional Airport Authority.

Mission Sustainment

The Air Force Mission Sustainment (AFMS) program applies a holistic approach and strategy to preserve mission capabilities at installations and ranges by identifying, assessing, and reporting risk and actions to reduce vulnerabilities. This effort is imperative to ensure DAF installations can generate maximum combat power and lethality without encroachments that negatively impact training, operations and the safety of the local population. To mitigate encroachment, the AFMS program works with DAF, other DOD installations and Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) to assess seven mission sustainment hazard categories: airspace, land/sea, spectrum, water, energy, weather, and natural/cultural resources.

Our primary objective is to preserve and protect military readiness across the entire operating picture including airspace, ranges, missile fields, and community assets that directly support missions (e.g. community airports, small arms ranges, water/power sources, etc.). The DAF reviews proposed projects (199' above ground level or higher) filed with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), submitted for DOD review pre-filing, or submitted for DOD review from other Federal agencies.

In 2024, the AFMS program managed the review of 90,343 proposed obstructions that were formally filed with the FAA. It also managed the review of 7500 Informal Review obstruction evaluation projects submitted for DOD pre-filing review from developers or other Federal agencies. We coordinated with the Military Aviation and Installation Assurance Siting Clearinghouse (Clearinghouse), Air Force Flight Standards Agency, other Services, and Federal Agencies to ensure that the proposed activities are compatible with DAF training, testing, and operations.

Cumulative impacts of development continue to increase, causing significant concern for military training routes, special use airspace, radar lines of sight, and certain geographical areas. In response, the AFMS program has formed temporary Mitigation Response Teams (MRTs) with DOD, the Services, and project proponents to identify compatible development solutions to projects which pose impacts to Air Force testing, training, or operations. In 2024, the AFMS program established 77 formal MRTs, including at least one MRT for each Major Command (MAJCOM), as well as for the North American Aerospace Defense Command, the Air National Guard, and the Space Force. The AFMS program managed the MRT review process, established MRTs through the Clearinghouse, and facilitated MRT meetings with units, MAJCOMs, Headquarters Air Force, project developers, and other stakeholders. Ultimately, the formal MRTs and Informal Reviews established in 2024 helped to protect DAF and DOD missions associated with hundreds of unique DOD assets, including airspace and ranges, airfields, missile fields, and radars.

The AFMS program also leads DAF efforts in reviewing offshore projects, including providing responses to the Clearinghouse and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management. This on-going effort includes continued engagement and collaboration with developers, Department of Navy, and consultants.

HOUSING, DORMITORIES, AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTERS

Quality-of-life for our airmen and guardians and their families remains a top readiness priority for the DAF. We continue to focus investment and innovation on our housing, dormitories, and child development centers.

Dormitories / Unaccompanied Housing

The DAF is on-track to meet the FSRM investment requirements established by the fiscal year 2022 NDAA. This is part of the largest dorm investment in over a decade. However, we recognize more is needed. Further, we continue to exceed OSD performance goals for dorm conditions since the inception of the metric in fiscal year 2013. In fiscal year 2022 to fiscal year 2024, we funded 104 projects totaling \$570 million to repair and renovate dorms, HVACs, roofs, and other critical facility systems. Projects are underway or being planned at 18 installations that will continue our efforts to improve quality-of-life for our most junior airmen and guardians.

The DAF unaccompanied housing (UH) inventory includes nearly 58,000 permanent party and over 45,600 training beds. Per fiscal year 2024 NDAA requirements, interim guidance from DOD established Building Condition Index (BCI, a 0–100 scale) as the UH Uniform Condition Index.

The DAF's overall strategy remains focused on restoring and modernizing dorms with FSRM funds and addressing capacity shortfalls and facility recapitalization with MILCON funds. The DAF Dormitory Master Plan guides this effort by providing the comprehensive forecasts, estimates, and recommendations required to strategically execute dormitory projects when and where they are most needed. Current assessments show 53 percent of permanent party beds are at or above the target of 80 BCI, and 0.1 percent of beds are less than 60 BCI.

Training dorms are another key component of our military servicemembers' growth and development. Currently, 69 percent of training beds assess at or above the target 80 BCI and 0.1 percent are less than 60 BCI. Notably, the DAF executed seven FSRM projects for \$67 million at training dorms in fiscal year 2023 to fiscal year 2024.

Family Housing

The DAF is focused on eliminating inadequate housing from the DAF inventory and correcting health and safety deficiencies. In addition to enabling planning studies, designing for future construction projects, and renovating existing DAF-owned homes, the Military Family Housing construction program also supports restructuring Military Housing Privatization Initiative (MHPI) projects.

The DAF's Military Family Housing construction program focuses on planning studies and design for future construction—to include projects at Yokota Air Base, Japan to improve homes for Senior Non-Commissioned Officers, Company Grade Officers, and Field Grade Officers.

Our Military Family Housing O&M funds efforts to sustain, improve, and modernize our inventory of approximately 15,200 DAF-owned family housing units and provides enhanced oversight of over 52,000 privatized homes. Combined, the family housing O&M and construction programs will ensure continued support for the housing needs of airmen, guardians, their families and caregivers, as well as our Army, Navy, and Marine Corps teammates living in DAF-owned and privatized family housing.

The DAF MHPI inventory contains over 52,000 privatized end State unit homes spanning 31 projects across 63 installations. In some cases, the financial assumptions and economics of the deals fall short of expectations through no fault of the project owners. In these cases, the DAF requests funding to restructure to ensure projects don't default on loans and conditions of the homes remain acceptable.

Commercial Apartment Complex

The DAF is currently pursuing an innovative MHPI partnership with Mayroad (the existing MHPI project owner) for a 142-unit commercial apartment complex at Edwards AFB in California. The project broke ground in September 2024 and serves as the DAF's first-ever commercial apartment complex on-installation. The project is fully financed by private investment (no upfront DAF scoring or cost) and will provide 246 beds in response to housing shortages at the remote installation.

Lodging Commercialization

Lodging operations on DAF installations are paramount to support the mission and for the continued resiliency of airmen, guardians, and their families. Lodging is critical not only during permanent change of stations moves, but also for temporary duty assignments away from home stations. Indeed, these lodging assets directly support mission readiness and capability. Upgrading and ensuring the long-term sustainment of lodging for airmen, guardians, and their families is a strategic imperative for the DAF to maintain readiness and achieve mission success.

The DAF is seeking to commercialize all the on-base lodging in the United States, its territories, and possessions—which currently covers 58 DAF installations. The Commercial On-Base Lodging (COBL) effort would be accomplished through the conveyance of facilities and execution of a 50-year ground lease with no upfront cost to the DAF. The government seeks to apply private sector expertise, resources, and market-based incentives to improve the quality-of-life for airmen, guardians, their families, and other authorized travelers while in a transient status. The objective is to provide quality, on-base hotel accommodations that meet the varying needs of a mobile military community through improvements to the on-base lodging inventory and/or new construction, and to appropriately maintain these facilities throughout a long-term business relationship.

Within the DAF, the Assistant Secretariat for Energy, Installations and Environment will serve as the office of primary responsibility for the COBL program and has delegated execution responsibilities associated within the program, including lease administration and oversight, to the Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center—who has established a Program Management Office (PMO).

The process to solicit and competitively select a private sector lease applicant and then successfully negotiate and close the lease of installations in groups and phased over several years. DAF anticipates releasing a request for proposal in the Summer 2025.

This COBL initiative would affect approximately 3,100 Non-appropriated Fund DAF Lodging (DAFL) personnel, who may be eligible for either reemployment priority, severance pay, or voluntary or involuntary retirement benefits. Just as when the Army privatized its lodging, the DAF expects the selected project owner will offer positions to many current DAFL employees.

The COBL initiative is incorporating key lessons learned from previous innovative real eState programs to ensure high performance. Under COBL, the selected project owner would earn fees based on Installation Commander and lodging customer feedback. Reports, approval process, response triggers, and the incentive fee structure would be consistent with the successful Army's Privatized Lodging program. DAF's COBL PMO would perform frequent site visits and direct oversight of both operations and recapitalization of the portfolio over the 50-year lease period.

Child Development Centers (CDCs)

We continue to strive to provide a high quality-of-life for our members and their families. At the heart of that goal is affordable, accessible childcare for our airmen and guardians. Like our dormitory strategy, the DAF is using a two-prong programmatic approach to improve CDCs: targeted FSRM investment to address facility condition concerns and MILCON projects to increase capacity and recapitalize. While no CDCs in the DAF portfolio are failing or in poor condition, we know we still have work to do. Generous congressional support in recent years has enabled the DAF to initiate the design of additional CDC projects for inclusion in future President's Budget requests.

The Child and Youth Facility Master Plan facilitates project advocacy by identifying CDC MILCON and FSRM projects that address child and youth facility conditions and capacity challenges. Out of the 35 MILCON projects identified, 13 have been authorized and appropriated, adding approximately 1,800 spaces. One project was funded with O&M, 13 are in active design to add another 1,500 spaces, and 18 additional projects are in planning to validate requirements.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Part of reestablishing the warrior ethos is an unwavering commitment to the well-being of our servicemembers and their families. It remains among our highest priorities to ensure the health and safety of those who live and work on our installations and those who reside in surrounding communities. We appreciate the support of Congress in our efforts to address Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) and make further progress in our Environmental Restoration Program.

Our proactive PFAS strategy is yielding positive results, and we remain dedicated to making incremental gains in addressing this complex challenge. The DAF looks

forward to continued appropriations support to maintain our PFAS efforts. These efforts include PFAS investigation and cleanup, on-base and off-base drinking water monitoring, Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) replacement facility repairs, and AFFF disposal and research and development. As of December 31, 2024, the DAF expended \$68.7 million to transition from AFFF to fluorine-free foam or water only; 36 percent (192 of 541) facilities have completely removed and disposed of all AFFF and 86 percent (1,008 of 1,175) of vehicles are complete. We are currently on-track to meet the fiscal year 2020 NDAA compliance date, with the extension Congress has enacted.

Environmental Restoration

We remain focused on being good stewards of the environment by preventing spills and releases, while also meeting our cleanup obligations under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. Investigation objectives and environmental response actions performed under these statutes aim to reduce risk to human health and the environment in a risk-based, prioritized manner at approximately 15,000 restoration sites across our active and closed installations. Much of our restoration program focuses on the DAF PFAS response, though we continue to address legacy sites.

The DAF PFAS Strategy is built on the following objectives: (1) Protect human health and the environment; (2) Transition from fluorine-containing products to fluorine-free alternatives and minimize potential PFAS release or exposure risk; (3) Fulfill cleanup responsibilities related to PFAS releases at DAF sites; (4) Invest in new PFAS Alternatives, and treatment and destruction technologies; (5) Integrate PFAS mitigation into compliance programs; and (6) Engage and collaborate with stakeholders (local communities, states, Federal agencies, and Congress). Through the end of fiscal year 2024, the DAF expended \$2.3 billion identifying, investigating, and responding to PFAS releases.

On April 10, 2024, the Environmental Protection Agency published Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for PFAS for public drinking water systems, requiring sampling by 2027 and compliance with the new limits by 2029. The DAF is actively mitigating PFAS impacts to meet the MCLs in on-base drinking water systems under our purview, and addressing impacts to off-base private drinking water wells linked to our activities. In alignment with DOD policy, DAF is also incorporating the final PFAS MCLs into our cleanup program. We continue to investigate, clean-up, and conduct interim response actions to address our past PFAS releases, all of which will significantly increase DAF's requirements.

As we continue this important work, the DAF is committed to open communication with communities concerned about the potential environmental impacts of PFAS. We actively engage with residents and collaborate with local Restoration Advisory Boards to continually improve and ensure our community outreach programs are transparent, inclusive and responsive.

Environmental Quality

As trustee for more than 8.3 million acres of land, including forests, prairies, deserts, wetlands, and coastal habitats, the DAF understands the important role natural resources play in maintaining our mission capability and readiness. We remain fully committed to a comprehensive and integrated approach to conserving environmental, natural, and cultural resources. The environmental quality program funds mission sustainment and environmental compliance with applicable regulations across several media areas. This includes natural and cultural resources management, environmental planning, hazardous waste storage and disposal, hazardous materials management, healthy air and water quality, and completely funded Air National Guard clean-up. Additionally, the program supports ongoing habitat and species management for 123 threatened and endangered species found across 54 identified DAF installations. The program also provides for continued cooperation, collaboration, and leveraging of manpower and other resources with other Services, Federal Government agencies such as the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and applicable State fish and game agencies.

Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Sites

Our BRAC cleanup and property transfer program continues to facilitate environmental restoration and property transfer activities at 34 former DAF installations closed through prior BRAC law. We remain on-track to transfer the remaining four former installations by 2031.

OPERATIONAL ENERGY

The DAF remains the largest consumer of fuel in the Department of Defense. We have implemented a full range of strategies to increase our operational agility and mitigate our contested logistics risk in theaters like the Pacific. An energy-optimized fleet allows the warfighter to fly greater distances, increases loiter time for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance assets, and increases payload range. Our recent efforts resulted in a \$222 million fuel cost avoidance, with \$64 million of prior year expired funds recouped and reinvested to further enhance combat capability and mission assurance.

The Mission Execution Excellence Program (MEEP) incentivizes airmen to optimize use of aviation fuel in preparation for future conflict in a fuel-constrained environment such as the Indo-Pacific theater. Since May 2022, MEEP has saved over 14 million gallons of aviation fuel, valued at \$52 million, and has expanded from four participating squadrons to 29 total force C-17, C-5, and KC-135 units.

Improved tools and software lead to more battlefield effectiveness. For example, training software, like Extended Reality Air to Air Refueling (EARL) trainers, creates more effective training opportunities for aerial refueling by providing pilots and boom operators with a highly realistic extended reality capability across multiple aircraft. Time spent training on EARL stations can offset time spent in live-flight sorties, allowing for more crews to be trained in less time, reducing stress on aircraft and schedules.

Engine optimization technologies, such as those currently deployed by commercial airlines, reduce fuel burn and increase engine performance, reliability, and time on wing for DAF aircraft. Efforts include a compressor blade coating which, if implemented across the C-17 fleet, is projected to spur an estimated \$20.9 million in fuel and maintenance savings annually (based on fiscal year 2025 fuel prices). Additionally, engine detergent and foam washes can restore efficiency and power while reducing fuel consumption by 0.5 to 1.15 percent. The incorporation of a detergent additive into the Air Force's engine wash contract has yielded significant additional benefits, including enhanced engine performance through improved removal of carbon debris and soot, resulting in restored engine efficiency and power output.

Drag reduction initiatives, like technologies currently used by commercial airlines and foreign militaries, reduce fuel consumption and improve operational range and capability of the current fleet of Air Mobility Command aircraft. In partnership with the Air Force Research Lab and Air Force Life Cycle Management Center, we are implementing drag reduction technologies across our legacy aircraft, which has the potential to decrease drag and increase fuel efficiency by 1–8 percent for our existing fleet. In addition to increasing operational capabilities, most initiatives have a return-on-investment of less than 3 years. For instance, the C-17 is currently undertaking a 6-month logistics service test for 3-D printed microvanes that is projected to provide up to 1.5 percent drag reduction and 1.5 percent fuel savings across the 222-aircraft fleet.

Finally, we are investing in the Blended Wing Body (BWB) demonstration aircraft to rapidly field new technology that meets the demands of modern air operations. In 2023, the DAF partnered with DIU to prototype an improved aircraft design that provides more aerodynamic efficiency than today's tankers, bombers, and cargo aircraft, enabling increased range, loiter time, and fuel offload capabilities for the DOD. As a result of this competitive process, DAF selected JetZero to demonstrate this new capability by 2027, which is projected to improve aerodynamic efficiency by 30 percent. In addition, part of the capability development strategy for this effort includes to garner private investment and significantly augment Air Force funding. To date, \$65 million in private funding and in-kind support has been captured, including investment from two major U.S. commercial airlines. The project remains on schedule and recently completed a Demonstrator Critical Design Review in May 2025.

CONCLUSION

The DAF Energy, Installations and Environment portfolio is aligned with the Department of Defense priorities of restoring the warrior ethos, rebuilding the military, and reestablishing deterrence by increasing the lethality, readiness and warfighting capability of our installations. We remain committed to aligning installation infrastructure to mission critical capabilities and optimizing our footprint while ensuring our installations have the resilience necessary to support Air and Space Force operations in a contested environment. With the continued support of Congress, I am confident our installations will continue to facilitate combat power projection with enough speed and intensity to be decisive for the Joint Force while also supporting our airmen, guardians and their families.

Thank you for the opportunity to update you on the DAF's programs supporting energy, installations, and environment. We appreciate Congress' continued support for our enterprise and look forward to continuing to work closely with you.

Senator SULLIVAN. Thank you, Mr. Saunders.

I'll begin the questioning here, and I highlighted this and I'd like to start with you, Secretary Marks, and maybe talk to or mention this to each of the other witnesses. The current projected MILCON in Guam, and I'm not saying Guam is not strategically important. It is.

But they go up from \$4.7 billion in current projects to over 46 billion in planned future projects. Secretary, the Navy mentioned to me after his visit, he thought the number was north of \$50 billion. I have raised this as an issue where I just think the strategic imagination of our leadership has been lacking whereby with our U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM) Commanders, the current one, I have a deep respect for. The previous one, Admiral Aquilino, I also had deep respect for.

But there's a sense that everything is defaulting to Guam, every service. It creates, in my view, strategic vulnerabilities. Particularly if there's a war with China. With all of our forces on one relatively small island, this I think creates huge vulnerabilities.

So, Secretary Marks, can you touch on that? You say you have a holistic Guam master plan that you guys are looking at. I'm assuming it's going to start to look at a more dispersed force in INDOPACOM and not come to this issue of a default to Guam, literally on everything. \$50 billion in MILCON when half the Marine Corps and the Navy are already out there, it seems to me not very smart.

Mr. MARKS. Senator, thank you for that, and I know you're a deep student of history. You and I have spoken of that before so I completely understand the perspective as you go there. As I refer to that was part of when we began this understanding as I came in to look at a holistic picture of where we're putting things. This affects not only the Indo-Pacific but here in the homeland as well.

As we look at our real eState as our holdings, as well as the cost of everything that we are doing, and part of that is working with our combatant commanders that you mentioned.

Senator SULLIVAN. Yes.

Mr. MARKS. Not only Admiral Paparo, but also General Guillot in terms of what is the correct force laydown, where do those things need to be and then balancing that with the cost that we need to get there. So we've just, at least from my seat, begun to take a harder look at that. I understand your concerns of that. Senator, I would love to come back to you and discuss that further as I can get a little bit more insight.

Senator SULLIVAN. Good. I'm glad you're undertaking that initiative. I appreciate that. I commend you for that. Do you have a timeline by which you want to get that study done? Sometimes as you know, in big bureaucracies, DOD being one, when they want something to go away, they say, "Hey, we're going to study at it and we'll get back to you Senators in 3 years." How about giving a little timeline on that?

Mr. MARKS. Yes. Senator, I've not yet sent one to my team. They're trying to give me a better understanding. I will tell you

though that both visits to Alaska, to INDOPACOM and to U.S. Northern Command (NORTHCOM) are all being planned right now for me because I want to sit down with each one of them. I think we're planning a visit with your staff in August to go out to Alaska.

That is really the timeline I'm on. I need to be able to sit down with each of them, have this conversation and continue to drive that planning ahead. So, I will come back to you at that when we work our plannings.

Senator SULLIVAN. Let me ask because we have other equities in terms—I appreciate that answer. In terms of services, Mr. Saunders, obviously the Air Force is very heavily invested in Guam. Again, I worry about a couple of well-placed missiles in Andersen Airfield is gone, right?

Ms. Johnson Turner, you know the marines are—I'm not sure how public it is but—kind of resisting having 8,000 marines on Guam, no place to train. The housing is enormously expensive to build, just to get a couple of marine barracks up. Do either of you have any concerns about the Air Force or the Marine Corps Navy being over concentrated in Guam with so many forces and so much MILCON in one place in the Indo-Pacific?

Ms. JOHNSON-TURNER. Senator Sullivan, thank you for the question. As you noted, Guam is a special and strategic location and one that's vital to the National Defense Strategy. As Mr. Marks noted, we are staying very connected with the combatant commander on all things holistically as it relates to force flow, force posture and appropriate operational lay down and operational diversity.

So, sir, we will continue to strike the right balance with our Indo-Pacific presence. Again, being very nested closely with the combatant commanders.

Senator SULLIVAN. Mr. Saunders?

Mr. SAUNDERS. Yes, sir. Thank you for the question. Similarly, our MILCON program and our investments in general are heavily influenced by combatant commander requirements. So, we recognize the strategic importance of Guam but all of the requirements within the INDOPACOM AOR and we, as I mentioned, focus those priorities from the combatant commanders and our component commander in our case the Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) Commander into areas like Guam and other areas in the Indo-Pacific.

Senator SULLIVAN. Thank you, and I appreciate Secretary Mark's reference to history. When you look at our own history, particularly in INDOPACOM, when we've over concentrated forces, it is not always turned out so well for our country, our readiness, our lethality, which I know you're all focused on. Senator Hirono.

Senator HIRONO. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Secretary Marks, I know you are fully aware of the importance of the training areas in Hawaii, particularly Pohakuloa. Dr. Waksman, you just noted how important that training area is to our military in the Indo-Pacific. So, I would want both of you to commit to continuing the kind of good faith negotiations that we are engaged in to ensure that especially Pohakuloa remains as a necessary training area for our troops in Hawaii.

Mr. MARKS. Senator, not only my commitment but I had a call just last evening with my Hawaii Coordination Cell as we continue to move all of the issues to forward. So, yes, ma'am.

Dr. WAKSMAN. Yes, Senator, I echo his comments. We have a cell as well in Hawaii who work these issues. As you know, we can't formally negotiate until the records of decision are published, which the Army is currently planned to do in August. But we absolutely will commit to engaging with the local Hawaiian population and local government and other local nurse groups to make sure that they're all being—

Senator HIRONO. Yes, as we know there are some challenges to these negotiations, not to mention that the fact that one of the State agencies did not to okay the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). So, the good thing is I believe that the Governor is very interested in moving forward, working in good faith with all of you.

So, recent reporting review that a billion dollars, as I mentioned, the facility sustainment, restoration and modernization funds will be moved from repairing and maintaining facilities. As I noted, there are something like in the order of over \$200 billion in deferred maintenance needs. So, this is money that's supposed to go to for barracks and barracks repair but instead they're being diverted to activities on the southwest border.

Secretary Marks and Dr. Waksman can you explain how you plan to ensure the soldiers are living in safe and adequate barracks in light of this decrease in funding to the tune of about \$1 billion and possibly more? Have you determined how this will impact the Army's maintenance backlog?

Mr. MARKS. Senator, thank you for that. We of course all remain very committed to that and to the health and well-being of all of our servicemembers. But most of that money was originally things that had not fully executed and we are restoring that into the fiscal year 2026. But I'll defer to Dr. Waksman in terms of the exact way nature in which that was done.

Dr. WAKSMAN. Yes. As Secretary Mark said we did not pull any funding from any projects that were already being spent on. It was money that had not already been assigned. You are correct that we have a very bad backlog of maintenance that we have to fix, and so, what we're trying to do is to try to buy that back as best as we can in fiscal year 2026. The fiscal year 2026 FSRM budget for the Army is going to be 25 percent higher than it was even in fiscal year 2024, and so, my instruction to the team has been to not forget any of these actions that we were going to do and to make sure that everything is getting funded that needed to get funded.

Senator HIRONO. So, the fact of the matter is that, that the DOD has decided that it is going to assist Homeland Security in various immigration enforcement programs. Now this is being done without reimbursement and the DOD can ill afford for any of these moneys that should go to things like barrack's restoration and repair, can ill afford any of this kind of diversion.

So, we will be watching to see how you're going to make up the difference. In fact, Dr. Waksman, over 3 weeks ago, this Committee asked the Army for a comparison of what facility sustainment, restoration and modernization projects were planned for fiscal year

2025 compared to what has been executed to date, and we have not received this information. When can we expect this information from you?

Dr. WAKSMAN. Senator, that's a fair question. We have just really finalized all those numbers internally. We're getting ready to pull that together and I make a commitment to you that we will get that to you as soon as we have it finalized and ready for release.

[The information referred to follows:]

Dr. WAKSMAN.

Installation	SecArmy EIP - Project Name	Est Costs
Joint Base Lewis McChord	Repair/Convert Barracks to Ops Fac 3219 MDTF #1	\$36,000,000
Joint Base Lewis McChord	Repair/Convert Barracks to Ops Fac 3221 MDTF #1	\$27,484,000
Joint Base Lewis McChord	Repair/Convert Barracks to Ops Fac 3222 MDTF #1	\$27,536,000
US Army Garrison Hawaii	Repair Exhaust Fan & Duct Work, SB1580	\$9,300,000
Fort Cavazos	REPAIR ENLISTED UPH B10006	\$80,000,000
Joint Base Lewis McChord	Repair/Convert Barracks to Ops Fac 3218 MDTF #1	\$27,646,205
US Army Garrison Rheinland Pfalz	SOF: Repair/Upgrades Utilities (Fire-Water)	\$10,000,000
Joint Base Lewis McChord	Repair/Convert Barracks to Ops Fac 3223 MDTF #1	\$27,509,000
Joint Base Lewis McChord	Repair/Convert Barracks to Ops Fac 3224 MDTF #1	\$26,663,000
US Army Garrison Hawaii	Permanent Party Barracks, Bldg 2081	\$51,500,000
US Army Garrison Hawaii	Enlisted Uph, Bldg 2083	\$77,000,000
US Army Garrison Ansbach	Repair EUPH B5090	\$12,600,000
Fort Cavazos	REPAIR TAXIWAYS AT RGAAP	\$16,500,000
US Army Garrison Wiesbaden	MDTF #2 Repair Bldg 4502	\$43,000,000
US Army Garrison Rheinland Pfalz	Repair Permanent Party Barracks, B-8507	\$12,900,000
US Army Garrison Rheinland Pfalz	Repair Permanent Party Barracks, B-8548	\$12,900,000
US Army Garrison Rheinland Pfalz	Repair Permanent Party Barracks, B-8658	\$9,900,000
Fort Liberty	Repair Info Sys Processing Center, 21127 NEC	\$25,000,000
US Army Garrison Bavaria	Repair PP Enlisted UPH, Building 634, MRBC	\$20,000,000
US Army Garrison Bavaria	Repair PP Enlisted UPH, Building 852, 1-4 Inf Bn	\$26,000,000
Fort Campbell	Permanent Party Barracks, 4057	\$20,801,720
US Army Garrison Ansbach	Repair Parking ivo B5843 (Readiness)	\$5,000,000
Fort Irwin NTC	Enlisted UPH 250	\$17,500,000
Fort Liberty	Repair CDC, F1243, Cook	\$11,000,000
Fort Johnson	TEMP - Repair Vehicle Maintenance Shop B2826 (3-10) P#4	\$26,000,000
Fort Bliss	Repair AC Hangar Fire Protection System, B11108	\$26,000,000
Fort Sill	Repair Failed Building Systems (HVAC/FIRE/ELECTRICAL/PLUMBING) - 3707	\$12,400,000
Joint Base Myer Henderson Hall	Convert Barracks 251 to The Old Guard (TOG) COF and Aid Station	\$46,000,000
USAG Japan	Permanent Party Barracks, Bldg 793	\$13,200,000
Fort Eisenhower	Repair, B24412 PP Barracks	\$17,981,849
All Requiring Funds	Project Design (Other FY26 Designs)	\$24,400,000
Fort Moore / Fort Jackson	SRM Barracks Pilot Program	\$68,000,000

Senator HIRONO. Okay. We're going to hold you to that time timeline soon. Ms. Johnson-Turner, you noted that some 14 Navy barracks have been renovated. That's good news. I visited Arizona Hall, a Navy enlisted barracks at Joint Base Pearl Harbor, and the facility is dated, lacks essential air conditioning. In fact, I note that the Air Force doesn't even let its unaccompanied airmen in places that are not air conditioned but yet the Navy has this facility that is not air conditioned.

That is not some kind of a luxury because it's pretty tough to be in a place that's not air conditioned. So, I found out that the restoration costs for these barracks is \$10 million. That seems eminently doable. So, I'd like to know from you, what is the plan and when can I expect the renovation of Arizona Hall to begin?

Ms. JOHNSON-TURNER. Senator Hirono, I appreciate the question. As noted, unaccompanied housing remains a priority for the Department of the Navy and I appreciate your attention to and support for the Department of the Navy. Specific to Arizona Hall, we did have sailors that were moved out of that facility about a year ago. We are moving forward with a structural assessment although the building is wholly vacant, which we expect to receive those results this summer.

Senator HIRONO. So, is there \$10 million being requested to complete the renovation of Arizona Hall?

Ms. JOHNSON-TURNER. Senator, I will have to get back to you on the specific amount. I think part of it was—now that the facility is vacated and there is no sailors or other servicemembers residing, was to get the structural assessment and determine the next step. [The information referred to follows:]

Ms. JOHNSON-TURNER. In fiscal year 2025, the Navy funded a structural inspection to support a broader engineering evaluation but has already programmed \$3.8 million of fiscal year 2025 Operation and Maintenance, Navy funding for site and parking lot upgrades and a heating, ventilation, and air conditioning study. Plans toward the renovation of Arizona Hall are contingent upon the results of the inspection, which are expected at the end of the calendar year.

Senator HIRONO. You may not have the specific amount but can you tell me if this is happening in this budget?

Ms. JOHNSON-TURNER. I will look forward to getting back to you Senator in short order.

Senator HIRONO. Thank you.

Senator SULLIVAN. Thank you, Senator Hirono. Senator Fischer.

Senator FISCHER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you all for being here today.

As you know, FSRM funds are used by the service in order to maintain, repair and improve existing military facilities. This Committee has been leading the way on reforms when it comes to the sustainment of our infrastructure.

In responding to a committee request for information, I understand that the services as well as the Office of the Secretary of Defense would be in favor of changing FSRM from a 1-year authorization to a 3-year authorization. First, can each of you tell me if you support this idea, Mr. Secretary?

Mr. MARKS. Senator, thank you, and as I think you and I have spoken before, anything that increases flexibility and allows us to program appropriately but also allows us to reduce the overall cost as we can get after it, certainly we would support and I would want to work with you to see how that would become implemented.

Senator FISCHER. Great. Dr. Waksman?

Dr. WAKSMAN. Yes. I echo Secretary Marks. Any additional flexibility is always welcome. You're right about this challenge. It's like a credit card debt where you save a little bit of money now and you have to pay way more later. We understand this is a big hole that we have to dig out of and we're looking forward to working with you on trying to solve that problem.

Senator FISCHER. Great. Ma'am?

Ms. JOHNSON-TURNER. Senator, I absolutely concur with Secretary Marks. Anything that enhances flexibility and our buying

power would be much appreciated. It would get us beyond the fiscal year encroachment, as well as give us more time to better plan.

Senator FISCHER. Mr. Saunders?

Mr. SAUNDERS. Senator, I appreciate the question. I echo all the comments previously. It would add additional flexibility and make us more efficient in executing the program.

Senator FISCHER. Okay. That is great. So, if you're in support of this, why hasn't Congress seen a legislative proposal on this topic or seen any kind of change in your annual budget request? Who wants that one?

Mr. MARKS. Senator, we'll take that one.

Senator FISCHER. Okay. Great.

Mr. MARKS. Work that as we move forward, certainly I think that that is something we need to sit down and work language with you on to ensure it's in the proper place. But I was made aware of that just this week. So, I'll absolutely want to work with you on that.

Senator FISCHER. Thank you very much. Mr. Saunders, as you know in March 2019, Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska experienced a massive flood forcing displacement of 3,200 people and causing millions of dollars in damage. Six years later, that rebuilding is still in progress but I would like to highlight that in a testament to the resiliency and fortitude, the airmen of Offutt Air Force Base have maintained full mission capability throughout this entire time.

However, these same airmen are having to execute their missions out of aging facilities that are not suited to the task. Could you please provide an update on the Offutt Air Force Base rebuilding effort? I would ask them that you followup with that and make sure things stay on track. The facilities are out of date, dangerous, not healthy and we want to be able to provide for our people.

Mr. SAUNDERS. Senator Fischer, thank you for that question. We share your same interest in ensuring that we restore the facilities to operational condition and that we provide high quality facilities for our airmen that are working at our critical location at Offutt. In this case throughout the fiscal year 2019 through 2024 program we've invested about \$988 million in that national disaster recovery effort so far.

It's 11 separate projects that are awarded, and as you noted some of them are still in construction and I remain committed as you've asked to keep a pulse on that to ensure that we continue to execute that program.

Senator FISCHER. Thank you very much. Mr. Secretary, what steps are we taking across our installations to ensure that that critical infrastructure and the industrial control systems are protected at a lot of these installations? You know that we have to make sure that they're protected, that they're hardened just as much as we worry about the technology.

Mr. MARKS. Senator, I really appreciate that question because that is critical to everything that we do, and we have such a dependency on our community partners in that, right, our unified or our utility providers and how we operate with that. In fact, I am meeting with several of them tomorrow to discuss how we collectively can get after this problem and certainly focus our invest-

ments on ways that make us not only resilient from just an energy dominance, energy security and redundancy position but also, as you mentioned, the cybersecurity that goes along with that.

I certainly think from an efficiency perspective, our ability to digitally monitor the work that we do is also important to our future efforts, and we'll be prioritizing that as we move it.

Senator FISCHER. You know, as we're looking at the coordination, not just with industry partners but across the services as well, do you have any thoughts on how we can improve on that?

Mr. MARKS. Well, I think certainly as Dr. Waksman, all the services do our black start exercises are beginning to reveal to us some of those abilities of places where those redundancies lack. That's allowing us to then focus our efforts on first and foremost ensuring that we don't have failures such as at Offutt, which obviously has a critical national security mission that we want to ensure that is there, right?

So, as we do those that allows us to then begin to move out given the resources that we have to focus on that. But we can certainly come back and try to work with you on that.

Senator FISCHER. Okay. Great. I'd be really interested in hearing how not just how we coordinate but how we can, and once again, make it move faster.

Mr. MARKS. Yes, ma'am.

Senator FISCHER. Thank you.

Senator SULLIVAN. Thank you Senator Fischer. Senator Kaine.

Senator KAINE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to our witnesses. I want to ask about Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UASs). We certainly are seeing in real time the threat they pose in combat and the new iterations of them on the battlefield. But they also affect security of DOD installations. We've had incursions at Langley. There have been other bases in the country that have seen these.

Talk a little bit about what each of the service branches are doing. You know the Army is playing kind of a facilitator role. NORTHCOM is playing a key role. But what are you doing with respect to installations both at home and are installations abroad to be more really kind of on the leading edge of the best practices for UAS incursions?

Mr. MARKS. Senator, I appreciate that question very much, especially given my last role in which that was a singular focus that I was working there in Florida. I would say writ large, and I will allow my partners here to also add. One of the critical pieces of this that I believe we're focused on is not only inside the fence line but also outside the fence line.

So, if I wait until that threat is at the fence line, it's much too late. We saw what happened in Spider Web, we can see the real threat that can happen. So one of the initiatives that we are moving forward in without our installations is to work on the community ability to integrate these working on the jurisdictions and the authorities that go with that.

I will defer again to my partners here in terms of technologies that we're applying to those solutions but that's one of the key efforts that my office is going to focus on.

Dr. WAKSMAN. Thanks, Senator. It is a great question. As you know, counter UAS is a big part of what the Army's doing now, and

it's a financial question, right? Can we shoot down stuff cheaper than what they're shooting at us? But I think there's two important parts to it that the Army's focusing on in addition to just the technology.

One is the energy piece. If you're going to have all these radar systems, microwave systems, et cetera. How do you ensure that you have reliable energy for that? But also, it's a policy piece. There are policy and legal challenges with doing counter UAS, particularly domestically. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) tends to frown on us shooting things down out of the sky, and so working that problem, I think it's a concern that we're going to want to work with you and the rest of Congress on going forward.

Ms. JOHNSON-TURNER. Senator Kaine, thank you for the question as it does have the attention of the Department of the Navy. We are looking at the systems that we have in place at many of our critical and mission critical installations as well as the research and development.

As we know, technology is constantly increasing. I just led a critical infrastructure form within the Department of the Navy where we are looking holistically across Marine Corps and Navy equities to get a whole love done, if you will, approach to get after this. We're also looking at the authorities that we have in place and where we may have potential gaps.

Then you've heard the Marine Corps talk about sort of their 3D printing that they've been able to do at Quantico to really continue to push focus and attention to moving forward with drones.

Senator KAINE. Saunders?

Mr. SAUNDERS. Senator, thank you for the question. I'd start by reiterating for the Department of the Air Force as well as the other services that our installations are power projection platforms and they operate in increasingly contested environment, including a contested environment in the homeland as you noted with incursions at Langley and other locations.

So, the Department is obviously heavily invested in working and partnering with the joint counter small UAS office, the assistant services and looking at all options both kinetic and non-kinetic solutions and ensuring that we develop solutions that are nested in a broader airbase defense and airbase air and ballistic missile defense framework. That's headed through our Air Force side—on the Air Force side through the A3 but it includes stakeholders across the Department of the Air Force.

Senator KAINE. If I could just say to my Senate colleagues here, the Langley incursions were maybe 18 or 19 months ago. We've been together in sort of the Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF) where we've tried to get information about; do we know the origin, no, even though it was 19 nights in a row. It wasn't just like one night. We still haven't really been given very good information about it.

Maybe it's hard to come upon that information now. But the same issues when we asked 19 months ago. Well, the FAA doesn't like us shooting stuff down outside of base, of course they don't. The local government, I got this Mayor of Hampton, he doesn't want that. But those answers, 19 months ago, I got them. But it's been 19 months and I'm still worried that everyone recognizes as

a challenge but I'm not really sure we've got the protocols that we should have by now.

I'm going to add to it. I was at one of our major defense contractors in Virginia. I don't need to name them but they said they have drone incursions around their perimeter a lot. People trying to see what's going on. What do you do? We call the service branch that we're contracting with and we let them know. They say, "Thanks, we're glad you let us know."

But there's not that much done beyond a phone call and an, "Okay, thanks for letting us know." So, I am nervous about this. That there are a lot of stakeholders. It's FAA, it's local government, it's Federal law enforcement trying to do the investigation to determine who's responsible. You have to separate the innocent hobbyist from the potential bad malefactor or foreign actor who's coming after you.

But I just worry that we're not yet coming up with the protocols we need. That's something that I'm sure we'll talk about as we're doing the markup in the NDA. One other question I wanted to ask about housing. There's a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report, 2023, poor living conditions undermine quality of life and readiness.

That is now about 2 years old, highlighted number of poor living conditions that we're familiar with but the report made 31 recommendations. I wonder what's our status in terms of implementing or how many have been implemented, how many are in implementation? Can you talk a little bit about that Secretary Mark?

Mr. MARKS. Yes. Absolutely Senator, thank you for that, and over half of those have already been implemented. There's another three that we're attempting to close out right now. Those are going through their process but I expect those to be moved shortly, and then each of our partners has a game plan in which we meet regularly to get those to closure. So, I think we're on a good pace to get those there through our housing offices.

Senator KAINE. If I did that question for the record, I think it might be helpful for not just this Subcommittee, but all Committee Members to kind of get the 31, these have been done. Here are the three that we think we're closing in on. Here are the ones we're still working on.

So, I'll probably ask that question for the record because I think everybody's probably going to be interested in that answer.

Mr. MARKS. Understood. Thank you, sir.

[The information referred to follows:]

Mr. MARKS. The GAO has closed 15 recommendations under their Military Barracks report after reviewing the documentation provided by the Department. Of the remaining 16 recommendations, the Department has provided documentation to the GAO for consideration of closure of five more recommendations and of the final 11 recommendations, all except one have current estimated completion dates in calendar year 2026.

Senator KAINE. Okay. Thank you.

Senator SULLIVAN. Great, and Senator Kaine, yesterday a number of us introduced the Golden Dome Act, which is all about missile defense, which has a significant UAS component. It's got a UAS component that deals with FAA, DOD, and the Services, to

try to get to exactly what you are talking about. I think it's a really important issue and I think our services also have concerns that nobody has the authority to actually shoot down a drone if it were doing nefarious activity right now. So, I agree with you.

I think it's something we're going to certainly want to take up in the NDAA markup.

Senator KAINE. Great.

Senator SULLIVAN. Thank you. Well, we're going to go to second round of questions here and I'll begin with you Secretary Marks. One of the issues, you're probably seeing it, I'm sure all our witnesses have seen it. In terms of MILCON, one of the challenges we have is the oversaturation of burdensome regulations, many of which come from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), where it takes years and years and even beyond a decade to get through NEPA reforms or NEPA reviews.

Then the inevitable litigation that comes with them to do anything on basis. So, Mr. Secretary, I'm sure you saw the very important Supreme Court case ruling on the Eagle County case, where the court found that agencies will get significant deference on NEPA reviews and importantly clarifies that agencies don't have to do reviews and shouldn't do reviews for impacts outside the project's immediate jurisdiction.

So, have you started to incorporate that into your DOD NEPA analysis and importantly, like for example on Guam I know that the Department of Interior was doing a huge NEPA review on some of the base housing related to Guam, incorporating that with the other agencies that might be doing NEPA analysis on military basis to more quickly streamline MILCON projects, which often can take a decade or more because of NEPA red tape?

Mr. MARKS. Senator, absolutely, and in fact, since I've been in the seat, that's been a high priority to try to get after that, working with our partners in ways in which we can accelerate that by, while still acknowledging our legal policy responsibilities, of course. One of those of course is, the team has looked at opportunities there.

Where can we use Categorical Exclusion (CATEX), where can we use other abilities to move that forward, shrink those timelines again while still meeting those. I'll defer to my partners if they have recent examples but we hope to bring that forward very soon. I agree with you, I've experienced that personally where the standard answer to any environmental answer is, "Well, that'll be 2 years from now before I come back to you with an answer." That to me, is an unacceptable answer, so.

Senator SULLIVAN. Yes. Not acceptable. It's a dangerous world out there and we can't—

Mr. MARKS. It is. Absolutely, sir.

Senator SULLIVAN. We wouldn't be saying that during World War II or any other times, we need to up the tempo. Let me turn to the very important issue. A number of you have talked about the issue of energy. One element, and you don't want to repeat rumors, but one of the things that I've heard rumors on, again, in the Indo-Pacific region is the lack of energy storage as a detriment to prosecuting warfighting plans in the Indo-Pacific, particularly even ex-

acerbated more because of the closure at the Red Hill Fuel facility in Hawaii.

So, is that something that you're hearing about from the combatant commanders? In one of the areas that you and I talked about during your confirmation process, Secretary Marks, was the former base at Adak, which in addition to having two 8,000 foot runways, a sub base, has one of the largest and still operational fuel depots in the world, 22 million gallons of fuel can be stored there.

But what are our challenges with regard to fuel a warfighting capability that we need in INDOPACOM, particularly given the Red Hill Fuel Facility shut down and I believe Adak offers a really important element for INDOPACOM fuel logistics. A lot of people don't know. If you look at a map, Adak is over a thousand miles west of Hawaii, and it's in the AOR, very far out in the AOR.

Mr. MARKS. Senator, I appreciate that. I've been tracking both Admiral Paparo's and General Guillot's comments to you about those issues. We are looking at the global force posture. I know my Navy Partners made a visit to Adak to begin to do an assessment on that, and certainly we're looking at that global force posture. Anything that increases distance slows us down and our ability to support the warfighter is certainly a concern.

We'll continue to work with combatant commanders and my service partners to see what we need to do as the next steps.

Senator SULLIVAN. But are you hearing from the combatant commanders that they're worried about fuel supplies in any kind of contingency? I'm not just saying it's Red Hill, I'm just saying in general, it's a big Pacific Ocean out there and our warfighters need fuel. I'm hearing that.

Mr. MARKS. Senator, and I don't doubt it, and that's why, as I mentioned earlier in my comments, that I've reached out to the combatant commanders to sit down as quickly as possible, as well as very quickly sitting down with my partners at the Defense Logistics Agency to try to get a better grasp on that situation for you. So, I'll come back to you but I will defer to my partners here, my colleagues if they have a greater influence.

Senator SULLIVAN. Well, just with regard to Adak, the INDOPACOM Commander and the NORTHCOM Commander testified in the full committee that we need to reopen that base. I got a commitment recently from the Navy, Ms. Johnson-Turner to come brief me again on this. This was in a call with the Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV). Nobody's done it. That was about 3 or 4 weeks ago. So, I'm still waiting. I've been waiting a long time. Getting impatient on that.

But I'd like to get your commitment to get what was already a commitment to come brief me on their latest visit, whether it's dealing with fuel, runways, sub bases. It's a very strategic location. Two combatant commanders have already said we need to reopen it, and I just haven't gotten anything from the Navy yet. Can I get your commitment to get the Navy at a senior level in my office soon as they've already committed to me to brief me on this?

Ms. JOHNSON-TURNER. Senator Sullivan, the Arctic is definitely a strategic and important location. I will followup within internal to the Department of the Navy so we can circle back with you.

Senator SULLIVAN. Good. Thank you. Senator Hirono.

Senator HIRONO. Any questions about reopening Red Hill is going to require a lot of thought because these were massive—it was a massive facility.

Senator SULLIVAN. Just for the record, I didn't say anything about reopening Red Hill.

Senator HIRONO. Well, that's what it sounded like to me.

Senator SULLIVAN. No, I'm not saying that at all.

Senator HIRONO. Good.

Senator SULLIVAN. I'm saying the Navy needs to use Adak as a replacement to Red Hill not. I know how sensitive Red Hill is. That's the last I would not her. That's your area.

Senator HIRONO. That's the last stop. Encroach. Thank you very much.

Senator SULLIVAN. Nothing about—

Senator HIRONO. I'm all for being open minded about what we need to do to make sure that our readiness posture remains strong. However, if Red Hill was a facility that mainly stored aviation fuel. So, the Air Force has something to say about that. In the meantime, though, the presence really is not so much the Air Force in Hawaii but it's the Navy and the fuel there was not for Navy.

Okay. I'm going to ask some really easy questions so that we can move on. In previous NDAA's, we have extended the H-2B visas for military construction related to Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). Secretary Marks, would you support another extension of H-2B visas for military construction on Guam and the CNMI?

Mr. MARKS. Senator Hirono, I absolutely would look for an extension that would help with costs, with manpower and continue to move our projects along so they don't incur any additional costs.

Senator HIRONO. So, the answer is yes?

Mr. MARKS. Yes.

Senator HIRONO. Okay. I did mention in my opening that I wanted each of you to discuss very briefly but specifically some ideas to improve the military construction process. I suppose part of it is somehow hastening the NEPA review process. But do you have any specific ideas on what we can do to hasten military construction?

Mr. MARKS. We do, Senator, and we've looked right now at ideas such as accelerated design build. So, bringing in the team earlier. Bundling projects so that we can accelerate those, right? One large project moving through quickly if we can do that. But I would also look at things that—I've asked our team to investigate, such as the use of artificial intelligence solutions to move the projects along more quickly.

We certainly want to look at industry standards, and so, I've asked our team to begin to look at the unified facilities criteria, the UFCs. Basically, in a broad sense, anything that would restrict us from moving forward that is contrary to either industry standards or contrary to law. We need to identify those and try to remove the restrictions that allow us to get things done quickly to the proper standards.

Senator HIRONO. So, the things like design build, are you implementing that kind of a process to speed up the building process?

Mr. MARKS. That is absolutely something we want to move forward as quickly as possible.

Senator HIRONO. So, if you have specific examples of that is working, please come back with them.

Mr. MARKS. I will come back to you with one. Yes, ma'am.
[The information referred to follows:]

Mr. MARKS. The authority discussed during the hearing was accelerated design-build, which was formerly authorized under 10 U.S.C. § 3241 but expired in 2008. The Department looks forward to working with this committee to review options to accelerate military construction timelines and reduce costs, to potentially renewing this authority.

Senator HIRONO. Is the Secretary speaking for the rest of you? Do the rest of you have other ideas on what we can do to speed up the process?

Dr. WAKSMAN. Yes, I think what you're referring to is the design build process, which has been demonstrated by other agencies to work faster. But there's also the progressive design build process, which we'd like to explore. That is not something that we currently have authority to do but that's really the best practices in the private sector. We've had to work with Congress to see if that authority can be extended.

Senator HIRONO. Anything to add?

Ms. JOHNSON-TURNER. Senator Hirono, I concur with Secretary Marks and Dr. Waksman. The other thing that I would say is we have really benefited from the authority that Congress provided to us for the OTA pilot. We've learned a lot of lessons, tried to move out with industrialized construction if you will, to get us as close as we can to a progressive design build. But being able to further leverage OTA authority and military construction would be of great benefit.

Mr. SAUNDERS. Yes. Senator Hirono, you asked if the Assistant Secretary spoke for all the Services. I think in this case there is a joint working group with the Services led by the Office of the Secretary of Defense. So, yes, that does provide all of the same responses, and the only thing I was going to add was to echo the comment of the OTAs which is a relatively recent authority and that does help.

Senator HIRONO. Thank you. I did mention in my opening that I have concerns about our ability, that the Department's ability to withstand weather events and to protect our infrastructure. I'm assuming that you're going to proceed with some of those kinds of considerations. I did want to get to one thing that's come up recently. That is just this afternoon, it was reported that the Navy and the Air Force will create two additional national defense areas.

NDA's attached to Joint Base San Antonio and Texas and Marine Corps Air Station in Yuma, Arizona. For Mr. Saunders, a Joint Based San Antonio is 150 miles from the border inside a city of 1.5 million people. How do you justify creating a national defense area so far from the border and inside a major city?

Mr. SAUNDERS. Yes, Senator Hirono, thank you for that question, and it also provides me the opportunity maybe to provide a little bit more clarity to what we're actually doing. The Air Force is pursuing an NDA, but it's along the Rio Grande from Roma, Texas to the Gulf of America. It's roughly 260 or 270 miles long. It'll encompass the river bank to the high watermark. The Joint Base San Antonio reference that you mentioned, is the administrative organi-

zation that will oversee and adopt that real property on the Department of the Air Force on real property records.

Senator HIRONO. Secretary Marks, you know that there are concerns about the continuing creation because this is like No. 4 of these creation of these national defense areas and it enables the military to get around Posse Comitatus. So, Secretary Marks, are there any plans or discussions to establish similar national defense areas in other U.S. cities?

Mr. MARKS. Senator, there's always planning going on in terms of what we need to do to assist with what the President has asked us to do. However, at this time, those two are the one that I'm tracking.

Senator HIRONO. So, there is already a diversion of 4,000 National Guards people and it's 700 or so Active Duty military in L.A., and there is a concern about what they're doing in these cities. This is all under the control of the President, thanks to a court decision. But there is a question as to what these troops can do in these areas, even if they're called up in L.A., because there is this issue of Posse Comitatus. So, there are these concerns about the diversion of our troops.

So, as we create these areas, how many troops are going to be there monitoring or whatever they're going to be doing in these additional NDAs that has to do with border issues?

Mr. MARKS. Senator, our troops are there in a title 10 status. That means they're in a Federal status. They are there to assist not violate Posse Comitatus. As we look at those, they are there simply in a—temporarily protect our U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents and other Federal personnel there within the Federal confines of the real property that they are on. So, it's not an intent to skirt Posse Comitatus simply to exercise the title 10 work that they're doing there.

Senator HIRONO. So, my question is, Mr. Chairman, if you don't mind, how many troops will be for the Air Force and for the Navy will be assigned to monitor or patrol these additional NDAs? That's what I want to know.

Mr. MARKS. Senator, I don't have that exactly unless my colleagues have the exact numbers. We'll take that for the record, if we may, ma'am, and I'll get back to you.

[The information referred to follows:]

Mr. MARKS. I defer to the Department of the Navy and the Department of the Air Force for this data.

Senator HIRONO. Do you have a response?

Ms. JOHNSON-TURNER. Senator, I do not know the exact number either. So, as Secretary Marks denoted, we would have to get back to you.

Mr. SAUNDERS. Yes, similarly, ma'am, we would work with the Combatant Command NORTHCOM in this case. They would identify the requirements which would answer the question of the number, and so, we'd be able to get back with you after coordinating with them.

Senator HIRONO. I would like that information provided to this Committee.

Senator HIRONO. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator SULLIVAN. Senator Kaine.

Senator KAINE. Just one last question, and this is to Secretary Marks. There's an office within the Pentagon, the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC). That has been very helpful in Virginia and I suspect in other states too. You know as our Hampton Roads, I'll use that as an example, 12, 13 cities and counties on different sides of the water but all really unified in their support for the many military missions in the area.

That office has been really great in terms of working in coordination when the community is trying to figure out what to do on infrastructure, road building or bridge construction obviously. We like to work in tandem, not just with a single base but with all the military installations where people are going to be driving to and from every day. That office has proven really valuable. The office has had a budget over the years where they've been able to help fund local, you know, it might be a part of a transportation study.

Senator Durbin and I wrote a letter to Secretary Hegseth about this in March, just saying, "Hey, this is a good office as you're getting started, pay attention to this. It can really be used to leverage good relationships with local communities." I would just like, you know, your commitment that you see the value of this office and anything you can do to enhance its effectiveness will be good for the military mission.

It'll be good outside the gate in terms of the community base relationships.

Mr. MARKS. Senator, thank you for that question. First, thank you that you've seen the incredible value of OLDCC. As a former installation person, I use them extensively, and so, I was very excited that they are part of the portfolio that I get to lead. You absolutely have my commitment, Senator, that we'll continue to push that forward.

I think I often say I get better than a three to one return on investment when I use the OLDCC money, especially as it works within our community. So, thank you for your support and you have my commitment.

Senator SULLIVAN. Thank you, Senator Kaine. I want to talk a little bit more on the, you know, Mr. Secretary, I mentioned the dispersal of forces in the Indo-Pacific that just made strategic sense but there's also a operational need. I have a chart I'm trying to get here but I've shown it to many of you. I've brought it to many hearings and it's all the activity we're getting in the North Pacific, in the Arctic with regard to Russian and Chinese incursions into our airspace.

Our airspace in Alaska and our exclusive economic zone (EEZ) into our waters. In the last 3 years, we've had a whole host of Russian Bear Bomber missions and Chinese naval task forces. In an unprecedented manner, joint Russian and Chinese strategic bomber task forces and naval task forces. So, the need for infrastructure from which to project American power in this part of the world, re-fuel, intercept these incursions is really, really important.

So, can I talk to you about that just briefly? Secretary Marks, as you're looking at the lay down, you need dispersion because you don't want to get attacked but you also need dispersion and force projection capability. Because this is the homeland, right? This is the northern border and they are very active up there.

Then Mr. Saunders, the INDOPACOM Commander, and particularly the NORTHCOM Commander, have talked about the need for additional airspace logistics but also runway space on the Aleutian Islands and Adak, in Western Alaska, Galena, Deadhorse, you know, northern part of Alaska. Because when these brave airmen and women do their intercept missions, if it's February over the Arctic Ocean and you're flying an F-16 and you lose an engine, you better want to have infrastructure capability for an search and rescue (SAR) mission.

So, I'd like to get your views on that. Hopefully you've listened to what the NORTHCOM Commander has said with regard to forward infrastructure basing for aircraft and Navy ships to project American power in a part of the world that's getting very, very busy. We are on the front lines in Alaska with great power competition and it's a regular occurrence. That's our border. Nothing more important than that.

Mr. MARKS. Senator, I appreciate that and the level of detail as you have laid out. In fact, as I mentioned to you in my hearing as goes Alaska defense, so it goes homeland defense, right?

Senator SULLIVAN. Yes.

Mr. SULLIVAN. So, I agree with you there, Senator. The development of the National Defense Strategy that we're working on, we owe that to the Secretary here by August, focuses on Arctic maritime strategy, Arctic strategy. I would also echo General Guillot's comments which he as well stated that when you're at those long distances, having the ability to launch SAR, as you mentioned is of critical importance.

What I would want to continue to do Senator, is one, acknowledge you have the threat, I think assessment exactly correct. I think from there is working through the process as we do both the National Defense Strategy, the protection of that and how that works to protect U.S. interests up there is of vital importance. We'll continue to focus on that as we move forward. But I'll defer to my colleague on that.

Senator SULLIVAN. Great. Mr. Saunders, you probably heard General Guillot talking about air station capability at Adak, right? There's two 8,000-foot runways there right now with fuel as I mentioned. In Galena, which as you know, that's western Alaska. It used to be a—or interior kind of western Alaska, it used to be an air base.

King Salmon, that's another area that used to be an Air Force Air Base, Deadhorse, which is the most northern part of Alaska where there's a civilian airport there. But the ability to launch SAR rescue missions there is really, really important. I have the chart here. I'll show it real quick. As you're answering I'll just put it up there.

It gives you a sense, right? We're very busy up there. It often-times doesn't make the lower 48 news but I'll tell you, it makes the news in Alaska, and it should, right?

When you have Russian and Chinese joint strategic Bear Bomber task forces with armed MiGs coming into our Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ), we need to protect ourselves and protect our airmen. If you looked at any of those installation upgrades, we already have them in all those areas I mentioned. Runways, former

bases that we could use for more infrastructure and power projection to address this.

Here's just the number, and the green is joint OPs, Russian Chinese operations. Either joint strategic bomber task forces or joint naval task forces. We even got a balloon task force when the Chinese sent their spy balloons over Alaska, which our Air Force did a great job of shooting down. So, do you have an update on that?

Mr. SAUNDERS. Yes. Senator Sullivan, thank you for that. You know, what's not lost on me is our interim National Defense Strategy has us focused on INDOPACOM but first defending the Homeland, which basically addresses both of these issues as you're talking about the Alaska region and the Arctic.

Senator SULLIVAN. Well, this is Homeland?

Mr. SAUNDERS. Exactly.

Senator SULLIVAN. INDOPACOM because it's North Pacific and Arctic, right? I mean, it's all three. You know, I was meeting with the incoming Supreme Allied Commander, he had his confirmation hearing yesterday. You look at Alaska, the other thing that's really important but also challenging. Mr. Secretary, that's why you're so important. You have the seams of all these different combatant commands, right? You have NORTHCOM, you have U.S. European Command (EUCOM), Russia, you have INDOPACOM and you have U.S. Strategic Command (STRATCOM) because of all our missile defenses in Alaska.

There's three, four critical combatant commands right there in that part of the world, and that's why our adversaries are all over it coming to our territory. So, I'm sorry, I interrupted. But do you have a—do you want to unpack that a little bit more?

Mr. SAUNDERS. No, it is really just reiterating your point that our focus is on the INDOPACOM and defending the homeland and these other areas. As I mentioned in the earlier discussion, we also prioritize our combatant commander requirements. So, as those combatant commanders identify requirements and increase their priority within those requirements, that influences our priorities for both MILCON and FSRM investments.

That would be no different in these areas that you described. The only other piece I would add with respect to the Air Force and in this region especially, our agile combat employment concept allows us to be able to work not only from fixed installations but from other installations. That would help address a lot of the areas that you're working at, even if it's having access to Deadhorse. It doesn't necessarily mean it's a permanent installation. But it means that we can station aircraft perhaps on the civilian airfield as it is today to be able to provide the support that we need in certain times.

Senator SULLIVAN. Well, I appreciate you saying the emphasis on the combatant commanders because again, just to reiterate, the INDOPACOM Commander and the NORTHCOM Commander in full committee hearings have said, "We need to reopen Adak right there." That's a thousand miles west of Hawaii. That is real strategic terrain. That's the gateway to the Arctic.

That is on China and Russia's flank. When I've talked about reopening Adak, the Chinese Communist Party goes nuts. They hate it, which to me is a good thing, right? Then you have all the different NORTHCOM Commander requests. That's Deadhorse in the

Arctic area, Galena, King Salmon, all out here. But these are critical areas that the NORTHCOM and INDOPACOM Commander have both said that they need. So, we'll want to work with you, Mr. Secretary, and your counterparts here on making those a reality.

Let me turn to the topic of energy. Mr. Secretary, you've already talked about the importance of energy dominance, energy resilience. I think some of the other witnesses have talked about that. As you are aware because you and I talked about it during your confirmation process, the President himself, the Commander in Chief has really highlighted the Alaska LNG [Liquid Natural Gas] project.

The reason that's so important—you might want to put that Alaska map up again. The reason that is so important for our country, it has huge potential both for energy security for America, reducing the trade deficit. The estimates of this large-scale LNG project are about \$10 billion annual trade deficit reduction if we are sending LNG to our allies in Japan and Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, the Philippines, India. But very importantly for your position and all of your positions is energy resilience for our bases.

So, right now, that pipeline, the natural gas is up here, we're looking at—they're building a big pipeline that would parallel the Trans Alaska pipeline and an LNG export facility here on the Kenai Peninsula. So, Mr. Secretary as you and I have talked about, do you believe a pipeline like that, which will go right past critical bases at Fort Wainwright, at Eielson, at Joint-Base Elmendorf-Richardson) JBER, that's a hundred years supply of clean burning Alaska Natural Gas, which are bases Alaska need.

Could our bases benefit from that kind of abundant, very reliable and resilient supply of energy for our military bases for both regular use and use during time of war?

Mr. MARKS. Senator, absolutely, and we've been watching with great interest where this goes, certainly diversity of energy sources is critically important as we've discussed. We would continue to be very interested to see as this moves forward, how that could be integrated into our facilities.

Senator SULLIVAN. Great, and then the second component of this, as I've already mentioned, the President, you may have seen highlighted this project in his State of the Union address. He highlighted this project in a meeting with the Japanese Prime Minister. He highlighted this project in a recent phone call with the previous President of Korea, the interim President there.

This also has the potential to really help our allies in Asia secure American LNG and get off Russian LNG, Russian gas, Qataris gas, which we're seeing over the last couple of weeks is very strategically vulnerable. Do you see it playing an important role in that regard as well?

Mr. MARKS. Well, certainly Senator. I think economic security is national security. So, our ability to have that, again, that diversity and the sourcing and knowing where that is, is certainly very important to it. Again, we would love to see this continue to move forward.

Senator SULLIVAN. Good. Let me just ask one final question. You know, I had a 2-hour meeting with the Deputy Secretary of Defense just a couple of weeks ago, primarily on the Golden Dome,

where we're working together with the Administration of the Department of Defense. But I've talked to Secretary Hegseth, the Deputy Secretary of Defense, and others about this energy project. There's a potential for the Department of Defense to be a purchaser of the gas and can help with regard to the pipeline.

Can I just get your commitment, as you and I have talked about during your confirmation process to work with us on that, both the Secretary and the Deputy Secretary have said that this is something they want to work with us on and more importantly, the President has made this a top priority of his Administration?

Mr. MARKS. Senator, yes. We absolutely want to work on this with you.

Senator SULLIVAN. Great. Let me turn to another form of energy. Mr. Saunders, can you give me an update on where we are on the Eielson? You mentioned it in your opening testimony on your Eielson a modular nuclear power project and what the potential is for that, not just at Eielson but maybe throughout interior Alaska as a further potential?

Mr. SAUNDERS. Yes, Senator. Thank you for that question. So, we're very proud to have recently announced our notice of intent to award a micro nuclear reactor power purchase agreement for Eielson. It'll be a five-megawatt solution. Working with Oka, is the agency that will ultimately be the awardee that, as I mentioned, had a public announcement, I think it was last week, if not, the week before.

We're on target to finalize that agreement in the 2027 timeframe. I'd be remiss though if I didn't acknowledge that that would be the first of an effort that the DAF is looking at. The DAF is committed to micro reactor technology throughout its portfolio as well as all kinds of energy sources. As the Assistant Secretary mentioned, we want to diversify and reduce our dependence on particularly contested energy sources. This is one step in that direction and we're proud to have announced that notice of intent to award.

Senator SULLIVAN. Good. Thank you. Let me continue on with you, Mr. Saunders. I have been working for years now to get four KC-135s to Eielson to support our aerial refueling mission. As you know, we have over 100 fifth-generation fighters in Alaska, in addition to an F-16 intercept squadron up there that does a lot of these Russian intercepts.

The tankers are absolutely fundamental to doing this real-world mission on a very regular basis. Not to mention all the great training that we conduct at Red Flag at least three or four times a year. Former Secretary of the Air Force, Kendall, ordered the active association on the four KC-135s to happen.

We've had one of these KC-135s move to Eielson. Our new Secretary of the Air Force has committed to me in public hearing that we're going to continue with doing that. We have this issue of the housing market in Alaska. We want these to be accompanied tours with the 400 plus new airmen that'll be coming with these KC-135s.

Do you have an update on what we can be doing collectively with regard to housing in the Eielson, Fairbanks, North Pole, interior Alaska area? There's some questions that the data on the housing is a little stale, some questions that we need more housing, some

questions that we might need base housing. But we want to make this happen.

We want to make these deployments really great experiences for our airmen, but we also want to get these KC-135s here soon. It's mission critical for the Air Force, for that intercept mission. As you know, as all of you know, any contingency in the Indo-Pacific, everybody's going to be flying over Alaska because of how strategic we are on the Great Circle route. Do you have an update on that Mr. Saunders?

Mr. SAUNDERS. Yes. Thank you, Senator. Let me start by reiterating Secretary Meink's commitment to relocate the four KC-135s to Eielson. As you've noted, AMC [Air Mobility Command] has already transferred one, and then the additional three aircraft will be reassigned from the Pacific Air Force's Command, PACAF, by the end of fiscal year 2026.

Senator SULLIVAN. Is that within a year from now?

Mr. SAUNDERS. Roughly a year and a quarter.

Senator SULLIVAN. Okay. We want to shorten that timeline. I've only been waiting on this for 10 years.

Mr. SAUNDERS. Yes, sir. Right now the current estimate is the end of fiscal year 2026. You alluded to the housing and as you know, my office worked with your staff during a recent site activation visit to enable these four aircrafts plus up.

Senator SULLIVAN. We appreciated that very much.

Mr. SAUNDERS. During that time, we acknowledged that the local community is addressing the housing issue and requirement. We made sure that the data is refreshed now that it, you know, there still is a concurrent travel restriction. However, we do allow families to relocate to Eielson.

What the current restriction does is it in essence requires the member to either secure housing before they depart and their family would depart with them at the same time when they arrive in Alaska. Or it would wait till they arrive in Alaska and secure the housing before the family relocates to minimize disruptions to the families.

Senator SULLIVAN. What's the best way to get that concurrent restriction lifted? Because what we want is the airmen to come, accompany tours, bring their spouse, bring their kids. It helps the community. It makes for a better deployment. Three years as opposed to 1 year. Do you have any recommendations for us? We want to work with you on this.

Mr. SAUNDERS. I agree with you wholeheartedly as a former military member and a military dependent. I grew up in a military family, traveling with your family is obviously what we want to do. In this case the PACAF Commander has the travel restriction and they keep pulse on the requirement, and so, I need to defer to the PACAF Commander as to when that requirement would change. But they are certainly keeping pulse to ensure that that the housing is there to support the family.

Senator SULLIVAN. That restriction is based on what the PACAF Commander sees as the limited housing stock?

Mr. SAUNDERS. It sees in the need to find housing and secure housing before the family relocates. Now I should reiterate, that doesn't mean that we don't allow families to Eielson. They certainly

do. It is in a company tour. So, members do get to bring their family. They just need to show that they have secured housing before the family actually relocates.

Senator SULLIVAN. Okay. Good. Let me ask one final question. You've been great witnesses today. It's a very, very informative hearing. I mentioned and each of you mentioned but I just want to triple check it. I was pleased to see that each of you actually mentioned significant funding for kind of the barrack upgrade issues, right? You might remember a couple of years ago, this became a giant issue that went to the Secretary of Defense (SECDEF) level and the Secretary and Chief of the Staffs of the Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, Navy because the enlisted housing, it was revealed was very substandard and really not worthy of the men and women who sacrificed for their country to serve in our military.

So, I just want a quick gut check with each of you on where you think our housing is, particularly for enlisted members of the military. You have put in each of you, in your budget requests, significant upgrades to that. Is there more you need to get to a level that we want to make sure, "Hey, if you raise your right hand to join the Marine Corps or the Navy or the Air Force or the Army, you're not going to be living in a dump place on base that's got mice and rats and mold.

We're going to give you a good place to live so you can be ready to serve your country when you're called." Are we feeling good about that Mr. Secretary? I'd like to go to each of the service representatives.

Mr. MARKS. Senator, certainly, and I think you're seeing across the board investments of over 30 percent as we continue to commit. Also, what I appreciate and thank you for your support in terms of the latitude of things like leasing and other options that we can get after. So, we're getting after the problem. Certainly, we need to keep the pressure on.

Senator SULLIVAN. By the way, we want to give you that authority to be creative. It's not always a cookie cutter approach in different communities. It can be a creative mix of different things living out in town. Not everybody lives on base but we need to make sure they're getting those good housing. Dr. Waksman.

Dr. WAKSMAN. No problem.

Senator SULLIVAN. I noticed you're a PhD nuclear physicist, so you know, that's impressive. That's why I wanted to call you doctor.

Dr. WAKSMAN. It's not as complex as barracks, sir. So, we have an index that we've been using to look at barracks quality, BCI, and so, the scary number is a score of 70. If barracks is below 70, it's considered poor or failing. The most recent time the Army looked at this, 14 percent of our barracks are below that metric. So, it's totally unacceptable. We have a plan in our budget. I know we haven't released the flight deck but we have a plan to get everything above 70 before 2030. Then, we're working with the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) on a plan to actually—beyond that to even get the scores of 80 for all—

Senator SULLIVAN. Did you put in a significant budget request, do you believe in this year's budget on this topic? I forgot what

yours was but it sounded like it was in a couple of billions of dollars.

Dr. WAKSMAN. Yes, sir. We believe that the budget for fiscal year 2026 gets us on that glide path to 2030.

Senator SULLIVAN. Okay. Great. Our next witness.

Ms. JOHNSON-TURNER. Senator, thank you for the question. Yes, unaccompanied housing remains a priority within the Department of the Navy. Our secretary, just as it relates to the Navy acts for 100 percent inspection. The Marine Corps did this in 2024. We are continuing to stay focused on that on the Navy side.

We are looking at improving overall quality of life with our Forging Communities of Excellence Plan. On the Marine Corps side, we have Barracks 2030 that gets after. Putting more focus on renovating and rightsizing the portfolio as far as updating our furnishings on a more frequent basis as well as civilian managers.

So, all in all, lots of investment. We are definitely in the dawn looking at all of the solutions, whether it's PPV leasing or other avenues to get us to get the quality of housing that our sailors and our marines deserve.

Senator SULLIVAN. Good answer. Mr. Saunders, you can wrap it up.

Mr. SAUNDERS. Yes, the Department of the Air Force also certainly has a high standard for our unaccompanied housing as well as our members with families in either in off base housing to provide them support or in our privatized housing or our military family housing or government owned housing, I should say. With respect to the unaccompanied housing, we're investing heavily there. In this current Future Years Defense Program (FYDP) period, it's about a threefold investment compared to the previous FYDP. So roughly \$1.1 billion invested or from the period of 2022 to 2026 which like I said, is about three times higher than the previous 5-year plan.

We have a dorm master plan that guides our investments. Similarly, we track on building condition index and we work on the worst case first. We've got investments funded both this year, the next fiscal year, and then, obviously, planned throughout the FYDP.

If there were additional directed funding available to us, we certainly would apply that to our master plan to reduce the timeline in addressing all those requirements.

Senator SULLIVAN. Great. Well, I'm glad to see all the Services are focused on this important priority. It's a priority of mine. It's a priority of the Senate Armed Services Committee. Well, with that, I appreciate the witnesses' excellent job during this hearing.

If there's additional questions for the record, we will submit those within the next 4 days, and we respectfully ask you to try to get those returned to this Subcommittee within the next 2 weeks.

With that, thanks again. This hearing is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 4:11 p.m., the Committee adjourned.]

[Questions for the record with answers supplied follow:]

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY SENATOR DAN SULLIVAN

ALASKA

1. Senator SULLIVAN. Secretary Marks, Moose Creek, a thermal hazardous waste remediation facility near Fairbanks, has historically played a critical role in treating per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)-contaminated soil in Alaska—particularly from military bases like Eielson. Given Alaska’s size and remoteness, thermal treatment is one of the only viable options for PFAS disposal. However, due to the current moratorium on PFAS incineration, Moose Creek is unable to process the Department of Defense (DOD)-contaminated soil, despite continuing to treat PFAS waste from other agencies. Recent studies indicate that modern thermal remediation can safely and effectively destroy PFAS compounds at levels exceeding 99.99999 percent. Is the Department actively working with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to reevaluate the moratorium and develop a science-based path forward that would allow facilities like Moose Creek to resume this essential work—and prevent the continued buildup of PFAS-contaminated soil?

Secretary MARKS. The Republic Services Moose Creek Facility is a thermal desorption facility, permitted under an Alaska Title V Air permit, to treat non-hazardous contaminants, such as petroleum and PFAS impacted soils. The Department of Air Force in consultation with my office, determined that installations may use existing State-permitted thermal desorption units, such as the one in Moose Creek because the DOW’s [Department of War] July 14, 2023 “Guidance on Incineration of Materials Containing Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances” does not apply to thermal desorption facilities. PFAS-impacted soils from Air Force installations have been sent to Moose Creek for treatment, typically by an Air Force contractor that has selected Moose Creek as its vendor.

My office is currently updating our PFAS destruction and disposal guidance to include new scientific information, including from the EPA’s April 2024 guidance update: “Interim Guidance on the Destruction and Disposal of Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances and Materials Containing Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances-Version 2.” Updates to our guidance will continue to focus on use of technologies at facilities with EPA or State regulator-approved environmental permits, where applicable, or destruction technologies with environmental regulatory approval where a permit is not required.

2. Senator SULLIVAN. Secretary Marks, Dr. Waksman, Mr. Johnson-Turner, and Mr. Saunders, the Department of Defense consistently requests less for facility sustainment funding, which provides for regular installation maintenance activities, than recommended by its own Facility Sustainment Model, with a 2022 Government Accountability Office (GAO) report and recent budget requests showing that the Department of Defense typically requests about 80 percent of the model’s recommendations for sustainment budget in recent years. Simply put, this model is flawed, which is why Congress acted in passing the Fiscal Year 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) requiring each of the services to attain 4 percent of plant replacement value by 2030. What percentage of plant replacement value are you programmed for in fiscal year 2026, and do I have your commitment to follow the law as it stands today to meet the first goal of 1.75 percent in 2027 leading up to the 4 percent in 2030?

Secretary MARKS. Thank you for your continued support of our facility sustainment efforts. We are fully committed to meeting our requirements, but we cannot speak to future funding requests beyond those in the fiscal year 2026 President’s Budget. To ensure we are executing requirements appropriately, I have directed my staff to thoroughly evaluate the impact of our existing investments and develop a comprehensive, data-driven strategic plan. This plan will guide our efforts to maximize the effectiveness of our facility investments and sustain our mission readiness. We will continue to work closely with Congress, the GAO, and all other stakeholders to ensure transparency and accountability. We understand the crucial link between well-maintained facilities and the ability of our personnel to execute their mission.

Dr. WAKSMAN. The Army is committed to working with Congress to increase its investments in facilities and make progress toward meeting the requirements from the Fiscal Year 2025 NDAA. We continue to explore alternatives, such as demolition where appropriate, to reduce the overall plant-replacement value of Army inventory and to reduce ongoing sustainment costs.

Ms. JOHNSON-TURNER. The DON plans to reach approximately 1 percent of PRV in fiscal year 206 (President’s Budget 2026) FSRM. The Navy remains committed to this effort and is actively working with the Office of the Secretary of War (OSW)

to develop a comprehensive, holistic approach across all Military Departments (MILDEPs) to achieve the congressional goal of 4 percent PRV by 2030.

Mr. SAUNDERS. The DAF fiscal year 2026 FSRM program targets a 1.37 percent PRV investment. The DAF is currently working on the fiscal year 2027 President's Budget Request and is aware of the fiscal year 2027 1.75 percent PRV investment floor as directed in the fiscal year 2025 NDAA. The final FSRM investment level as a percentage of PRV will depend on OSD guidance as the budget request is finalized.

HOUSING

3. Senator SULLIVAN. Secretary Marks, I know that there are versions of the tenant bill of rights for military members in place, but I'm concerned that we may need to review whether privatized housing companies are abiding by them. In Alaska, my staff have heard stories in which privatized housing contractors that the Department of Defense is working with were allegedly requiring military spouses to sign non-disclosure agreements before making repairs to mold-ridden homes. Will you work with my team and this committee to ensure that we are pinpointing these problem locales and firms and then find solutions to this issue so we can ensure to hold companies accountable?

Secretary MARKS. Accountability by both Military Housing Privatization Initiative (MHPI) project owners and government staff at all levels is key to ensuring servicemembers and military families reside in clean, comfortable, and safe housing at each installation. Part of the accountability checks within my organization include monthly and quarterly meetings with the Military Departments on their MHPI projects, particularly those with pinpointed problems. I am committed to working closely with you and the committee staff to remain diligent in our oversight of the Department's privatized housing projects.

4. Senator SULLIVAN. Secretary Marks, does the military have real-time data systems for tracking these emergent issues in real time? If so, do you think we need to better update them to track these housing issues?

Secretary MARKS. The Department does have data systems for tracking housing issues such as work orders in real time. What is needed, and where I intend for improvements to be made, is the aggregation of data and sharing that data with echelons above the installation level to identify trends and make informed portfolio-level decisions as needed.

INDOPACOM

5. Senator SULLIVAN. Secretary Marks, I am concerned that DOD is lacking strategic creativity with our posture in Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM) and becoming over concentrated in its current and future military construction (MILCON) planned for the Island of Guam. DOD needs to spread out in the Pacific, and I think it has an opportunity to do so in locations that the U.S. formerly operated throughout the 20th century. This includes former bases in the Aleutians and Galena Air Force Station. These bases could be used to counter Russian and Chinese adversary incursions in our Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Do you agree that DOD installations in the Pacific that we abandoned might be useful for strategic dispersal of forces in the Pacific and do you think we are moving fast enough toward that goal to counter China in 2027?

Secretary MARKS. The Department is focused on reinforcing deterrence by denial in the Indo-Pacific and defending the Homeland. The United States requires a combat-credible forward presence in the Indo-Pacific region to deter aggression and build warfighting advantage with our allies and partners. I agree that strategic dispersal across the Pacific is essential, and we must avoid overconcentration in any one area. Locations such as Galena and the Aleutians offer geographic advantages and historical precedent and may warrant further assessment as part of a broader posture strategy. While some infrastructure may still be viable, any future use would require careful evaluation of operational value, cost, and sustainability. We are actively exploring agile basing and accelerating MILCON planning to meet the 2027 challenge posed by China. Your continued advocacy for Alaska's strategic relevance is appreciated, and we look forward to working together on these important issues.

6. Senator SULLIVAN. Secretary Marks, do you think that we are potentially risking the resilience of our base facility and energy infrastructure on Guam by continuing to build so heavily on the island?

Secretary MARKS. While we acknowledge the potential risks of concentrating military assets in Guam, the strategic buildup is crucial for national security in the Indo-Pacific. We are actively mitigating these risks by hardening infrastructure, diversifying assets, and investing in energy resilience through microgrids and renewable sources. Our efforts also include collaborating with local authorities to modernize the island's civilian infrastructure, which benefits both military readiness and the local community. Ultimately, our goal is to ensure that Guam remains a resilient and effective forward operating base, capable of supporting U.S. operations for decades to come, while also being a good partner to the people of Guam.

7. Senator SULLIVAN. Secretary Marks, do you think that after the loss of the Red Hill fuel facility, DOD needs to expand its bulk fuel capacity in the Pacific to include hardened sites with large capacity? Do you think former facilities such as Adak Naval Air Station, a location that can hold over 20 million gallons of fuel capacity, could help cover gaps in bulk fuel needs for the Navy and expand the Navy's reach into the Bering Sea and Arctic?

Secretary MARKS. In alignment with the Secretary's priorities for deterring aggression in the Indo-Pacific, the Department will continue to pursue the most operationally effective means of ensuring bulk fuel to Joint forces that may be deployed in contested environments.

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY SENATOR TOMMY TUBERVILLE

Recently, my team has met with multiple military families, including a family in my home State of Alabama, that have experienced severe housing issue due to environmental concerns, particularly mold. All these incidents have occurred in military family housing, and we have talked to a family from every service dealing with this issue. It is reprehensible to ask our servicemembers to be willing to risk their lives in defense of this Nation while allowing their families to live in such poor conditions.

8. Senator TUBERVILLE. Secretary Marks, Dr. Waksman, Ms. Johnson-Turner, and Mr. Saunders, how is your organization currently addressing environmental issues, such as mold, in military family housing?

Secretary MARKS. My organization continues to work on a Department-wide policy that addresses environmental health and safety (EHS) in housing. This policy will include specific information on efforts to control mold and moisture in all types of Department housing, such as steps to protect the servicemembers and their families and the tracking of EHS hazards to monitor for repeated instances. It's a critical, missing component to ensuring clean, comfortable, and safe housing for our servicemembers.

Dr. WAKSMAN. The Army is committed to providing soldiers, families, and civilians safe, clean, and healthy facilities, including homes for those who choose to live on Army installations. The Army provides resources and policy to facilitate reporting which quickly helps to assess housing concerns. The Army takes its obligation seriously to care for the health and welfare of all tenants and residents.

Ms. JOHNSON-TURNER. The Department of the Navy's (DON's) Military Housing Offices (MHOs) have implemented a variety of processes and procedures to ensure awareness of all potential health and safety risks to residents to include mold. Awareness of environmental, health, and safety (EHS) issues can come through various avenues, which may include review of privatized partners (PPV) company work order systems, direct tenant contact, site assessments, PPV company or Property Manager (PM), social media, and others. EHS issues are addressed applying the property managers' environmental health and safety standards for managing mold consistent with the agreements in place, in coordination with the tenant and the MHOs. Additionally, the Department of War military housing privatization initiative Tenant Bill of Rights was established to ensure oversight of privatized housing programs including providing safe and suitable housing for Service Members and their families which outlines many rights the tenants have in these scenarios including formal dispute resolution.

Mr. SAUNDERS. DAF takes all reports of mold seriously. To support servicemembers, DAF has implemented the following initiatives to ensure environmental issues within military family housing are properly identified and addressed: Defense Housing Feedback System (DHFS), 1-800 Call Center, Dispute Resolution Process, Annual Work Order Audit Review, and Monthly MHO Health and Life Safety Reporting. DAF MHOs are empowered to work with the installation's Bio-Environmental office to investigate any reported cases of mold and ensure such

cases are remediated in accordance with EPA standards and procedures. Additionally, all DAF inspectors attend a certified home inspection course that covers the identification of mold and conditions that can result in mold growth. Homes with mold growth or conditions conducive to mold growth are not permitted to be rented until the condition is remediated.

9. Senator TUBERVILLE. Secretary Marks, Dr. Waksman, Ms. Johnson-Turner, and Mr. Saunders, in the past 3 years, how many instances of mold exposure requiring medical treatment have you encountered across all your installations?

Secretary MARKS. My organization has been made aware of instances of mold in Department housing but is not aware of any exposures requiring medical treatment. The critical policy being prepared for my signature on environmental health and safety in housing will require tracking of mold in a centralized housing management system for all levels of the military to access, from the installation to the Chief Housing Officer.

Dr. WAKSMAN. According to military electronic health records, from January 1, 2023 to August 19, 2025, there were 642 recorded medical encounters (not individual patients) with ICD-10 code Z77.120 ("Contact with and (suspected) exposure to mold (toxic)"), indicating a self-reported history of mold exposure without symptoms and/or indicating environmental evaluation confirmed mold presence. In 2023, there were 211 encounters, 276 in 2024, and 155 in 2025 (through August 19, 2025). It is crucial to note the presence of this code only reflects a reported history of exposure and does not necessarily indicate medical care sought or received due to the exposure. The Defense Health Agency provides these encounter data on self-reported potential exposure as the best available estimate of mold exposure among all Active Duty servicemembers and their dependents. However, military health data systems are unable to pinpoint information regarding the timing, location, or on-post vs. off-post residence of the patient at the time of the reported exposure.

Ms. JOHNSON-TURNER. In situations on DON installations where individuals may require medical treatment, these individuals are referred to the Defense Health Agency who tracks this number of instances.

Mr. SAUNDERS. Due to HIPAA, DAF does not have the total instances of mold exposure requiring medical treatment, as medical information is protected and not shared with DAF housing personnel. However, DAF investigates every reported case of mold and ensures issues are remediated in accordance with EPA standards and procedures.

10. Senator TUBERVILLE. Secretary Marks, Dr. Waksman, Ms. Johnson-Turner, and Mr. Saunders, has Congress provided you the adequate resources to respond to this issue and to mitigate future events? If not, what would you recommend Congress do through legislation such as the National Defense Authorization Act to give you the tools required to fight this pervasive problem?

Secretary MARKS. We sincerely appreciate the steps taken by Congress in the fiscal year 2026 National Defense Authorization Act as it relates to mold and moisture control issues in housing. I commit my organization to developing and implementing uniform guidelines for the remediation of mold in military housing and execution of the pilot program for emerging technologies for moisture control and mitigation. The report my organization submits to the congressional defense committees on the results of the pilot program will include our assessment of additional needs to fight this pervasive problem.

Dr. WAKSMAN. With Congress's support, the Army has taken meaningful steps in recent years to improve oversight and funding for military housing—to include addressing concerns about mold in military housing. Initiatives under various National Defense Authorization Acts (NDAA's), such as increased inspections and tenant rights provisions, have helped us make progress. However, challenges remain. The fiscal year 2026 President's Budget Request made historic increases in funding for housing focused on mitigation of these issues. The Army continues to focus on the quality of life, to allow our soldiers to focus on the warrior ethos and building peace through strength.

Ms. JOHNSON-TURNER. The DON believes that Congress has provided adequate resources for addressing environmental issues, such as mold, in our military family housing. With the funds provided, the DON finished completed third party inspections for its PPV and government owned housing inventory and additional training for our staff. Through congressional efforts, the DON is well postured to mitigate future events.

Mr. SAUNDERS. DAF has the tools it needs for this matter and does not recommend additional legislation to address mold processes.

11. Senator TUBERVILLE. Secretary Marks, Dr. Waksman, Ms. Johnson-Turner, and Mr. Saunders, before you come back before this panel next year, will you make every effort to travel to installations and meet with families affected by this issue?

Secretary MARKS. As the Department's Chief Housing Officer, site visits to installations to meet with servicemembers and families and see all types of the Department's housing are a priority. I fully commit to continuing those visits throughout the next year.

Dr. WAKSMAN. I will make every effort to visit our soldiers and their families to gain the benefit of their input as we work to improve housing and other quality-of-life issues.

Ms. JOHNSON-TURNER. Yes, I will continue to travel to installations where I know housing challenges exist. I make a point to visit housing whenever I am traveling and engage at the local level as I fully support the importance housing has to the mission.

Mr. SAUNDERS. Yes. During each of my installation visits I prioritize meeting with members and families residing in our on base housing portfolio as well as those that reside off the installation to ensure I hear first-hand the perspectives affecting our airmen, guardians and their families. In addition, our DAF housing professionals in San Antonio visit each MHPI installation in-person annually, where they meet with residents, resident councils, and resident advocates to discuss issues and address concerns.

12. Senator TUBERVILLE. Secretary Marks, Dr. Waksman, Ms. Johnson-Turner, and Mr. Saunders, will you commit to meeting on a regular basis with other members of this panel to discuss these issues and look at this issue through the lens of the joint force and not just as an issue that affects a singular service?

Secretary MARKS. Yes, I commit to meeting with members of this panel on a recurring basis to discuss housing issues and joint solutions to identified problems and challenges.

Dr. WAKSMAN. I will absolutely commit to meeting regularly with other members of this panel to discuss these issues and look at military housing quality through the lens of the joint force and not just as an issue that affects a single service.

Ms. JOHNSON-TURNER. Yes, I commit to continuing to meet with other members of this panel to discuss these issues and appreciate the opportunity to hear additional perspectives with the goal of improving quality of life for servicemembers and their families.

Mr. SAUNDERS. Yes, currently the Services meet monthly to share lessons learned as a joint force.

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY SENATOR MAZIE K. HIRONO

INSTALLATION RESILIENCE

13. Senator HIRONO. Secretary Marks, the DOD has made important strides to improve installation resilience with investments in on-base generation, storage, and microgrids that provide backup power to critical missions. However, these on-base resilience efforts are necessary but not sufficient to protect installations from grid outages. Most troops and DOD civilians live in the community, including those that perform critical missions. On-base backup power doesn't help these people get to the base when there is a blackout in the community. More importantly, we need these people to be the best versions of themselves when they perform mission critical work, and that can be difficult when they're worried about their families who may not have access to essential services like banks, grocery stores, and schools. What is the Department doing to work with utilities and grid operators to help invest in a more resilient and reliable civilian electric grid that will support our defense communities?

Secretary MARKS. The Department recognizes the critical importance of a resilient and reliable civilian electric grid to support its installations and surrounding communities. A robust grid ensures mission readiness, protects critical infrastructure, and safeguards personnel. To that end, the DOW is actively engaging with utilities and grid operators through various initiatives and programs, as well as working with the Department of Energy to ensure DOW's national security and energy needs are met. Specifically, DOW:

- Conducts joint vulnerability assessments to identify weaknesses in the grid and develop mitigation strategies. For example, the DOW participates in the biennial GridEx exercises with utilities and grid operators run by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) to identify potential impacts and

mitigation opportunities from simulated disruptions impacting both military installations and the commercial grid.

- Promotes the development of microgrids and distributed generation resources on and around military installations to provide backup power during grid outages and increase energy independence in compliance with 10 U.S.C. § 2920.
- Supports the deployment of energy storage technologies to improve grid stability and resilience by helping to balance supply and demand, reduce peak loads, and provide backup power during outages. DOW installations collaborate with local utilities to integrate these resources into the grid in a way that enhances overall grid resilience.
- Participates in demand response programs at certain installations that allow utilities to reduce electricity consumption during peak periods to reduce strain on the grid and improve overall reliability.
- Invests in research and development of new technologies and strategies to improve grid resilience and reliability. This includes areas such as advanced sensors, smart grid technologies, and grid modeling. The DOW partners with universities, national laboratories, and industry to develop and deploy these technologies.
- Supports communities in working closely with utilities to address resiliency issues through studies to identify vulnerabilities and through competitive investments in infrastructure construction via grants through the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation.
- Establishes partnerships and agreements with utilities and grid operators to formalize collaboration and ensure effective communication. These agreements outline the roles and responsibilities of each party and establish mechanisms for information sharing and joint planning.
- Requires each installation to create an Installation Master Plan in compliance with 10 U.S.C. § 2864. This plan documents community infrastructure and resources located outside the installation (such as energy infrastructure) that are necessary to maintain mission capability or that impact the resilience of the military installation. The plan also requires installations to identify agreements in effect with utilities and other public or private entities for maintaining installation resilience or resilience of the community infrastructure and resources.

14. Senator HIRONO. Secretary Marks, what can Congress do to support the Department's efforts to be more proactive in working with utilities and grid operators to invest in a more reliable electric grid?

Secretary MARKS. Congress plays a vital role in helping the Department strengthen collaboration with utilities and grid operators. A reliable civilian grid is critical for mission assurance, installation resilience, and the well-being of military families. The Department appreciates Congress's continued support for the Energy Resilience and Conservation Investment Program (ERCIP), which enables installations to deploy microgrids, distributed generation, and advanced energy storage that improve both on-base resilience and the stability of surrounding grids. Additionally, the Department appreciates congressional support for interagency collaboration with DOE, national laboratories, and State and local utilities to ensure we can jointly assess vulnerabilities, develop advanced grid solutions, and integrate resilience improvements into broader infrastructure planning. Continued support through these programs allows DOW to strengthen grid reliability in ways that safeguard critical missions and protect national security. Finally, the Department appreciates continued support for the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation grants, which enables our ability to provide technical and financial support and resources to State and local governments to assist efforts to work with utilities to harden electricity infrastructure.

DOD WORKFORCE CHALLENGES

15. Senator HIRONO. Secretary Marks, the DOD has experienced workforce challenges over the last several months and your office hasn't been spared, whether it's the hiring freeze or threats of a reduction in force that have had civilians retiring earlier than planned. The work goes on and there is no shortage of demands on Energy, Installations, and Environment (EI&E), particularly when it comes to the department's mission to ensure access to reliable energy for the warfighter. The Department of Energy (DOE) and its national labs have incredible expertise and capabilities, including programs aimed at delivering technical assistance that can help military installations and defense communities address their needs for energy efficiency, reliability, and resilience. How are you working with DOE and its national

labs to leverage these technical assistance programs to expand the capacity of your office to drive energy resilience outcomes for military installations and defense communities?

Secretary MARKS. The Department recognizes that partnerships with other Federal agencies expand energy resilience for our military installations and defense communities. My office is working closely with DOE's Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response (CESER) office on the implementation of Executive Orders aimed at improving grid security and resilience. We are also actively partnering with DOE's Office of Electricity, which incorporated the former Grid Deployment Office (GDO), to develop a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen collaboration on energy resilience efforts and provide technical assistance to installations and defense communities. Additionally, we integrate efforts with DOE offices such as the Office of International Affairs (IA) and the Office of Nuclear Energy (NE) to address pressing energy challenges. Furthermore, my office engages directly with various national labs to address numerous issues, leveraging the capabilities found throughout the lab system. These partnerships ensure access to cutting-edge expertise and innovative solutions essential to maintaining military operational readiness.

16. Senator HIRONO. Secretary Marks, how are you communicating with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the White House to protect these DOE and national lab technical assistance programs from budget cuts?

Secretary MARKS. The Department recognizes the significant value that DOE and its national laboratories bring to advancing energy resilience and security for our military installations. My office remains committed to collaborating with inter-agency partners to ensure we leverage resources effectively to meet national security and energy resilience goals. We are in regular communication with the White House and OMB regarding the importance of these Federal partnerships.

ADVANCED NUCLEAR REACTOR TECHNOLOGIES FOR NATIONAL SECURITY

17. Senator HIRONO. Secretary Marks, the President signed an Executive Order recently on "Deploying Advanced Nuclear Reactor Technologies for National Security," which builds on an initiative the last administration started to explore using this technology for installation resilience. However, there's some confusion though about what DOD is focused on. On the one hand, the Army and the Air Force are working with the Defense Innovation Unit on acquiring reactors for installation energy resilience. On the other hand, the administration and DOD seem to still be focused on the idea of a mobile microreactor that would be deployed overseas. Congress funded this work early on with Project Pele, and it had some success with building strong ties between DOD, DOE and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. But the technology appears to have gone as far as it can for now because of challenges with shielding the reactor which limits its mobility and power output. And we haven't even addressed the challenges with securing permission to fly a reactor over another country's airspace. Can you tell us what DOD's plans are for advanced reactors?

Secretary MARKS. Advanced nuclear technologies are critical to installation resilience and high-demand missions. We are pursuing technology investigations into small modular and microreactors to deliver reliable baseload power, strengthen microgrids, and reduce grid vulnerability. The Department is aligning oversight and working with DOE, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and the Services to address regulatory and contracting challenges through the OSD Nuclear Energy Working Group and the Army as the Department's Executive Agent (EA) to implement first-of-its-kind advanced nuclear initiatives. These initiatives include microreactor pilots, prototype projects, and innovative contracting approaches designed to deliver secure, scalable, and resilient power for critical installations. By integrating these technologies, the Department is enhancing mission assurance, reducing vulnerabilities, and positioning the United States as a leader in advanced nuclear energy.

18. Senator HIRONO. Secretary Marks, what is the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD)'s role since the president's executive order (EO) made the Army the executive agent for these efforts?

Secretary MARKS. In accordance with DOW Directive 5101.01, OSD serves as the Principal Staff Assistant (PSA) to oversee the designation of the EA, assign roles and responsibilities, and provide recommendations to the Department on any modifications to EA assignments that may be warranted over time. Therefore, OSD is actively coordinating the designation of the Army as the Executive Agent (EA) for Advanced Nuclear Power, as directed by the President's EO. This includes defining

the roles and responsibilities of the EA to ensure the effective advancement of current and future efforts in deploying advanced nuclear energy technologies. Additionally, OSD is formalizing the OSD Nuclear Energy Working Group as the primary coordination body for the deployment of Advanced Nuclear Energy Technology. This working group will play a critical role in facilitating partnerships across the Services and their Components with the Department of Energy (DOE), the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), and private sector industry partners. These partnerships are essential to ensuring the successful deployment of advanced nuclear technologies that enhance energy resilience, operational readiness, and national security while ensuring a collective message is being shared back to external stakeholders in a thoughtful and streamlined manner.

19. Senator HIRONO. Secretary Marks, is DOD still planning to develop a mobile microreactor?

Secretary MARKS. Yes, the Department continues to pursue mobile and transportable microreactors through several ongoing initiatives. These efforts include the Strategic Capabilities Office-led Project Pele, a transportable 1–5 MWe microreactor prototype for rapid deployment; the Versatile Autonomous Kilowatt-class Reactor Experiment (VALKRE), an Operational Energy Capability Improvement Fund (OECIF)-funded 40–60kWe nuclear reactor that is deployable and readily relocatable; and the USNORTHCOM and Air Force-sponsored Antara R1 kilowatt-class special purpose reactor, which would enable 100–300kWe energy for remote, austere, and resilient missions.

20. Senator HIRONO. Secretary Marks, if so, doesn't it make more sense to focus funding solely on installation reactors rather than spreading limited resources across several programs at the risk of not finishing either?

Secretary MARKS. The Department's need for power is likely to increase as new capabilities such as directed energy, high power sensors, artificial intelligence, and battery-powered and hybrid systems come online. In addition, the Joint Force continues to operate in remote and/or contested environments that place assured energy supplies at risk. As the President's Executive Order 14299 makes clear, there is a need for fielding advanced reactors of multiple, disparate typologies, and we are confident the Department can support such initiatives for both operational energy and installation energy applications.

INSTALLATION DISASTER RESILIENCE

21. Senator HIRONO. Secretary Marks, the DOD estimates that extreme weather has cost the department tens of billions of dollars in damage and recovery costs and compromises mission execution. In particular, natural disasters—such as hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, and wildfires—pose a risk to military installations which include capabilities and assets that provide critical support for DOD's mission readiness. What is DOD's approach to proactively mitigating weather and climate related risks to installations such as storms and other extreme weather events?

Secretary MARKS. The Department recognizes that extreme weather adversely affects military readiness and lethality, standing in the way of the Department's mission to achieve peace through strength. The ideal extreme weather risk reduction strategy varies depending on installation-specific factors including extreme weather exposure, location, mission-specific functions, operational needs, other compounding environmental conditions, and existing mitigation measures. DOW recognizes that accurate, comprehensive, and validated data on extreme weather exposure, impacts, and risks to mission are essential for reducing vulnerabilities at the installation level. To support this, the Department provides technical guidance, directives, and tools, and has implemented the following initiatives:

- Expansion of reporting on extreme weather to comprehensively characterize environmental risks,
- Review and enhance standards and guidance where appropriate, by integrating resilience best practices and robust risk reduction requirements, and
- Providing extreme weather exposure assessment capabilities through the DOW Extreme Conditions Assessment Tool (DECAT) and other resilience tools to help installations target where deeper analysis is needed to understand primary risks to mission and prepare appropriate risk reduction strategies.

22. Senator HIRONO. Secretary Marks, in the wake of a natural disaster impacting an installation, what factors do you consider when directing the base to either re-

build back to prior capabilities versus pursuing more significant resilience improvements as part of the recovery?

Secretary MARKS. When a natural disaster strikes an installation, our decision to rebuild is guided by a mission-first, risk-based analysis. Instead of simply restoring prior capabilities, we prioritize building back stronger by incorporating resilience improvements. We conduct a thorough cost-benefit analysis, weighing the initial investment in upgrades against the long-term costs of future damage and mission disruption. By prioritizing critical infrastructure and prudently planning for disruptions, we ensure that our recovery efforts not only restore capabilities but also significantly enhance the installation's ability to withstand future extreme weather events.

ARMY ENERGY AND WATER REGULATIONS

23. Senator HIRONO. Dr. Waksman, currently, Army energy and water policy is buried within a 500-page document known as Army Regulation 420-1, "Army Facilities Management." It covers every complex topic that you might encounter at an installation—from housing and emergency services to mineral exploration and extraction. It has not been updated since 2012. In lieu of a comprehensive update to this regulation, the Army has relied on issuing policy memoranda that have resulted in a patchwork of redundant, ambiguous, and often conflicting energy and water requirements that cause confusion with headquarters and installation staff. There is considerable uncertainty about what the Army's goals are and how to leverage existing Federal and industry capabilities to deliver outcomes that will benefit the warfighter. Last year, the Army started to rewrite that 500-page document and break it into a dozen standalone regulations to simplify the content for headquarters and installation staff and help senior leaders with resourcing decisions. The plan was to include a separate regulation for energy and water, but the Army canceled that plan in February. When does the Army expect to restart its plan to write a separate energy and water regulation to ensure there are clear and enduring program objectives that drive the Army's use of energy and water management to strengthen the warfighting mission?

Dr. WAKSMAN. The Army initiated a project to divide Army Regulation 420-1 into a series of standalone regulations, including a dedicated regulation for energy and water management. The Army is finalizing a draft of the energy and water management regulation. The regulation will incorporate new Federal and Department of Defense guidance, including requirements set by the Army Transformation Initiative. We recognize the urgency of providing clear and enduring program objectives. We are committed to delivering an Army regulation that is both practical and effective at achieving energy and water resilience that benefits the warfighter.

24. Senator HIRONO. Dr. Waksman, what are the risks if the Army fails to move forward with a comprehensive policy update and continues the same patchwork approach with using memoranda to shape energy and water management?

Dr. WAKSMAN. The Army is finalizing its comprehensive policy update. The Army's regulation for energy and water management will clarify policy and guidance, reduce ambiguity, and focus on a resilient energy and water future that directly supports the warfighter. Beyond this regulation, the Army has already instituted several key mechanisms to ensure consistent energy and water management practices across the Department. These mechanisms include weekly energy portfolio meetings; a central repository for policy, training, and engagement; and a rigorous review process that ensures Army requirements are including all contracts.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION IMPROVEMENTS

25. Senator HIRONO. Secretary Marks, Dr. Waksman, Ms. Johnson-Turner, and Mr. Saunders, a long-standing concern of this committee is the need for DOD and the Services to execute military construction projects with much greater speed, cost savings, and efficiency. What specific ideas do you have to improve the military construction process?

Secretary MARKS. I strongly agree that the Department needs to deliver infrastructure faster and more cost-effectively to support the warfighter. I appreciate the committee's support of creative execution strategies, such as accelerated design-build, the use of other transactions for infrastructure projects, and the bundling of multiple projects into single acquisitions to achieve economies of scale. Further, the Department is actively reviewing and revising policies to ensure clarity for our industry partners regarding decisionmaking responsibilities, enabling faster and more efficient project decisions. We are also leveraging artificial intelligence to streamline our facility criteria program, significantly reducing the volume of content that both

government personnel and industry must review while ensuring compliance with industry standards. In addition, we are modernizing our business systems by adopting industry-standard platforms to the maximum extent, which will enhance efficiency and interoperability. Finally, in collaboration with my colleagues in the military departments, we will closely examine the findings of the upcoming study required by Section 2877 of the fiscal year 2025 NDAA to assess construction programming and execution within the Department. Based on the report recommendations, we will take bold actions to ensure that the DOW is organized as efficiently as possible to execute military construction.

Dr. WAKSMAN. The Army thanks the Committee for its interest in continuing to develop opportunities to refine and improve military construction management and methods. The Army is developing pilot projects for innovative technologies and construction techniques as well as expedited acquisition. With the success of the Fort Bliss 3D-printed-barracks project, the Army is working toward using 3D printing for projects that require repetitive construction of the same or similar facility. The Army is also coordinating with Defense Innovation Unit (DIU) and other MILDEPs to standardize facility designs and streamline acquisition. We are exploring design/construction approaches such as Design Build to Budget, Progressive Design Build, and Integrative Design and Construction, as well as modular and tilt-up construction methods.

Ms. JOHNSON-TURNER. The Department of the Navy (DON) is actively tackling the critical need for improved speed, cost savings, and efficiency in military construction through a comprehensive campaign plan. Key initiatives include using a Minimum Viable Project (MVP) approach to right-size projects, adopting faster, alternative construction methods like tension fabric structures and offsite construction, and leveraging innovative contracting tools to navigate market volatility, expand our contractor base, and promote competitive bidding.

Mr. SAUNDERS. OSD and the DAF have been working options for MILCON reform both internally and externally. For internal options, USD(A&S) is relooking at standardized designs, Unified Facility Criteria (UFC) requirements, engaging industry, and working to streamline DOD policy, processes, and requirements for MILCON cost, execution, and lifecycle sustainment. Externally, OSD and the DAF continue to explore potential future Legislative Proposals on topics such as alternative delivery methods, Progressive Design-Build, lump sum appropriation, advanced authorization with multi-year contracting authority, expanded Other Transactional Authority (OTA), multi-year O&M appropriations, repair by replacement authority, and an increased Unspecified Minor Construction limit to \$50 million.

ENERGY DEMAND REDUCTION

26. Senator HIRONO. Secretary Marks, Dr. Waksman, Ms. Johnson-Turner, and Mr. Saunders, the DOD's investments in operational energy programs reduce the logistics demands on the military and increase combat capability. Meanwhile, installation initiatives like the Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration program and Sentinel Landscapes prevent encroachment on training areas which enhances readiness and conserves the land. Please identify which energy demand reduction and other installation focused programs are most important to your Service?

Secretary MARKS. The Department prioritizes energy solutions that enhance warfighter capabilities, improve energy resilience, and reduce the logistical burden of moving, storing, and distributing energy on the battlefield. These energy innovations are critical to extending operational reach and advancing next-generation warfighting capabilities to defend the homeland and deter aggression in the Indo-Pacific.

To complement investments by the Military Departments, Department-wide programs of record like the OASW(EI&E)-led Operational Energy Capability Improvement Fund and the Operational Energy Prototyping Fund accelerate the delivery of Joint power and energy solutions across all domains. We have seen success in microgrids, energy storage, power and energy for autonomous systems, space operations and refueling, and foundational capabilities crucial for initiatives like Golden Dome. Our approach focuses on both near-term solutions to enable upgrades to current platforms as well as longer-term improvements in the design of our future systems and the integration of new technologies.

Dr. WAKSMAN. The Army is committed to ensuring continuous mission performance by actively leveraging all available programs and authorities. We recognize Army installations are critical for warfighting, including production facilities, training centers, mobilization hubs, and power-projection platforms. Consequently, we are singularly focused on enhancing our ability to operate in contested spaces and

enable our installations to function as islands should major attacks (physical or cyber) or natural disasters compromise commercial energy and water providers.

In line with this commitment, we are prioritizing programs that help us reduce overall energy demand, modernize our distribution infrastructure, increase onsite power production capacity, and limit encroachment. These efforts will ensure our ability to sustain, deploy, fight, and win our Nation's wars.

Ms. JOHNSON-TURNER. The Department of the Navy's energy and installation initiatives are force multipliers which directly strengthen deterrence, combat power, and readiness. Reducing energy demand at our installations and across the force create enhanced operational endurance to improve the warfighter's ability to operate with greater agility, resilience, and lethality in contested environments. Savings generated by optimized energy use are used to make investments in modernizing defense infrastructure and aligning with long-term national security priorities.

Our key initiatives essential for DON to execute energy dominance:

These programs demonstrate how the DON is aligning energy security and installation resilience to strengthen deterrence, enhance lethality, and ensure our sailors and marines can train, fight, and win in any environment.

Mr. SAUNDERS. DAF has implemented a full range of strategies to reduce energy demand, increase our operational agility, and mitigate our contested logistics risk in theaters like the Pacific. These include modernizing our legacy mobility aircraft fleet with drag reduction technology like those currently used by commercial airlines, advanced engine sustainment practices that reduce aircraft downtime and increase engine performance, and software tools that decrease mission planning time and improve mission execution that lead to more effective use of our forces.

DAF is also focused on providing secure, resilient installation energy and water systems to advance mission assurance and enable installations to deliver combat power in contested environments. DAF's approach to addressing energy requirements and energy management includes identifying enabling system vulnerabilities, improving resilience planning, and ensuring resilience results, using tools including Energy Resilience Readiness Exercises (ERREs), Water Resilience Readiness Exercises (WRREs), Installation Energy Plans (IEPs), and Resilient Solution Reports (RSRs). DAF is piloting innovative technologies, such as nuclear microreactors and geothermal energy generation, for continuous, reliable, and secure power, while proactively planning and testing for potential disruptions to ensure stable access to essential power necessary to deliver national security missions.

27. Senator HIRONO. Secretary Marks, Dr. Waksman, Ms. Johnson-Turner, and Mr. Saunders, why are these programs so important to the joint force?

Secretary MARKS. Defending the homeland and deterring aggression require Joint forces that are interoperable and capable of operating in contested environments. The adaptations, technologies, and new designs being developed by the Department and our industry partners are essential to greater reach, increased combat effectiveness, and enhanced survivability. These innovations will enhance interoperability and optimize training, while also reducing the risk of storing and distributing energy over long-distances against capable adversaries.

Dr. WAKSMAN. These programs are essential to the Joint Force, as each Service brings unique capabilities and areas of responsibility. While the Army's traditional mission of mobilizing, fighting, and occupying and holding land remains largely unchanged, its operational scope now includes capabilities such as Joint Command and Control, Area Air Defense, Mid-Range Hypersonic strike weapons, and Cyber Attack capabilities, some of which are used from within our fence line. Additionally, other Defense Agencies often operate on Army installations, providing critical intelligence and geospatial imagery services to the Joint Force. Therefore, Army installations must be able to provide uninterrupted energy and water to ensure mission continuity in support of our Nation's military operations, as required by our President.

Ms. JOHNSON-TURNER. The DON sees each program as essential to the Joint Force. These efforts directly reduce logistics burdens, ensure installation operations in contested environments, and protect the training space needed for joint readiness. Through reducing energy demand to enhance warfighter operational endurance, the DON shrinks the resupply kill-chain and decreases the risks to distribution platforms within contested environments. Energy Resilience and Conservation Investment Program (ERCIP) investments in microgrids, onsite power generation, and water security projects are critical to ensure our installations can generate combat power, even if civilian infrastructure fails. By leveraging all tools and authorities, such as ERCIP, ESPCs and UESCs, we maximize resources toward improving warfighter lethality in alignment with the Secretary of the Navy's priorities. These programs act as force multipliers by strengthening deterrence, ensuring resilience, and enabling the Joint Force to fight and win in contested environments.

Mr. SAUNDERS. The new strategic environment of modern air combat demands that we rebuild the lethal and ready force we need to compete and win. The DAF remains the largest consumer of fuel in the Department of Defense. These new technologies provide an opportunity for the DAF to reduce risk and increase mission effectiveness. An energy optimized fleet allows the warfighter to fly greater distances, increases loiter time for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance assets, and increases payload and/or range. It is critical that we continue to invest in this capability to maintain an operational advantage.

Amidst greater reliance on increasingly interconnected capabilities, more prevalent asymmetric threats, and unprecedented changes to the natural operating environment, DAF is pursuing greater mission assurance through more resilient energy systems to achieve the vision of "Mission Assurance through Energy and Water Assurance." The DAF utilizes industry partnerships and innovative technologies to streamline the deployment of domestic energy sources to provide secure, reliable, and affordable power on our installations. For utility infrastructure specifically, DAF seeks to improve robustness, adaptability, and response to disruptions.

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY SENATOR TIM KAINE

HOUSING

28. Senator KAINE. Secretary Marks, Dr. Waksman, Ms. Johnson-Turner, and Mr. Saunders, a GAO report entitled "Poor Living Conditions Undermine Quality of Life and Readiness" was released in September 2023 and highlighted the poor living conditions some servicemembers have endured. These living conditions pose severe health and safety risks for U.S. personnel, and obvious implications for the readiness of the force. Of the 31 recommendations GAO made, which have you already acted upon and how?

Secretary MARKS. The GAO has closed 15 recommendations under their Military Barracks report after reviewing the documentation provided by the Department. Policies and published updated surveys were provided as documentation to support closure by GAO for the majority of these 15 recommendations. We continue to work diligently to close the remaining recommendations.

Dr. WAKSMAN. The Army continues to implement the GAO recommendations directed at the Army. Recently the Army closed recommendation #16 to develop and implement a method to ensure Army visibility of all barracks' MILCON requirements, regardless of those requirements' inclusion in the Facilities Investment Plan (FIP). The Army Reserve and National Guard are required to include all barracks requirements in their component FIPs, and the active Army component codified prioritization of barracks requirements in 2024.

The Army also closed recommendation #26 regarding managers of unaccompanied housing. The Army has determined inherent duties for military personnel versus civilian managers, created position descriptions, issued new policy, developed training plans, and incorporated roles and responsibilities into the new regulation.

Ms. JOHNSON-TURNER. The DON is actively working through the ten recommendations directed at the Navy and Marine Corps. All ten have been acted upon with three being fully implemented and closed out by GAO. The three closed out include service visibility into military construction requirements at installation level for both the Navy and Marine Corps and barracks policy for civilian managers for the Navy. Other recommendations are very close to completion. Additionally, the DON has collaborated with OSD on many of the items and recommendations directed at OSD. The DON has updated or is in process of updating our policies and standards which has driven funding decisions and prioritization in response to the GAO report.

Mr. SAUNDERS. DAF is committed to correcting the situations identified by the GAO in permanent party dorms and providing safe and adequate living conditions. We are aggressively working on the five (5) recommendations directed at DAF, two (2) requiring OSD actions. In April 2025, GAO approved closure of the recommendation requiring DAF analysis on the lowest reasonable rank threshold for unaccompanied servicemembers required to live in military barracks. We issued DAF policy guidance to the field that incorporated OSD revised privacy and configuration assignment standards as well as incorporating the updates in the DAFI 32-6000 (rewrite in staffing).

29. Senator KAINE. Secretary Marks, Dr. Waksman, Ms. Johnson-Turner, and Mr. Saunders, for the recommendations you have yet to enact, can you please provide a plan as to when and how you will implement each GAO recommendation?

Secretary MARKS. Of the remaining 16 recommendations, the Department has provided documentation to the GAO for consideration of closure of five more recommendations. Of the final 11 recommendations, all except one have current estimated completion dates in calendar year 2026. The final recommendation on development of a method to track and report complete Operations and Maintenance, Military Construction and Military Personnel funding costs for barracks has an estimated completion date in June 2027. The Department is currently planning to use new or updated policies and guidance to close the remaining recommendations.

Dr. WAKSMAN. The Army continues to followup with GAO on implementation of the remaining open recommendations. Notably, the Army recently reviewed its Unaccompanied housing (UH) assignment policy, addressing recommendation #21. The Army determined soldiers in the pay grade of E1-E5 (CONUS) and soldiers in the pay grade of E1-E6 (OCONUS) will continue to be required to reside in Permanent Party (PP) UH, except for soldiers in the pay grade of E-6 assigned to Europe-based units. The Army will reevaluate this policy as needed, based on changes to force structure and resourcing. The Army will revise its Housing Management Regulation, AR 210-28, to state soldiers in the pay grade of E-6 permanently assigned to Europe-based units cannot be required to reside in PP UH.

Ms. JOHNSON-TURNER. The DON expects to fully implement the remaining seven GAO recommendations by December 31, 2025. Five are anticipated to be finished by September 30th with the issuance of updated policy or results of ongoing analysis, inclusive of: (2) Barracks Assignment Standards for health and safety standards for both Navy and USMC, (1) for Navy review on lowest rank threshold for assignment to Barracks, (1) Navy assignment standards for privacy and configuration and (1) USMC Barracks Manager Policy.

The remaining recommendations address Marine Corps assignment standards and the lowest rank threshold for assignments.

Mr. SAUNDERS. We are aggressively addressing the remaining three (3) recommendations directed at DAF by the end of 2025.

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY SENATOR ELIZABETH WARREN

HEALTH AND READINESS

30. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks, Dr. Waksman, Ms. Johnson-Turner, and Mr. Saunders, was DOD, or any of the individual services, consulted by, or does it have plans to provide consultation to, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on the plan to modify or reverse the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s recommendations to fluoridate drinking water? Please provide any written materials provided as part of that consultation.

Secretary MARKS. The Department was not consulted and does not plan to provide consultation to HHS at this time on any plan by HHS to modify or reverse the CDC's recommendations to fluoridate drinking water.

Dr. WAKSMAN. The Army has not participated in any formal or informal discussion or conversation with HHS (including CDC) regarding changes to recommendations for fluoride in drinking water.

Ms. JOHNSON-TURNER. No, the Department of the Navy (DON) was not consulted and does not plan to provide consultation to HHS at this time on a plan to modify or reverse the CDC's recommendations to fluoridate drinking water. Any future input would be coordinated through the Department of War.

Mr. SAUNDERS. No, the Department of Defense (DoD) has not been consulted. DOD will await the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) review of scientific information on the potential health risks of fluoride in drinking water announced on April 7, 2025 as well as any new recommendations on fluoride that may be provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Community Preventive Services Task Force prior to providing any consultation to HHS.

31. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks, Dr. Waksman, Ms. Johnson-Turner, and Mr. Saunders, was DOD, or any of the individual services, consulted, or does the DOD, or any individual services, have plans to provide comments or information to HHS on the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) plan to pull fluoride supplements from the market? Please provide any written materials provided as part of that consultation.

Secretary MARKS. The Department was not consulted and does not plan to provide comments or information at this time to HHS on this issue.

Dr. WAKSMAN. The Army has not participated in any formal or informal discussion or conversation with HHS (including FDA) regarding changes to recommendations for fluoride in drinking water.

Ms. JOHNSON-TURNER. No, the DON was not consulted and does not plan to provide comments or information at this time to HHS on a plan to pull fluoride supplements from the market. Any future input would be coordinated through the Department of War.

Mr. SAUNDERS. No, the Department was not consulted and does not plan to provide comments.

32. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks, Dr. Waksman, Ms. Johnson-Turner, and Mr. Saunders, please provide a list of military installations within your jurisdiction in and out of compliance with the 2013 order to fluoridate water on military installations.

Secretary MARKS. The Office of the Secretary of War does not have direct jurisdiction of any military installations and defers to the Military Departments to provide this data.

Dr. WAKSMAN. Army-owned/-operated community water systems, serving more than 3,300 persons, either add or have naturally occurring fluoride in their drinking water? None of the systems exceed EPA's maximum contaminant level of 4 ppm for fluoride.

Ms. JOHNSON-TURNER. There are 13 Navy installations in compliance and 4 that are not in compliance with the 2013 Department of War (DOW) order to fluoridate drinking water at installations that own or operate a potable water treatment facility serving 3,300 or more people:

Installations w/ at least one water system servicing >3,300 persons	Is the Installation in Compliance with DODI 4715.06 Requirement for Fluoridation?
Naval Base Guam	Yes
Naval Support Activity Andersen	Yes
Naval Support Activity Crane	Yes
Naval Support Activity South Potomac	Yes
Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport	Yes
Naval Air Station Pensacola	Yes
Naval Support Activity Mid-South	Yes
Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay	Yes
Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka	Yes
Naval Air Facility Atsugi	Yes
Naval Station Great Lakes	Yes
NAS Whidbey Island	Yes
Naval Station Guantanamo Bay	Yes
Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, HI	No
Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station, Pacific, HI	No
Naval Air Station Lemoore, CA	No
Naval Base Kitsap-Bremerton, WA	No

There are 2 Marine Corps installations in compliance and 8 that are not in compliance with the 2013 DOW order to fluoridate drinking water at installations that own or operate a potable water treatment facility serving 3,300 or more people.

Installations w/ at least one water system servicing >3,300 persons	Is the Installation in Compliance with DODI 4715.06 Requirement for Fluoridation?
Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany	Yes
Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms	Yes
Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, CA	No
Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, NC	No
Marine Corps Combat Development Command Quantico, VA	No
Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, NC	No
Marine Corps Base Hawaii	No
Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan	No
Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, Japan	No
Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, AZ	No

The Navy and the Marine Corps are working on a plan to bring the 12 installations not in compliance with fluoridated drinking water levels in compliance with DOW's 2013 Order.

Mr. SAUNDERS. Please find below a list of DAF installation compliance statuses with the 2013 DOD Policy related to fluoridation. The list was provided in response to a 22 May 25 congressional inquiry issued to the Secretary of Defense relating to emergent State regulation prohibiting the addition of fluoride to drinking water and potential impacts to military readiness. One area of inquiry focused on installation compliance with existing DOD policies for optimization of fluoride concentrations in DOD-owned drinking water systems.

Installations w/ at least one DOD-owned water system servicing >3,300 persons
Is the Installation in Compliance with DOD Policy Requirement for Fluoridation?

Installations w/ at least one DoD-owned water system servicing >3,300 persons	Is the Installation in Compliance with DoD Policy Requirement for Fluoridation?
Beale AFB	Yes
Cannon AFB	Yes
Creech AFB	Yes
Davis-Monthan AFB	Yes
Edwards AFB	No
Eielson AFB	Yes
Ellsworth AFB	Yes
Fairchild AFB	Yes
F.E. Warren AFB	Yes
Hanscom AFB	Yes
Holloman AFB	Yes
Hurlburt Field	Yes
Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson	Yes
Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst	Yes
Keesler AFB	Yes
Kirtland AFB	No
McConnell AFB	Yes
Minot AFB	Yes
Mountain Home AFB	Yes
Nellis AFB	Yes
NSA Andersen	Yes
Robins AFB	Yes
Seymour Johnson AFB	Yes
Shaw AFB	Yes
Whiteman AFB	Yes
JB Anacostia Bolling	Yes

RED HILL CONTAMINATION

33. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks and Ms. Johnson-Turner, please provide a list of the components of the JP-5 jet fuel that contaminated the drinking water at Joint Base Pearl-Harbor Hickam in 2021.

Secretary MARKS. Chemical and physical information on JP-5 and JP-8 jet fuels can be found at the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/ToxProfiles/tp121-c4.pdf>.

Under the 2015 Administrative Order on Consent (AOC), the Navy also prepared a document summarizing the fuel additives used in each of the fuel types at Red Hill which is available at: https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2016-07/documents/red_hill_navy_fuel_additives_list.pdf.

Ms. JOHNSON-TURNER. Chemical and physical information on JP-5 and JP-8 jet fuels can be found at the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/ToxProfiles/tp121-c4.pdf>. Enclosure 1 contains an extract from that document on the chemical and physical information regarding JP-5. Under the 2015 Administrative Order on Consent (AOC), the Navy also prepared a document summarizing the fuel additives used in each of the fuel types at Red Hill and it too is available at https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2016-07/documents/red_hill_navy_fuel_additives_list.pdf and provided at Enclosure 2.

34. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks and Ms. Johnson-Turner, for how long were residents at Joint Base Pearl-Harbor Hickam exposed to this contaminated water? Please provide any related documentation detailing the means and extent of exposure, the exposure period and how this exposure period was determined.

Secretary MARKS. The Navy was designated as the lead for assessing and addressing releases from the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility and, in that role, conducted extensive drinking water sampling throughout the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) drinking water system under Long Term Monitoring (2022–2024) and Extended Drinking Water Monitoring (2024–2025) plans.

Information of the public exposure is available in the Navy Marine Corps Public Health document: https://cnrh.cnrc.navy.mil/Portals/79/CNRH/Documents/red_hill/Medical%20Reports/Red%20Hill%20Pre%20IDWST%20Exposure%20Tech%20Memo_June_23.pdf?ver=thH6TShA0Jw2ciZ4f_PXgw%3d%3d.

Additional information on JBPHH drinking water is available at the Safe Waters website: https://jbphh-safewaters.org/public/framework/bannerhtml.aspx?idhtml=10737&banner=jbphh_home.png&title=JBPHH%20Drinking%20Water%20Monitoring&idMenu=88797&ddlDSN=SYSTM&DSN=SYSTM.

Ms. JOHNSON-TURNER. Information of the public exposure is available in the Navy Marine Corps Public Health document: https://cnrh.cnrc.navy.mil/Portals/79/CNRH/Documents/red_hill/Medical%20Reports/Red%20Hill%20Pre%20IDWST%20Exposure%20Tech%20Memo_June_23.pdf?ver=thH6TShA0Jw2ciZ4f_PXgw%3d%3d.

A pdf version of the report is located in Enclosure 3, and assesses usability of pre-flushing drinking water data for evaluating human exposure to JP-5 fuel per the November 2021 release. This data is of insufficient quality and highly uncertain for such an assessment.

The Navy conducted extensive drinking water sampling throughout the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) drinking water system under Long Term Monitoring (2022–2024) and Extended Drinking Water Monitoring plans (2024–2025). The results affirmed the recovery of the drinking water system. A final report on these efforts has been submitted to EPA and DOH for review and approval.

Additional information on JBPHH drinking water is available at the Safe waters website: https://jbphh-safewaters.org/public/framework/bannerhtml.aspx?idhtml=10737&banner=jbphh_home.png&title=JBPHH%20Drinking%20Water%20Monitoring&idMenu=88797&ddlDSN=SYSTM&DSN=SYSTM

BARRACKS CONDITIONS

35. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks, Ms. Johnson-Turner, and Mr. Saunders, according to news reports, sailors and marines were ordered to be moved out of Anderson Air Force Base's Palau Hall barracks after Secretary Phelan was "appalled" by the conditions. Have all the servicemembers in these barracks been moved out?

Secretary MARKS. It is my understanding that all servicemembers have been successfully relocated.

Ms. JOHNSON-TURNER. Yes, all servicemembers have been successfully relocated from the Palau Hall barracks at Andersen Air Force Base. The finished evacuation

and relocation of all affected personnel was executed swiftly to ensure their immediate safety and well-being.

Mr. SAUNDERS. As of 27 May 25, all 48 sailors and 25 marines have been relocated out of the Air Force barracks. The rooms SECNAV visited are no longer occupied by Dep of Navy personnel; however, there are 66 airmen and 1 soldier still residing there. The building will be completely vacated by 1 October 25 to accommodate a previously approved renovation project of the Palau Hall barracks

36. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks, Ms. Johnson-Turner, and Mr. Saunders, what were the specific concerns about conditions at the Palau Hall barracks?

Secretary MARKS. The specific concerns related to environmental health and safety hazards in the barracks as observed by Secretary Phelan. These hazards included mold, exposed electrical wiring and plumbing issues.

Ms. JOHNSON-TURNER. The noted conditions were linked to life, health and safety concerns in multiple barracks at Andersen including Palau Hall. The concerns were tied to mold, exposed electrical, and plumbing issues. For more information on the barracks and facilities at Andersen recommend coordinating with United States Air Force (USAF) who have control and operational responsibility for Andersen.

Mr. SAUNDERS. The Palau Hall barracks was built in 1954; due to underfunded maintenance over time and the impacts of storm events like Typhoon Mawar, the building's components have degraded below condition standards. Specific concerns include exterior mold/mildew, painted-over interior mold/mildew, unserviceable medicine cabinets, scaled concrete exteriors, exposed wiring and severe hard water scaling on toilets and faucets. To address the concerns, Andersen recently awarded two repair projects totaling \$70 million in the final quarter of fiscal year 2025 to renovate Palau Hall and the Rota Hall dormitory via MAWAR supplemental funding.

37. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks, Ms. Johnson-Turner, and Mr. Saunders, who or what entities were responsible for these appalling conditions at the Palau Hall barracks?

Secretary MARKS. To the extent that the entire Department bears some responsibility for the conditions Secretary Phelan found, that is one of the primary reasons that Secretary Hegseth established a Barracks Task Force to address unaccompanied housing concerns throughout the Department.

Ms. JOHNSON-TURNER. These facilities are under United States Air Force (USAF) control and operational responsibility. We defer to the USAF for detailed responses regarding their facility management and operations.

Mr. SAUNDERS. The DAF has the responsibility to ensure a healthy and safe living environment is provided to servicemembers residing in unaccompanied housing. For the Palau Hall barracks, the primary driver for the degradation was years of underfunded sustainment combined with accelerated degradation resulting from Typhoon Mawar in 2023. Between 2009 and 2022, support and maintenance of these barracks was the responsibility of the Navy under Joint Region Marianas (JRM). In 2022, the Navy transferred funding/responsibility to the Air Force (AF) via a JRM Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). Since that time, the Palau Hall Barracks roof was replaced and projects have been developed to repair and renovate the barracks, along with several other barracks in Guam.

38. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks, Ms. Johnson-Turner, and Mr. Saunders, how were these individuals or entities held responsible for these appalling conditions at the Palau Hall barracks?

Secretary MARKS. I am not aware of any individual or single entity bearing direct responsibility for what Secretary Phelan found during the visit.

Ms. JOHNSON-TURNER. These facilities are under United States Air Force (USAF) control and operational responsibility. We defer to the USAF for detailed responses regarding their facility management, operations and accountability.

Mr. SAUNDERS. The poor conditions of the Palau Hall Barracks were a function of the age of the building, the years of underfunding (both by the Navy and the Air Force), and the highly corrosive environment in Guam. However, on 29 Jul 25, the Air Force awarded the Palau Dorm Repair Project with construction expected to commence 1 October 25. This project fully repairs the Palau Hall barracks, including renovation of interiors (floors, walls, ceiling, finishes, full restroom renovations), updating code for Energy and Life Safety, and exterior renovations resulting from 2023 Typhoon Mawar storm damage. Walkway slabs and spandrel beams will be repaired, and the project will also completely update the HVAC and plumbing systems.

39. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks, Ms. Johnson-Turner, and Mr. Saunders, have servicemembers in other barracks on Anderson Air Force Base been moved out? If so, which barracks?

Secretary MARKS. As a result of Secretary Phelan's findings and the Barracks Task Force directive, inspections were completed across the portfolio by Department of the Navy and the Department of the Air Force, and the Department of the Army's will be completed shortly. Inspections ensure all servicemembers in the barracks are residing in clean, comfortable, and safe spaces. If they are not, any issues identified during the inspection are addressed or the servicemember is moved to a space that meets the inspection standard.

Ms. JOHNSON-TURNER. Yes, all sailors and marines that were in any barracks including Palau Hall, located on Andersen that had these life health or safety concerns were relocated. These facilities are under United States Air Force (USAF) control and operational responsibility. We defer to the USAF for detailed responses regarding their facility management and operations.

Mr. SAUNDERS. No other servicemembers at Andersen have been relocated due to poor dorm conditions.

40. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks, Ms. Johnson-Turner, and Mr. Saunders, if servicemembers in other barracks on Anderson Air Force Base were moved out, what conditions prompted these moves and which barracks were they moved out of?

Secretary MARKS. As a result of Secretary Phelan's findings and the Barracks Task Force directive, inspections were completed across the portfolio by Department of the Navy and the Department of the Air Force, and the Department of the Army's will be completed shortly. Inspections ensure all servicemembers in the barracks are residing in clean, comfortable, and safe spaces. If they are not, any issues identified during the inspection are addressed or the servicemember is moved to a space that meets the inspection standard.

Ms. JOHNSON-TURNER. Conditions linked to life, health and safety concerns specific to mold and exposed electrical and plumbing issues in multiple barracks at Andersen prompted the DON to move sailors and marines out of these facilities. For more information on the Barracks and facilities at Andersen recommend coordinating with United States Air Force (USAF) who have control and operational responsibility for Andersen. We defer to the USAF for detailed responses regarding their facility management and operations.

Mr. SAUNDERS. No other servicemembers at Andersen were relocated due to poor dorm conditions.

41. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks and Ms. Johnson-Turner, has the Navy completed the Navy-wide inspection of all unaccompanied housing following the sub-par conditions found at Anderson Air Force Base?

Secretary MARKS. Yes, the Department of the Navy has inspected 100 percent of their barracks.

Ms. JOHNSON-TURNER. Yes, we have completed the Navy-wide inspection of all unaccompanied housing. This comprehensive enterprise-wide assessment involved deploying specialized inspection teams trained in building condition assessments, safety protocols, and habitability standards. Regional commands conducted systematic evaluations using standardized criteria to ensure consistency across all facilities. The inspection process included detailed structural assessments, environmental health evaluations, and quality of life assessments. We coordinated with facility engineers, public works departments, and medical personnel to provide thorough evaluations and immediate action plans were developed for any deficiencies identified. All facilities housing sailors and/or marines, regardless of service area of responsibility, were included in the inspections assessment.

42. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks and Ms. Johnson-Turner, when does the Navy expect to complete a Navy-wide inspection of all unaccompanied housing, if it has not already done so?

Secretary MARKS. The Department of the Navy has completely inspected their barracks.

Ms. JOHNSON-TURNER. The Navy-wide inspection is complete. This extensive undertaking spanned several months and involved coordinating with multiple stakeholders across the global Navy enterprise. Teams conducted detailed assessments of facilities, evaluating everything from structural integrity to basic habitability standards.

Marine Corps completed its wall-to-wall inspections for Marine Corps barracks in March 2024. This effort was integral to the development of the Commandant's "Barracks 2030" initiative.

43. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks, Dr. Waksman, Ms. Johnson-Turner, and Mr. Saunders, have any servicemembers been removed from other unaccompanied housing due to poor housing conditions since the order that sailors and marines be removed from the Palau Hall barracks?

Secretary MARKS. As a result of Secretary Phelan's findings and the Barracks Task Force directive, inspections of all barracks were completed by Department of the Navy and the Department of the Air Force, and the Department of the Army's will be completed shortly. Inspections ensure all servicemembers in the barracks are residing in clean, comfortable, and safe spaces. If they are not, the issues identified during the inspection are addressed or the servicemember is moved to a space that meets the inspection standard. Some servicemembers have been moved because of these inspection results.

Dr. WAKSMAN. Yes, the Army moves soldiers out of barracks when conditions require displacement. Displacements occur for a variety of reasons, including to facilitate work order completion, barracks modernization that requires temporary closure, or demolition of uninhabitable barracks to facilitate construction of new barracks. Garrison and unit leaders work together to ensure displacements sustain unit cohesion and access to installation services, such as dining and gym facilities. The Army is committed to providing safe, high-quality housing for our unaccompanied soldiers, and has invested at least \$1 billion per year in barracks improvements in recent years toward improving the barracks inventory.

Ms. JOHNSON-TURNER. Yes, following the comprehensive Navy-wide inspection initiated after the Palau Hall findings, additional facilities have been identified requiring immediate action and servicemember relocation. The results of the Naval Station Rota Spain inspection directed the closure of Camp Mitchell buildings 1778 and 1779, necessitating the consolidation of 20 sailors into the other Camp Mitchell buildings (1774–1777).

NAS Oceana Dam Neck Annex building 550 was identified among the facilities requiring offline status. 178 servicemembers have been relocated.

In sum, these relocations from both facilities required the coordinated movement of servicemembers to ensure their safety and well-being while maintaining operational readiness.

Marine Corps has removed marines from barracks that are in failing facility condition. The Marine Corps is planning movement of marines from barracks that are rated less than fair condition into other facilities as a part of the facility modernization line of effort for "Barracks 2030".

Mr. SAUNDERS. No other servicemembers at Andersen have been relocated due to poor dorm conditions. Portfolio-wide, VADM Gray (Commander CNIC) inspected Furnari Hall on JB Anacostia-Bolling (Anacostia side of the installation) and due to the status of the dorm, he directed sailors who are part of the Navy's Ceremonial Guard to vacate by the end of June 2025. There have been significant issues with the HVAC system and interior flooding. A project to repair the HVAC system is nearing completion; a dorm renovation is planned for fiscal year 2028.

44. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks, Dr. Waksman, Ms. Johnson-Turner, and Mr. Saunders, has any other unaccompanied housing been found to have poor conditions so far? If so, please specify which barracks were found to have poor conditions and why these conditions were subpar.

Secretary MARKS. The Department is aware of barracks spaces that are not clean, comfortable, and safe. Through the Barracks Task Force established by Secretary Hegseth and the funding already received through the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, the Department is aggressively pursuing rapid improvements to its barracks and is developing a longer-term plan to ensure all barracks buildings are maintained at the improved level.

Dr. WAKSMAN. Please refer to the Army's fiscal year 2024 NDAA, Section 2839, Report to Congress. As documented in that report, the Army estimates approximately \$4 billion is required to bring the Army's current unaccompanied housing inventory to a minimum quality standard.

Ms. JOHNSON-TURNER. Yes, the comprehensive Navy-wide inspection identified multiple facilities requiring immediate attention and corrective action beyond the initial Palau Hall relocation at Andersen Air Force Base.

Naval Station Rota Spain—Camp Mitchell:

The most significant findings occurred at Naval Station Rota Spain, where we directed the immediate closure of Camp Mitchell buildings 1778 and 1779 due to substandard living conditions. These facilities were among the 11 buildings (1.2 percent of all inspected facilities) assessed as inadequate and requiring immediate mitigation measures. The conditions in these buildings fell below acceptable habitability standards, necessitating the consolidation of 20 sailors into the other Camp Mitchell buildings (1774–1777) to ensure their safety and well-being.

We implemented a comprehensive in-depth remediation plan that included securing a specialized cleaning contract, deploying a Public Works tiger team of experienced personnel, and organizing sailor-powered working parties to systematically address the significant issues identified during the detailed inspection process. This coordinated multi-phase effort was successfully completed on 13 June 2025, demonstrating our commitment to rapid response and thorough resolution.

As a result of the assessment, NAS Oceana Dam Neck Annex building 550 was identified among the facilities requiring offline status due to substandard conditions that did not meet our established habitability standards. 178 servicemembers were relocated.

Comprehensive Assessment Results:

In sum, critical facilities at Rota and Oceana Dam Neck Annex required the coordinated relocation of approximately 200 sailors to suitable alternative accommodations. The subpar conditions varied by facility but generally included issues related to structural maintenance, environmental health standards, and basic habitability requirements that fell below the Navy's established criteria for safe, secure housing.

Systematic Enterprise-Wide Findings:

Our comprehensive inspection of 951 facilities across 119 military installations revealed that while most facilities met or exceeded standards, we identified specific areas requiring immediate attention. Of the 336 buildings assessed as "yellow" or acceptable, 70 have Building Condition Index (BCI) scores in the red category (ranging from 0–69), indicating they require prioritized investment and maintenance attention to prevent deterioration to inadequate status.

This proactive identification and immediate remediation of substandard conditions demonstrates the Navy's unwavering commitment to maintaining the highest standards for servicemember living conditions and our systematic approach to ensuring no one resides in facilities that do not meet our established safety and habitability requirements.

The majority of Marine Corps barracks (547 out of 658) are rated as good and fair condition. The Marine Corps currently has 109 barracks with a facility condition rating score of less than 80 which we have deemed as poor condition. Out of these 109 barracks, 69 are currently occupied. Three barracks that are rated as failing condition do not have any marines living in them. Marine Corps leadership will direct that marines move out of poor barracks and maximize occupancy of our best barracks where possible. "Barracks 2030" is the long-term solution to improve facilities condition for each of the Marine Corps' barracks, ensuring that marines have good living conditions.

Mr. SAUNDERS. Since the news reports about Palau Hall, there has been one other DAF dormitory that has been found with significant issues. VADM Gray (Commander CNIC) inspected Furnari Hall on JB Anacostia-Bolling (Anacostia side of the installation) and due to the status of the dorm, he directed sailors who are part of the Navy's Ceremonial Guard to vacate by the end of June 2025. Furnari Hall has had significant issues with the HVAC system and interior flooding. A project to repair the HVAC system is nearing completion; a dorm renovation is planned for fiscal year 2028.

45. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks, Dr. Waksman, Ms. Johnson-Turner, and Mr. Saunders, if any other unaccompanied housing has been found to have poor conditions, who or what entities were responsible for these poor conditions?

Secretary MARKS. I am not aware of any individual or single entity bearing responsibility for the poor barracks conditions. However, as the Department's Chief Housing Officer and chair of the Barracks Task Force recently established by Secretary Hegseth, I will ensure the Department fulfills its responsibilities to set and maintain the appropriate standards for barracks.

Dr. WAKSMAN. There is no one individual or entity responsible for barracks conditions. Limited funding and capacity over the last several decades have resulted in deferred maintenance. But we are correcting course. The Army committed to funding sustainment of permanent-party barracks at 100 percent to ensure the good and fair quality barracks remain in that condition. The Army's annual report to Con-

gress includes a 5-year plan to remedy inadequate conditions, and we will update that plan annually to ensure we are prioritizing our highest-need barracks. Safeguarding restoration and modernization funding from use for other missions is also critical to ensuring the Army can consistently address unaccompanied housing issues.

Ms. JOHNSON-TURNER. In many cases, the facilities identified with concerns were previously slated for decommissioning or long-term renovations. However, evolving mission requirements and unexpected occupancy demands necessitated continued use of these buildings.

Responsibility for conditions is shared across multiple echelons, including installation leadership, housing management, and base operations support. While accountability is critical, our focus has remained on immediate remediation and long-term investment to modernize the housing portfolio. We've reinforced leadership expectations and institutional responsibility, while also increasing oversight mechanisms to prevent recurrence. Fundamentally, ensuring quality housing is a shared duty that spans facilities, resource sponsors, and tenant commands alike.

Mr. SAUNDERS. For decades, investment in the unaccompanied housing (UH) enterprise has faced the same funding challenges as the rest of the infrastructure portfolio when it comes to necessary FSRM and MILCON funding to support sustainment, modernization, and recapitalization. The DAF's recent decision to ramp up spending on UH is a vital first step in correcting this challenge for UH, but addressing the full scope of the portfolio will take many years and continued funding support. The DAF is committed to taking care of airmen and guardians living in permanent party dormitories. Commanders and enlisted leaders are heavily involved to ensure junior enlisted reside in safe, adequate, and well-maintained facilities.

46. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks and Ms. Johnson-Turner, if any other unaccompanied housing has been found to have poor conditions, how did you hold accountable the individuals or entities responsible for these poor conditions?

Secretary MARKS. While I am not aware of a single individual or entity who is solely responsible for barracks reaching these conditions, as the Department's Chief Housing Officer and chair of the Barracks Task Force recently established by Secretary Hegseth, I will ensure the Department fulfills its responsibilities to set and maintain the appropriate standards for barracks. Additionally, the Military Departments have established procedures to appropriately address poor barracks conditions.

Ms. JOHNSON-TURNER. Across the enterprise, installation commanders, housing program managers, and supporting chains of command are engaged in rigorous performance monitoring. When deficiencies have been identified, leadership has initiated targeted reviews, realigned resources, and implemented process changes to reinforce responsibility. Ultimately, our response has been multifaceted, focused on both people and processes, to cultivate a culture of care and responsibility consistent with the spirit of the UH Tenant Bill of Rights.

47. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks and Secretary Johnson-Turner, please provide the results of Navy-wide inspection.

Secretary MARKS. I defer to the Department of the Navy to provide the requested results.

Ms. JOHNSON-TURNER. The Navy has completed a comprehensive, enterprise-wide inspection of all unaccompanied housing facilities following the substandard conditions discovered at Anderson Air Force Base.

Region Commander (REGCOM) leadership conducted systematic inspections of every facility in their respective areas of responsibility housing single sailors. The comprehensive assessment encompassed 951 facilities across 119 military installations throughout the entire Navy enterprise, spanning multiple geographic regions and operational commands. This coordinated effort involved deploying specialized inspection teams trained in building condition assessments, safety protocols, and habitability standards to ensure consistent evaluation criteria across all locations.

The results demonstrate that most Navy unaccompanied housing meets or exceeds acceptable standards:

- 577 buildings (60.7 percent) were assessed to be "green" or good condition: These facilities demonstrate superior condition, maintenance, and habitability standards that exceed baseline requirements.
- 336 buildings (35.3 percent) were assessed to be "yellow" or acceptable condition: These facilities meet acceptable standards with minor maintenance or improvement needs.

- 11 buildings (1.2 percent) were assessed to be “red” or inadequate: These facilities require immediate mitigation measures and corrective action.
- 26 buildings (2.7 percent) were already offline before assessment: 15 due to planned renovation projects and 11 due to various issues discovered before the directed inspections.
- 1 building is still under construction.

Of the 11 buildings assessed as scanty, one included the Air Force building at Andersen AFB that initiated this comprehensive review and was immediately vacated. Three of these 11 facilities—specifically Rota buildings 1778 & 1779 and NAS Oceana building 550—were identified to be taken offline within 30 days, requiring the coordinated relocation of 198 sailors to suitable alternative accommodations.

Of the 951 facilities assessed, 122 are managed and operated by services outside of the Navy, but where sailors reside.

48. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks, Ms. Johnson-Turner, and Mr. Saunders, please provide copies of any other inspections or investigations into the conditions of barracks at Anderson Air Force Base, Naval Base Guam, or Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz within the past 5 years.

Secretary MARKS. I defer to the Military Departments to provide the requested results.

Ms. JOHNSON-TURNER. A comprehensive Department of the Navy-wide Unaccompanied Housing (UH) Assessment was conducted within the past year and focused on Quality of Life for sailors and marines. Enclosure 4 part of the assessment represents the results with respect to barracks conditions at Naval Base Guam (NBG), and Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz (MCBCB).

Numerous projects are ongoing and planned for repairs, painting, and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning upgrades at NBG. MCBCB UH facilities are new or under construction, with marines only recently occupying these facilities.

Barracks at Andersen Air Force Base are under United States Air Force (USAF) control and operational responsibility. The USAF can provide information regarding their facility management and operations.

Mr. SAUNDERS. DAF is anticipating results from a service-wide dorm inspection soon. In the meantime, we have reached out to the Base to request historical data from previous years. We will provide an updated answer when reports are available.

49. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks, Dr. Waksman, Ms. Johnson-Turner, and Mr. Saunders, has the DOD, and your respective services, done any review of whether the Tenant Bill of Rights is sufficient to support the needs of servicemembers and their families? If so, please provide the results of this analysis.

Secretary MARKS. My office has not analyzed the adequacy of the Tenant Bill of Rights.

Dr. WAKSMAN. Yes, the Army has reviewed the Tenant Bill of Rights and believes it is sufficient.

Ms. JOHNSON-TURNER. The Department of the Navy routinely reviews implementation of the Tenant Bill of Rights to ensure it remains responsive to the evolving needs of sailors and marines. Internal reviews include feedback from residents, housing office personnel, tenant advocates, and command leadership. One important tool in this effort is the annual Tenant Satisfaction Survey, which provides valuable insight into resident experiences and informs the Navy’s and Marine Corps’ ongoing improvement initiatives. These reviews reaffirmed that the Tenant Bill of Rights serves as a robust and comprehensive framework, ensuring tenants are aware of their rights, including access to safe and sanitary living quarters, responsive maintenance services, and freedom from reprisal or interference. It also validated those mechanisms such as dispute resolution support, inspection rights, and accountability provisions are implemented and constantly reviewed. Consequently, the assessment concluded that the existing Tenant Bill of Rights effectively supports the welfare of servicemembers and their families and provides a solid foundation for resident advocacy.

Mr. SAUNDERS. The Tenant Bill of Rights helped standardize and codify what servicemembers can expect when living in privatized housing. In addition, adoption of the Tenant Bill of Rights directly enabled the establishment of important resident initiatives, such as the Universal Lease and the Formal Dispute Resolution process.

50. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks, Dr. Waksman, Ms. Johnson-Turner, and Mr. Saunders, does the DOD, and your respective services, believe the Tenant Bill of Rights should be expanded to better support the needs of servicemembers and their families? How so?

Secretary MARKS. My office does not have recommended changes to expand the Tenant Bill of Rights currently.

Dr. WAKSMAN. The Army believes the current Tenant Bill of Rights as written is sufficient to support the needs of servicemembers and their families.

Ms. JOHNSON-TURNER. The Department of the Navy believes that the current Tenant Bill of Rights provides comprehensive protection and clearly defined expectations for both residents and housing staff. This reflects a thoughtful balance of rights and responsibilities, empowering tenants to report issues, participate in inspections, and holds all parties accountable. The document has been instrumental in fostering transparency, improving communication, and reinforcing standards. As conditions evolve and feedback is gathered, the Navy and Marine Corps remain open to adjustments, however based on current assessments, there is no immediate need for expansion. The existing framework remains a cornerstone in our commitment to uphold quality of life for all residents.

Mr. SAUNDERS. No, at this time DAF does not believe that the Tenant Bill of Rights needs to be expanded.

51. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks, Dr. Waksman, Ms. Johnson-Turner, and Mr. Saunders, please provide an estimate on the total time and costs associated with the long-term needs for barracks improvement projects across the DOD, and your respective services.

Secretary MARKS. I defer to the Military Departments to answer as each has their own total time and cost estimates for addressing Unaccompanied Housing (UH) improvements.

Dr. WAKSMAN. The Army plans to invest an average of \$2.8 billion annually from fiscal year 2026 to 2030 in unaccompanied housing through a combination of new military construction, restoration, and modernization, and sustainment funding across all three components. This includes funding sustainment of permanent-party barracks at 100 percent of the modeled requirements. The Army believes this level of funding will achieve a Building Condition Index score of 70 or greater for all barracks by fiscal year 2030.

Ms. JOHNSON-TURNER. The Navy conducted a full assessment this year and are taking corrective measures to address any findings of subpar condition. After the comprehensive inspection of facilities, the Navy has implemented a multi-phased approach to address both immediate safety concerns and long-term infrastructure improvements. Included in this approach, the Navy is looking at expanding its current privatized UH locations with additional phases while moving toward privatized UH in other locations. The Marine Corps continues to move forward with the Commandant's "Barracks 2030" initiative which targets Barracks improvements completion by 2037 by modernizing infrastructure to ensure safe and livable facilities, professionalizing management through civilian housing staff and centralized systems, and enhancing quality of life with upgraded furnishings, amenities, and responsive maintenance support.

Mr. SAUNDERS. For DAF to meet the Air Force Goal of 80 percent of the permanent party dorms with Building Condition Index (BCI) score of greater than 80, the following investment level is required:

- FSRM O&M funding averaging \$461 million/year (\$5.1 billion total) to improve the current inventory building condition and
- MILCON investment averaging \$322 million/year (\$3.2 billion total) to mitigate the current permanent party deficit and provide 100 percent capacity of the requirement
- The timeframe to reach this goal is 10–11 years

52. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks, Dr. Waksman, Ms. Johnson-Turner, and Mr. Saunders, has the Facilities Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization (FSRM) program been adequately funded over the past 10 years to conduct necessary repairs and restorations of the military barracks?

Secretary MARKS. I defer to the Military Departments for specifics on how FSRM funding was allocated for barracks projects over the past decade. However, the Department appreciates the inclusion of significant funding in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act to address UH priorities and we are committed to UH improvements.

Dr. WAKSMAN. Over the past 10 years the Army has taken risk to fund higher priority FSRM needs. Recognizing the need to address barracks, in its fiscal year 2025 budget request and every fiscal year since, the Army has prioritized funding for barracks related FSRM at 100 percent of the requirement. This has greatly assisted the Army's efforts to slow barracks degradation.

Ms. JOHNSON-TURNER. Over the past 10 years, we have accepted risk in the FSRM program to support mission requirements within our top line budget resulting in the Navy having a \$35 billion deferred maintenance backlog and the Marine Corps having a \$25 billion maintenance backlog. Of that backlog, \$1.9 billion is associated with Unaccompanied Housing (UH). However, with recent efforts and policy focusing on UH sustainment, 79 percent of Navy and 96 percent of Marine Corps barracks are currently in good condition. The DON remains committed to improving quality of life for our warfighters and the appropriate maintenance of our barracks.

Mr. SAUNDERS. For fiscal year 2011 through fiscal year 2021, the annual FSRM investment in unaccompanied housing averaged \$59 million per year. Beginning in fiscal year 2022 through fiscal year 2025, the average investment rose to \$270 million/year, across 137 projects. Despite the increase in investment, the average UH Building Condition Index (BCI) decreased from 81.8 to 77.5. The current UH Portfolio PRV is approximately \$30 billion, therefore the recent average investment of \$270 million per year falls considerably below the 4 percent of PRV annual investment recommended by industry to properly sustain facilities and infrastructure. The insufficient investment history for UH over the last 15 years worsened the overall condition of the portfolio and generated a deferred maintenance and repair (DM&R) cost of approximately \$5 billion according to recent real property records.

53. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks, please explain how the DOD fiscal year 2026 budget proposal funds the FSRM program.

Secretary MARKS. The Department's fiscal year 2026 budget proposal, submitted well prior to the Secretary's barracks initiative, funds barracks at the historic rate of 85 percent of the Facilities Sustainment Model. However, the Barracks Task Force established by the Secretary of War in October 2025 is focused on the efficient and accelerate spending of fiscal year 2026 base and reconciliation resources to more rapidly improve barracks to ensure they are clean, comfortable, and safe. Additionally, the Department is focused in the midterm on continuing to correct long standing deficiencies in the barracks inventory and at a sufficient level of investment to ensure that the facilities are maintained in good condition. Congress has given the Department an array of investment tools and authorities it can leverage such as Other Transaction Authority, Intergovernmental Support Agreements, and leases to provide clean, comfortable, and safe barracks to servicemembers.

54. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks, how does the DOD intend to fund the long-term needs of the FSRM program to address the poor health and safety conditions in the barracks?

Secretary MARKS. Through the Barracks Task Force, the Department is developing a long-term plan based on the needs of the servicemembers and the promise of ensuring access to clean, comfortable, and safe barracks spaces.

55. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks and Dr. Waksman, the Government Accountability Office reported extensive deficiencies in Army barracks. According to press reports the Army plans to shift \$1 billion Congress appropriated to repair these barracks and make sure servicemembers can focus on the mission to enhance border security. What is the Army's plan to address, fund, and fix these deficiencies?

Secretary MARKS. I defer to the Department of the Army to provide the specific plan.

Dr. WAKSMAN. The Army needed to balance the operational requirements in fiscal year 2025 with \$1 billion from the FSRM account to provide resources for higher-priority Department of Defense missions. The President's fiscal year 26 budget makes significant investments to replenish that funding with over \$8.5 billion in FSRM, an increase of approximately 23 percent from fiscal year 2024.

The Army continues to assess its required barracks infrastructure as detailed in the Army's annual report to Congress on the Condition of Covered Military Unaccompanied Housing and "Get Well Plan." Currently the Army simply does not have the resources or capacity to immediately fix every barracks deficiency. Many of these large-scale projects require coordination and extensive planning to minimize potential errors and delays.

In this year's budget, the Army funds barracks sustainment at 100 percent to maintain quality of existing barracks and prioritize deficiencies by "worst first", to bring those barracks with the most critical needs up to standards as soon as possible. Timely enactment of this budget will help to minimize project delays.

56. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks and Dr. Waksman, according to press reports, the Army has already announced that it is phasing out barracks maintenance at Fort Cavazos. How will this decision impact health and readiness at this base?

Secretary MARKS. Our understanding is that the decision by the Army related to reducing manpower and did not stop maintenance on barracks at Fort Hood.

Dr. WAKSMAN. The Army is evaluating all NDAA requirements and internal Army processes to ensure any staffing changes do not adversely impact health and readiness. The Army continues to evaluate all authorities available to address barracks maintenance, including leveraging public-private partnerships and intergovernmental support agreements. Leveraging novel solutions will help the Army address current facility maintenance needs while reducing costs.

57. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks and Dr. Waksman, what is the Army's plan to address "persistent air conditioning failures and stifling heat" at Fort Cavazos if barracks maintenance is being phased out?

Secretary MARKS. Our understanding is that barracks maintenance at Fort Hood remains a priority and that as part of the effort of the Barracks Task Force, the Army has prioritized improvement of barracks conditions there.

Dr. WAKSMAN. Staff reductions at Fort Hood does not change the Department of Public Works' process for handling life, health, and safety, as well as emergency maintenance needs, as priority-1 requirements. HVAC issues fall under both categories. Routine maintenance may be delayed. The Army is evaluating staffing changes across the facilities portfolio to mitigate impacts to soldiers in barracks.

58. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks and Dr. Waksman, what is the Army's plan to address its \$20 billion backlog of deferred maintenance and repairs for Army barracks?

Secretary MARKS. I defer to the Department of the Army to provide the specific plan.

Dr. WAKSMAN. The Army's plan to address the \$20 billion backlog of deferred maintenance and repairs for barracks includes the "Get Well Plan" submitted to Congress as part of the required fiscal year 2024 NDAA, Section 2839, Report on the Condition of Covered Military Unaccompanied Housing. The Army addresses the most critical repair needs first.

59. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks and Dr. Waksman, is the Army planning to or considering hiring additional contractor support to address deferred maintenance and repairs for Army barracks? If yes, please provide any available cost estimates.

Secretary MARKS. I defer to the Department of the Army to provide the specific plan.

Dr. WAKSMAN. The Army is considering all options to cost-effectively address deferred maintenance and repairs for Army barracks. Once internal staffing changes are complete and we evaluate where the greatest need is, the Army will conduct cost analyses for any additional contractor support.

60. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks and Dr. Waksman, how large will the Army's deferred maintenance and repairs backlog be in a year if funding to address this backlog is reduced by \$1 billion?

Secretary MARKS. I defer to the Department of the Army to provide this data.

Dr. WAKSMAN. The Army estimates the total deferred backlog for all facility types to be \$144 billion. The Army updates its estimate annually based on the amount of facility investments, the current cost of construction, and any unforeseen accelerated or decelerated degradation of facilities. An increase or decrease in one specific year does not directly affect the deferred-maintenance backlog.

The low recapitalization rates and insufficient facility sustainment funding over the last several decades have significantly increased this backlog. The Army plans to invest the additional funding provided by the recently enacted reconciliation bill, as well as the significant investments proposed in the President's 2026 budget request, to minimize the amount of deferred maintenance.

Additionally, the Army continues to evaluate our current facility inventory to identify opportunities to optimize our current footprint and reduce excess infrastructure.

61. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks and Dr. Waksman, how large will the Army's deferred maintenance and repairs backlog be in a year if funding to address this backlog is reduced by \$2 billion?

Secretary MARKS. I defer to the Department of the Army to provide this data.

Dr. WAKSMAN. The Army estimates the total deferred backlog for all facility types to be \$144 billion. The Army updates its estimate annually based on the amount of facility investments, the current cost of construction, and any unforeseen acceler-

ated or decelerated degradation of facilities. An increase or decrease in one specific year does not directly affect the deferred maintenance backlog.

PRIVATIZED MILITARY HOUSING

62. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks, how do you plan to strengthen oversight of DOD's privatized housing program?

Secretary MARKS. I take my role as the Department's Chief Housing Officer seriously and as part of that, I have met with several of the project owners in my office or at their privatized housing projects to express to them my priorities for privatized housing. All servicemembers and their families should reside in clean, comfortable, and safe housing. In addition to the long-term sustainment of privatized housing, I advised the project owners that I expect them to adhere to their preventative maintenance plans. Further, I have asked my team and the Military Departments to consider delegating additional privatized housing decisionmaking to the installation commanders as those officers are most able to ensure habitable homes for our servicemembers.

63. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks, how will you evaluate the success of enforcement of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative Tenant Bill of Rights?

Secretary MARKS. While my organization has not specifically evaluated the efficacy of the Tenant Bill of Rights, my office engages in monthly and quarterly meetings with the Military Departments on their privatized housing projects and issues or concerns at any of their projects. My office also works with the Department's Inspector General and the Under Secretary of War for Personnel & Readiness, among other stakeholders, to gather information directly from residents on their overall experience, including any concerns they have, and to address each raised issue. The Tenant Bill of Rights is one of many topics that residents have brought up and we take their concerns about it seriously.

64. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks, last year the DOD launched the DOD Housing Feedback System to enhance transparency and accountability in DOD privatized military housing. Will you commit to educating servicemembers and spreading awareness about the DOD Housing Feedback system?

Secretary MARKS. I do commit to more education for servicemembers and their families on the DOW Housing Feedback System.

65. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks, according to the Department's Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) data collection contractor, artificial intelligence-driven price-setting software is now used extensively throughout the property management industry. How will the DOD mitigate fraud, waste, and abuse and ensure that landlords aren't using algorithmic pricing software to hike rents for servicemembers and in turn, overcharge the Federal Government for rent?

Secretary MARKS. The scope of the BAH program is to set rates based on the price of market-rate rental housing in the private sector. Recognizing that market rents may be higher than they would be otherwise due to local property managers using pricing software does not change the fact that those are the market prices that servicemembers (and civilians) must pay if they want to live off base. These are also the prices the Department captures in the BAH data collection process and uses to set BAH rates, ensuring that military families have access to suitable, adequate, and available housing.

66. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks, do you think that a shortage of off-base housing affects military readiness and personnel? If so, how?

Secretary MARKS. Access to clean, comfortable, and safe housing on and around our installations is a quality-of-life issue and does affect the readiness of Military personnel.

67. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks, the Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) helps States and local governments improve "deficiencies in community infrastructures supportive of a military installation." Do you think that a proposal to expand DCIP to prioritize projects that will increase housing supply for families who can't live on base will help lower housing costs for servicemembers and in turn, the cost on the Federal Government?

Secretary MARKS. The DCIP is a useful tool for the Department to address some of its facility and infrastructure issues. I commit my organization to further exploring appropriate opportunities to further leverage this authority.

68. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks and Dr. Waksman, the privatization of military housing has led to poor military housing conditions and contractors with fifty-year contracts that are difficult to hold accountable. Does the Army intend to privatize its barracks?

Secretary MARKS. The Department acknowledges that additional privatization is a tool that can be utilized to ensure clean, comfortable, and safe spaces for unaccompanied servicemembers. The Military Departments are currently considering all options, including privatization, to ensure access to habitable housing.

Dr. WAKSMAN. The Army is evaluating how to leverage existing leasing authorities to more quickly and cost-effectively build, repair, and maintain barracks. The Army is coordinating with OSD and OMB to pursue collaboration with Congress to adjust Federal guidelines, enabling the Army to more easily pursue innovative barracks management options that ensure stronger accountability.

69. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks and Dr. Waksman, please provide any analysis that the Army has conducted as it evaluates whether to privatize its barracks.

Secretary MARKS. I defer to the Department of the Army to provide any analysis that has been conducted.

Dr. WAKSMAN. The Army is conducting a pilot initiative at Fort Irwin, commonly referred to as the "Irwin Apartments." The Michaels Organization submitted an unsolicited proposal for privatized UH apartments, for junior enlisted personnel, within their existing privatized housing leasehold. My team vetted the proposal and received buy-in from Army Senior Leaders to pursue the pilot.

The Army determined the privatized housing model was more cost effective over the lifecycle of the project, compared to government-owned-and-operated barracks. The Army estimates the Michaels Organization will be able to finance the construction for the housing project and operate the housing from BAH revenue. The privatized unaccompanied housing project at Fort Irwin is unique because of the types of non-deployable units stationed there and limited housing options in the area.

70. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks and Dr. Waksman, did poor conditions in the barracks contribute to the decision to initiate the privatized barracks program at Fort Irwin, California?

Secretary MARKS. In accordance with 10 USC §2837, the Military Departments conduct Housing Requirements and Market Analyses (HRMA) not less frequently than once every 5 years. The HRMA assesses the Military Department housing requirements against current and future housing inventory in that military housing area. It is our understanding that the HRMA results were the primary impetus for the Army pursuing additional privatization at Fort Irwin.

Dr. WAKSMAN. No. The need for the Irwin Apartments came from the need to house junior enlisted personnel in a remote and isolated location. The 2020 Housing Requirements and Market Analysis substantiated an unaccompanied housing requirement for 1,327 bed spaces. Fort Irwin proposes to retain 783 of its existing barracks spaces, to repurpose 668 Q3-rated spaces, and demolish 60 other inadequate spaces, resulting in a remaining need for 544 bed spaces. The Irwin Apartments lifecycle cost analysis determined the privatized model was cost effective for meeting this need.

71. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks and Dr. Waksman, how long is the contract with the Michaels Organization in relation to the privatized barracks pilot program at Fort Irwin?

Secretary MARKS. The term of the ground lease runs through February 2079.

Dr. WAKSMAN. The transaction involving the Michaels Organization does not involve a traditional contract; it is structured as a public-private partnership between the Army and the Michaels Organization. To finance the new construction of the apartments, the Michaels Organization required an extension to its current ground lease. The Army provided a 25-year ground-lease extension.

72. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks and Dr. Waksman, what contractual provisions are in place with the Michaels Organization to hold the company accountable in the event of inadequate conditions at the privatized barracks at Fort Irwin?

Secretary MARKS. The ground lease includes all directed National Defense Authorization Act and Executive Order language as well as Army-driven Davis-Bacon Act guidance and improved oversight requirements. These ground lease provisions provide clear consequences when the lessee does not comply with required provisions. The Tenant Bill of Rights and the Military Housing Privatization Initiative Tenant

Responsibilities are also incorporated into each tenant's lease for a housing unit. In addition, the Army Incentive Performance Management Plan will be used to award incentive fees for meeting required performance metrics. Failure to meet the required metrics will result in forfeiture of property management incentive fees. The Army reserves the right, as the lessor, to pursue remedies expressly available to the United States under the Ground Lease and other applicable legal agreements, including the Property Management Agreement and the Operating Agreement.

Dr. WAKSMAN. With the 25-year extension, the ground lease includes additional oversight clauses the Army now inserts into all ground leases, including language reinforcing a requirement that the provider properly maintain the housing and the language outlining consequences for non-compliance.

73. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks and Dr. Waksman, does the contract with the Michaels Organization for the pilot program at Fort Irwin require that the private housing company comply with the "Tenant Bill of Rights?"

Secretary MARKS. Yes, the ground lease includes all directed National Defense Authorization Act and Executive Order language as well as Army-driven Davis-Bacon Act guidance and improved oversight requirements. These ground lease provisions provide clear consequences when the lessee does not comply with required provisions. The Tenant Bill of Rights and the Military Housing Privatization Initiative Tenant Responsibilities are also incorporated into each tenant's lease for a housing unit.

Dr. WAKSMAN. Yes, as part of this partnership with the Army, the Michaels Organization is required to comply with the Tenant Bill of Rights, as with all its other DOD housing.

74. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks and Dr. Waksman, what other private entities are involved in building, operating, and maintaining the privatized barracks at Fort Irwin?

Secretary MARKS. The Michaels Organization serves as the owner and developer while an affiliated entity will serve as the contracted property manager for the project. As owner, Michaels is the entity responsible for management and oversight of daily operations and maintenance. Michaels has contracted with Clark Building Group Construction Company LLC, as General Contractor, for construction of the improvements.

Dr. WAKSMAN. The Michaels Organization will build, operate, and maintain the Irwin Apartments.

75. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks and Dr. Waksman, will soldiers' participation in the Fort Irwin pilot program be voluntary?

Secretary MARKS. Yes. The Army will not assign soldiers to units within the development, nor will occupancy guarantees be provided for with this project. In accordance with Army policy, government-owned assets will be at 95 percent occupancy before Certificates of Non-Availability (CNAs) are issued. Soldiers who receive CNAs will have the option to live in the development or find adequate housing off-base.

Dr. WAKSMAN. Yes, soldiers' residence at Irwin Apartments will be voluntary. They will have the option to use their BAH elsewhere, but with the planned amenities and convenience of Irwin Apartments—as well as the limited housing options around Fort Irwin—we anticipate many soldiers will opt to reside there.

76. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks and Dr. Waksman, will commanders have legal authority to conduct health and welfare inspections of the privatized barracks on Fort Irwin?

Secretary MARKS. Yes. Unit leadership access to the complex is laid out in the ground lease and a Memorandum of Agreement or similar document will be executed with Army leadership prior to occupancy.

Dr. WAKSMAN. Commands can coordinate through the privatized provider to gain access to the apartments for health and welfare checks.

77. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks and Dr. Waksman, if commanders conduct health and welfare inspections of the privatized barracks on Fort Irwin, will you provide copies of these inspection results to all members of the Senate Armed Services Committee?

Secretary MARKS. I defer to the Department of the Army to answer.

Dr. WAKSMAN. The Army intends to report all inspection results that are required by law or otherwise requested by the Committee.

78. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks, does DOD intend to expand privatization of barracks to all military services?

Secretary MARKS. The Department acknowledges that privatization is a tool that can be utilized to ensure clean, comfortable, and safe spaces for unaccompanied servicemembers. However, the Department does not have any pending proposals from the Military Departments to expand UH privatization beyond the current projects.

79. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks, how would the privatization of the barracks impact future DOD budget requirements for BAH via military personnel accounts?

Secretary MARKS. Under the current MHPI model, the housing allowance would be the primary source of revenue for future MHPI projects. New MHPI projects, if using the current MHPI model, would increase costs to the military personnel budgets, but these increases are likely to be offset in each military service budget by decreases in the annual operations and maintenance accounts that would otherwise fund UH sustainment.

My organization is looking at all potential financial models for future housing privatization, including those that move away from the current model of full reliance on the housing allowance as the primary source of revenue for the private owner.

80. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks, does the plan to privatize the barracks include DOD requesting authorization for unaccompanied, junior enlisted servicemembers to receive BAH?

Secretary MARKS. Under the current MHPI model, the housing allowance would be the primary source of revenue for future MHPI projects.

81. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks, Dr. Waksman, Ms. Johnson-Turner, and Mr. Saunders, if existing barracks buildings on military installations go unused as a result of privatization, what is the plan for these facilities?

Secretary MARKS. Each Military Department will consider the best course of action depending on the mission requirements of the installation. However, the Department will ensure that the real property footprint is optimally used and that it isn't funding the sustainment of excess, unused infrastructure that it can convert to another use or demolish.

Dr. WAKSMAN. The project has a waterfall tenant clause that would allow certain tiers of residents to lease vacant units when the overall project occupancy drops below 95 percent for a period greater than 60 consecutive calendar days and the gains/losses are not projected to exceed 95 percent.

Ms. JOHNSON-TURNER. The DON carefully reviews which installations and barracks facilities to privatize, as privatization is not always possible. Typically, the DON maintains some barracks as government owned at military installations to allow for flexibility of force flow especially where ship movements can occur frequently at our privatized locations. As part of the Navy's "Forging Communities of Excellence" program the Navy is committed to facilities improvement and optimization throughout its inventory including identifying locations for right sizing.

Mr. SAUNDERS. DAF continues to evaluate the feasibility of dorm privatization but is not currently pursuing any active privatization efforts for barracks facilities. If DAF initiates dorm privatization in the future that results in unused barracks, a plan will be developed for those unused facilities.

82. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks, Dr. Waksman, Ms. Johnson-Turner, and Mr. Saunders, has the DOD, or any of the individual services, conducted location-specific assessments of available private sector housing near military installations and considered whether that housing is sufficient to meet the military's current or future housing needs? If so, please share detailed findings.

Secretary MARKS. In accordance with 10 USC §2837, the Military Departments conduct HRMAs not less frequently than once every 5 years. The HRMA assesses the Military Department housing requirements against current and future housing inventory in that military housing area. The Military Departments can share HRMA findings for their installations upon request.

Dr. WAKSMAN. The DOD uses the Housing Requirements Market Analysis, a structured analytical process to assess both the suitability and availability of the private-sector rental housing market, using assumed specific standards for affordability, location, features, and physical condition to satisfy the housing requirements of the total military population. It is conducted no less often than every 5 years.

Ms. JOHNSON-TURNER. The DON routinely performs Housing Requirements and Market Analysis (HRMAs) of all its primary installations. These HRMAs help in-

form decisions about the size and scope of the inventory at each installation by measuring the adequate housing within an acceptable commuting distance and military demand. Additionally, the Military Housing Offices are engaged with the local communities and able to provide assistance to servicemembers on housing options in the community including adequacy and availability of homes.

Mr. SAUNDERS. The Air Force conducts Housing Requirements and Market Analysis (HRMA) every 4 years for OCONUS and every 5 years for CONUS installations. DAF HRMAs establish rank/bedroom requirements and assess whether the community can provide suitable housing. Commanders use the HRMA results to engage community leaders regarding installation housing needs and garner support to address private sector housing shortfalls. The HRMA is conducted in accordance with DODM 4165.63, AFI 32-6000, fiscal year 2023 NDAA Section 2811, and the USAF HRMA Guidance Manual. The latest results are shown in the table below:

Base (HRMA Period)	Total Military Families	Requirement	Inventory	(Surplus) / Deficit	Final HRMA Report Date
CONUS					
Edwards (FY22-27)	1245	860	741	119	13-Sep-22
Mt Home (FY22-27)	1828	1064	844	220	7-Oct-22
Eglin (FY22-27)	5778	1475	873	602	31-Jan-23
Hulburt Update (FY24-29)	3601	908	404	504	20-Feb-24
Altus (FY22-27)	712	383	530	-147	9-May-23
Fairchild (FY23-28)	1826	598	641	-43	11-Oct-23
Malmstrom Update (FY23-28)	1587	1184	1116	68	3-Nov-23
Cannon (FY23-28)	2093	1271	1038	233	29-Apr-24
Beale (FY23-28)	1799	497	509	-12	12-Dec-23
Eielson Update (FY23-28)	1762	1161	910	251	4-Dec-23
Tyndall (FY24-29)	1560	397	593	-196	29-Feb-24
Moody (FY24-29)	1808	347	388	-41	21-Oct-24
Shaw (FY24-29)	2904	642	633	9	10-Oct-24
Seymour Johnson (FY24-29)	2011	611	686	-75	9-Dec-24
Eglin Update (FY24-29)	5394	1443	873	570	13-Mar-25
Ellsworth (FY24-29)	2306	663	499	164	7-Apr-25
JBER (FY25-30)	5350	3104	3262	-158	8-Apr-25
MacDill (FY24-29)	3441	706	572	134	12-May-25
Holloman (FY25-30)	2057	1174	1059	115	29-May-25
Los Angeles (FY25-30)	1260	132	617	-485	18-Jun-25
Nellis (FY24-29)	5141	1140	1178	-38	5-Aug-25
Luke (FY25-30)	1860	353	550	-197	11-Aug-25
OCONUS					
Moron (FY23-28)	65	13	20	-7	26-Jun-24
Aviano (FY18-23)	2255	232	11	221	1-Jun-18
Lakenheath-Mildenhall (FY20-25)	4704	1192	1006	186	20-Oct-20
KMC (FY20-25)	7180	990	2013	-1023	20-Oct-20
Spangdahlem (FY20-25)	1507	198	215	-17	20-Oct-20
Croughton (FY20-25)	198	37	126	-89	20-Oct-20
Alconbury (FY20-25)	429	103	153	-50	20-Oct-20
Misawa (FY20-25)	1593	1484	1705	-221	3-Mar-22

Yokota (FY21-26)	1924	1924	1971	-47	22-Jul-22
Okinawa (FY21-26)	9891	7108	6928	180	27-Jul-22
Fairford (FY22-27) Manning Update	83	22	106	-84	13-Sep-22
Osan (FY22-27)	1041	297	351	-54	1-Jun-23

Ongoing HRMAs: An HRMA contract has been awarded for the following installations: Alconbury/Molesworth, Barksdale, Dyess, Fairford, Grand Forks, JB Andrews, JB Charleston, JB Anacostia-Bolling, JBSA—Ft Sam Houston, JBSA—Lackland, JBSA—Randolph, Lakenheath/Mildenhall, Little Rock, Maxwell and McConnell.

Future HRMAs: An HRMA will be contracted in fiscal year 2026 or fiscal year 2027 for the following installations: Dyess, Altus, Arnold, Buckley, Cavalier, Columbus, Croughton, Davis-Montha, Edwards, Goodfellow, Hill, Keesler, Minot, Misawa, Mountain Home, Offutt, Osan, Peterson, Robins, Schriever, Scott, Sheppard, Tinker, Vance, Whiteman, Wright-Patterson and Yokota.

CONFEDERATE INSTALLATIONS

83. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks and Dr. Waksman, are you aware of whether community leaders were consulted before renaming Fort Moore, Fort Liberty, Fort Johnson, Fort Cavazos, Fort Eisenhower, Fort Novosel, Fort Walker, and Fort Gregg-Adams? If so, what feedback was provided?

Secretary MARKS. To my knowledge, any discussions or community engagement regarding the renaming of these installations would have been handled by Secretary Hegseth's staff or the Department of the Army.

Dr. WAKSMAN. To my knowledge, community engagement regarding the renaming of these installations occurred following the renaming announcement.

84. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks and Dr. Waksman, are you aware if the family of Lt. Gen. Hal Moore of the Army, a Vietnam War hero, and his wife, Julie Compton Moore, were consulted before Fort Moore was renamed? If so, what feedback was provided?

Secretary MARKS. To my knowledge, any discussions or community engagement regarding the renaming of Fort Moore would have been handled by Secretary Hegseth's staff or the Department of the Army.

Dr. WAKSMAN. To my knowledge, the Moore Family was notified of the redesignation shortly before it was publicly announced. My understanding is that they expressed disappointment.

85. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks and Dr. Waksman, how much will it cost the Army to rename each of these installations? Please, provide a breakdown by location.

Secretary MARKS. My office is not directly involved in this effort and as such, I would defer to Dr. Waksman on any associated costs.

Dr. WAKSMAN. My office was not directly involved in this effort.

HANSCOM AIR BASE

86. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks and Mr. Saunders, Massachusetts and the Air Force are eager to partner on a mission that would help the Air Force reduce costs and divest unneeded property, while creating economic development opportunities for the State, a mission the Air Force has called a "Strategic Real Estate Opportunity." Do you commit to being fully transparent with the Commonwealth and MassDevelopment as these discussions move forward?

Secretary MARKS. The Department intends to work transparently with the Department of the Air Force and other stakeholders in Massachusetts as future real estate opportunities at Hanscom Air Force Base are considered.

Mr. SAUNDERS. The DAF kicked off the Strategic Real Estate Opportunity (SREO) at Hanscom AFB in June. DAF has already met with MassDevelopment and members of the Commonwealth team on DAF's intent for the SREO effort, and we intend to continue to work transparently as these discussions move forward.

87. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks and Mr. Saunders, do you commit to working with Massachusetts to ensure the process is collaborative?

Secretary MARKS. The Department intends to continue to work transparently with the Department of the Air Force and other stakeholders in Massachusetts as future real eState opportunities at Hanscom Air Force Base are considered.

Mr. SAUNDERS. DAF has already met with members of MassDevelopment and members of the Commonwealth team in the lead up to kicking off the SREO effort and during the SREO working group sessions; DAF commits to continue to work collaboratively as we continue the SREO effort.

88. Senator WARREN. Secretary Marks and Mr. Saunders, do you commit to retaining the current personnel footprint at Hanscom AFB as part of this effort?

Secretary MARKS. Consideration by the Department and the Air Force of future real eState opportunities at Hanscom Air Force Base is in the earliest stages. The goal is to reduce costs and divest property excess to military needs, but it is premature to assume the exact impacts at this time, including those related to personnel.

Mr. SAUNDERS. DAF is at the very earliest stages of initiating the SREO effort at Hanscom. The intent is to work with MassDevelopment and members of the Commonwealth to explore options that will help DAF reduce costs and divest unneeded property. It is unknown whether the team would jointly recommend moving forward with an option that could impact the personnel footprint at Hanscom AFB; however, DAF does not anticipate any impacts on the mission footprint at Hanscom as part of the SREO initiative.

