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SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY CONSTRUCTION,
VETERANS AFFAIRS, and RELATED AGENCIES,
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

**STATEMENT OF
VICE ADMIRAL RICKY LEE WILLIAMSON
DEPUTY CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS FOR
FLEET READINESS AND LOGISTICS
U.S. NAVY**

BEFORE THE

**SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY CONSTRUCTION,
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES,**

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

JUNE 16, 2021

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Chairman Heinrich, Ranking Member Boozman, and distinguished members of the Committee, it is an honor to appear before you representing the thousands of Navy Sailors and civilians at our seventy installations worldwide. Thank you for the opportunity to testify about the importance of our infrastructure, its resiliency, and all of the base operating support required to meet the Navy's critical missions.

One innovative way that we look at installation resilience is by viewing our installations as military platforms with assigned missions. We then assess the ability of the installation platforms around the world to accomplish their missions despite deliberate actions by adversaries or natural events that may deny, disrupt, exploit, or destroy the ability of the installation platform to carry out those assigned missions. The operation and maintenance of these platforms, as well as their future development and ability to support missions, require long-term planning, careful investment, and timely program execution.

Energy and climate resiliency are critical, as they are integral to the long term ability of our Navy to support ongoing operations, and ensure our Sailors are equipped to meet adversity. Energy resilience and climate resilience focus on consideration of environmental vulnerabilities in installation master planning, management of natural resources, design and construction standards, utility systems, and emergency management operations. Moving forward, the Navy will continue to prioritize all facets of resilience in installation decisions to ensure the ongoing, highest level of mission capabilities.

The Navy must deliver affordable, sustainable, environmentally compliant and safe shore platforms through improved processes. The Navy's FY22 Military Construction (MILCON) program optimizes Navy installations to enable global logistics and force development, generation and employment from the shore. Targeted sustainment of existing assets and prioritized modernization of our infrastructure will ensure readiness at the lowest overall lifecycle cost. Investments in increased resilience of Navy installations to extreme weather events and sea-level rise will result in long term cost avoidance. Continued use of standard design criteria, increased use of expeditionary standards, and mandated use of standard designs for new construction will reduce delivery costs and increase buying capacity. Finally, in order to optimize the shore footprint and maximize resources, the Navy must consolidate and divest infrastructure that does not contribute directly to Fleet readiness and lethality.

MILCON Execution

The Navy's Fiscal Year 2022 Military Construction request includes a total of \$1,307 million for fifteen projects, which includes \$258 million for Planning and Design, and \$41 million for Unspecified Minor Construction projects. These fifteen projects include five that are overseas totaling \$295 million to enhance global reach and persistent presence of forward-deployed naval forces, and \$485 million in funding associated with follow on increments of previously approved projects.

Infrastructure Sustainment and Restoration

When viewed as platforms, Navy installations missions enable fleet operations, equipment reconstitution, material sustainment, Total Force training, unit recovery, Sailor administrative support, and quality of life programs. Facility Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization (FSRM) investment is necessary to ensure these missions can be carried out. The FSRM program maintains the working order of our facilities inventory and prevents premature condition degradation of mission critical facilities. We are prioritizing investments in our critical readiness infrastructure. Our public shipyards, dry docks, maintenance facilities, and aviation depots are vital national assets. The Shipyard Infrastructure Optimization Plan (SIOP) will deliver efficient and modernized shipyards through upgrading existing dry docks and building new ones, reimagining the physical layout of the shipyards, and replacing antiquated capital equipment with modern machines. Additionally, we are investing in our fleet support infrastructure, the global network of bases and stations, that generates naval power from the shore. Navy Shore leadership is preparing a long-term strategic investment plan that focuses our resources on the locations that best support our future force.

Base Operating Support (BOS) comprises Fleet Operations, Safety and Security, Facility Support, Navy Quality of Life, and Mission Support and Management programs provided to seventy Navy Installations. BOS funding remains essentially flat, creating challenges as new priorities arise each year. BOS funding is prioritized to support increased Fleet operational and installation security requirements.

Additionally, the Navy will address climate change and resiliency within the FSRM program. These projects enhance the Navy's waterfront resiliency against environmental and other vulnerabilities and improve utility infrastructure, increasing the Navy installations' energy and water resiliency, efficiency, and security.

Military Housing

The Navy is committed to providing quality and safe housing for all of our Sailors and their families. Our family housing Fiscal Year budget request supports renovation of Navy Family Housing units as well as continued support of our Public Private partnerships. Over the past two years, all levels of leadership across the Navy have been laser-focused on improving the privatized housing experience for our service members and their families. Installation Commanding Officers are personally involved in resolving privatized housing issues and advocating for military families. Finally, we have made significant progress on near-term efforts to better advocate, increase awareness of the problem resolution process, and increase involvement of the Navy government housing team.

Conclusion

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. We look forward to working with you to continue enhancing and enabling warfighting capability and readiness through optimization and increased resiliency of our installation platforms to support Navy critical missions across the spectrum of competition.