

“FY 2013 Military Construction Budget Request”

Statement

of

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before the

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Military Construction,
Veteran Affairs, and Related Agencies

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Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Bishop, and distinguished Members of the Committee. It's an honor to be here in front of you today. I also want to thank you for your unconditional support and guidance to our Soldiers, Civilians and Families. We are truly a globally engaged Army in 150 countries around the world, with over 95,000 Soldiers deployed and another 96,000 Soldiers forward stationed, conducting a broad range of missions.

By the end of fiscal year 2017, we will decrease our end-strength from 570,000 to 490,000 in the Active Army; from 358,000 to 353,500 in the Army National Guard; and from 206,000 to 205,000 in the Army Reserves. It is imperative for us to sustain a gradual ramp over the next six years that will allow us to take care of our Soldiers, continue to provide forces for Afghanistan, and facilitate reversibility, if necessary. End-strength above 490,000 is funded strictly through overseas contingency operations funding and must be sustained to help mitigate risk as we continue current operations in Afghanistan and simultaneously reset for the future.

Our submitted fiscal year 2013 military construction budget is a 32% reduction from the fiscal year 2012 budget request and includes 103 projects for \$3.6 billion. Comparably, we have reduced the overseas military construction by 56% from the fiscal year 2012 budget request. These reductions, both domestically and overseas, have caused financially prudent project deferrals. Despite these reductions, this request will maintain funding for 90% of our critical infrastructure sustainment, restoration and modernization of failing facilities.

We are currently in the process of conducting a comprehensive Total Army Analysis, which will determine the appropriate size and posture of our Army as we change. We will maximize the use of existing facilities while minimizing military construction in planning and executing the stationing of Army organizations, commands, and agencies.

We did not assume a future BRAC with our budget submission although we fully support the need for a future BRAC. Regarding BRAC 2005, 101 of the 102 obligations were certified, and we will continue to monitor all residuals to ensure we attain 100% closure. This BRAC gave us a one-time savings of \$4.8B and a net annual savings of \$1.0B.

Our domestic military construction funding request includes those with the most critical need. This request contains 47 projects in 16 states. Our largest project is \$192 million construction of a new Cadet barracks at West Point. The last construction of barracks for West Point was 1965, when the Corps of Cadets was all male. Among other requirements, this project will allow for new barracks space and renovation to appropriately accommodate the women in the Corps of Cadets. I note that women comprise 18% of the Corps and this is the first barracks construction since their admittance in 1976.

Additionally, this budget includes funding for Arlington National Cemetery expansion. This includes \$84M for the "Millennium" Project capital improvements and expansion, and \$19M for the planning and design of additional expansion.

There will be a gradual increase in the overall percentage of military construction funds for the National Guard and Army Reserves. Our current request will fund 37 projects in 26 states/territories, which includes two priorities at North Hyde Park and the access control point to Fort Hunter Liggett.

In Europe, we will reduce the amount of forces forward stationed and implement rotational forces for training and combined readiness exercises with our allies. This will serve as a future model, using a tailorable approach with regionally aligned forces and pre-positioned stocks. Since 2006 in Europe, we have closed approximately 100 sites with real property value of more than \$9 billion. From now through 2015, the Army identified another 23 sites for disposal and turn-over. Further reductions and consolidations will come with the inactivation of two brigade combat teams and other enablers from Europe in fiscal year 2013 and fiscal year 2014. There are significant savings and cost avoidances associated with divesting facilities. Consolidation efforts alone at Wiesbaden will yield \$112 million in annual savings.

Though OSD is the final approval authority, the Secretary and I strongly support the funding for replacement of the Landstuhl hospital to support critical casualty care for injured personnel throughout three combatant commands in the Middle East, Africa and Europe.

In the Asia-Pacific, the Korean government will be funding \$10.8 billion for the Yongsan Relocation Plan and Land Partnership Plan for our consolidation efforts. In comparison, this budget only contains one Battalion Headquarters project for Korea at the cost of \$45 million.

To further save, we must reduce the cost of running installations. Since 2003, we have reduced our installation energy consumption by 14% despite increasing personnel by 20%, but we must do more. We will continue to evaluate all energy investment opportunities, to include all Net Zero initiatives and renewable power, in a vetted cost benefit analysis to determine long-term benefits and cost savings. For example, we have and continue to expand metering programs on our installations.

I'd like to leave you with one last thought – Sequestration is not in the best interest of our national security. The impact to the Army could be an additional 100,000 in cuts to end strength, on top of the 80,000 we are already reducing. This would result in severe reductions in the National Guard and Army Reserves in addition to the Active Component, and will significantly decrease what the Army can do for the Joint Force.

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee: Thank you again for the opportunity to speak here today. This committee affords our All-Volunteer Army to be the most decisive land force in the world, and we could not do it without the support of Congress. The strength of our Nation is our Army. The strength of our Army is our Soldiers. The strength of our Soldiers is our Families. This is what makes us *Army Strong!*

I look forward to your questions.