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HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION SUBCOMMITTEE

STATEMENT OF  
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BEFORE THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION (MILCON) SUBCOMMITTEE  
ON U.S. PACIFIC COMMAND MILCON  
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## ***Introduction***

Chairman Culberson, Mr. Bishop, Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today on the military construction (MILCON) needs within the Asia-Pacific region and United States Pacific Command's (USPACOM) Area of Responsibility (AOR). I look forward to providing my assessment of the strategic environment in the Asia-Pacific Region. The President has directed his national security team to make America's "presence and mission in the Asia Pacific a top priority." The testimony that follows will highlight the opportunities we seek to illuminate and address the challenges we must overcome to sustain U.S. leadership in this critical area of the world.

## ***Strategic Environment in the Asia Pacific***

The security of the USPACOM AOR is a vital national interest of the U.S.—a fact underscored by the President's hosting of last year's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) leaders meeting. The region contains the world's three largest economies and supports over \$10 trillion of annual bi-lateral merchandise trade, including more than \$1 trillion of U.S. commerce.

The Asia Pacific also hosts the world's largest populations and largest militaries, and includes three nuclear armed states (excluding the U.S.) as well as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) which aspires to be a nuclear power. While the Asia Pacific has remained relatively peaceful and stable for the past six decades, myriad challenges to its future security will try U.S. resolve, raise the magnitude of our

relationships with our five treaty allies and many strategic partners, and test USPACOM as a principle guarantor of security in the region.

Multiple security challenges confront the U.S. across this region, including:

- Defense of the homeland, U.S. territories and compact states in the Pacific.
- Strengthening alliances and partnerships and the need to continuously manage and optimize U.S. alliances and regional partnerships. In particular focusing on the advancement of the relationship with India.
- China's military modernization and its active development of capabilities in the cyber and space domains. Such recent shifts in capability create uncertainty among China's regional neighbors regarding its current and long-term intentions.
- Three nuclear armed states, including Russia, China, and India, combined with North Korea's nuclear aspirations and the regional threat of WMD proliferation.
- Numerous transnational threats, ranging from proliferation, trafficking of narcotics and persons to piracy and the persistent reoccurrence of natural and manmade disasters
- Challenges to freedom of access to, and security within, maritime and air domains, and space and cyberspace, by both state and non-state actors.

By contrast, the Asia Pacific also affords immense opportunities. Reinforcing already strong ally and partner associations, the potential for improving the cooperative and constructive security environment in the region is high. Such cooperative engagement activities leverage USPACOM posture and presence and contribute to

advancing military self-sufficiency and security contributions by our partners in the region.

MILCON enables the strategic flexibility, crisis response, and deterrence required to fulfill commitments to regional U.S. Allies and enhances security for the entire Asia Pacific. Specifically, MILCON provides necessary facilities for new weapon systems and supports the Services' efforts to become even more efficient and effective. MILCON also provides warfighters and their families quality-of-life facilities and renovates existing facilities that are beyond their useful lives.

The current focus of USPACOM MILCON requirements remains in Northeast Asia. This is due to extensive basing and access in Japan and the Republic of Korea (ROK). It should be noted, however, that USPACOM's input to the most recent Global Posture Review identified a need to redistribute postured forces closer to Southeast Asia and South Asia, in order to more efficiently meet the force presence and response demands of those Asia-Pacific sub-regions. This testimony provides a brief update on the status of USPACOM FY2012 MILCON as found in the recently passed budget. It also describes highlights of the FY2013 program, including details on the Defense Policy Review Initiative (DPRI) and ROK Transformation. Finally, an overview of sustainment projects intended to improve readiness and quality of life at various installations that support USPACOM operations is submitted.

### ***Fiscal Year 2012 MILCON***

MILCON is an important enabler of ready forces in the Pacific. Because of this Subcommittee's support in the past, the USPACOM MILCON program continues to

meet transformation, operational readiness, and quality-of-life requirements. The Service Components are aggressively executing the MILCON budget provided in FY2012 and have awarded or submitted for bid over \$1 billion to date. MILCON has enabled significant capability enhancements, such as transforming Guam into the hub for Air Force strike and refueling assets in the Asia Pacific and improving facilities for the bed down of the MV-22, Joint Strike Fighter, transiting carriers and fuel and logistics support capabilities.

### ***Fiscal Year 2013 MILCON***

For FY2013 MILCON, USPACOM will request funding for facilities and infrastructure to directly support U.S. military forces and their families. MILCON requests in the USPACOM AOR are categorized into three broad areas:

- Defense Policy Review Initiative
- ROK Transformation
- Sustainment

### ***Defense Policy Review Initiative***

Rapid response in the Asia-Pacific region hinges on flexibility and forward basing of military forces. Despite the continuance of discussions over unresolved elements of the Defense Policy Review Initiative (DPRI), the alliance remains strong and a powerful strategic asset in the region. It is important to note that of the 19 separate elements contained in DPRI, the vast majority are on track and progressing.

**Guam.** The National Defense Authorization Act 2012 restricts the use of all Government of Japan funding and any FY2012 funding for the Guam realignment until DoD provides additional details and plans to the Congress. The DOD is actively working with Congress to answer these requests. Despite these restrictions, the FY 2013 budget requests the second increment of funding for the North Ramp Parking project on Andersen Air Base which was authorized in FY 2010. The project is currently under construction and requires the next funding increment in FY2013 for completion.

### ***ROK Transformation***

The U.S.-ROK alliance remains strong and is critical to U.S. strategy and military force posture in Northeast Asia and the region. In addition, the Alliance is transforming to ensure it continues to effectively maintain stability and security on the Korean Peninsula while it matures as a contributor to regional security. USPACOM posture is also transforming in the ROK and entails multiple efforts. Projects for the Land Partnership Plan and the Yongsan Relocation Plan include moving U.S. troops out of downtown Seoul, returning the majority of Yongsan Army Garrison to the ROK government, and consolidating U.S. personnel into two primary hubs south of Seoul. This effort sustains a strong U.S. combat presence on the Peninsula while reducing force presence in major urban centers. This realignment is funded largely by the ROK.

### ***Sustainment MILCON: Readiness***

In addition to the MILCON required to implement transformation initiatives in the Pacific, USPACOM Service Components continue efforts to sustain readiness at their major installations—those facilities with a military-civilian population of more than 2,500

personnel. In order to execute this initiative, Service Components in the Pacific seek a total of \$929 million for FY2013. The items included below are the significant MILCON requests for this fiscal year.

***U.S. Army Pacific (USARPAC).*** USARPAC encompasses 10 major installations throughout the USPACOM AOR, to include locations in Alaska, Hawaii, ROK, and Japan. It seeks \$188.3 million for FY2013 readiness related MILCON programs which will help ensure USARPAC soldiers are ready to conduct full spectrum operations. Amongst other projects, USARPAC is requesting \$29 million to construct an automated Infantry Platoon Battle Course at the Pohakuloa Training Area in Hawaii. Separate from ROK transformation, they are asking for \$45 million to build a company operations facility in Camp Humphreys Korea to bed down a Chemical Company. In addition, these soldiers require two Modified Record Fire Ranges at a cost of \$18 million at Ft Wainwright and Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska.

***U.S. Pacific Fleet (PACFLT).*** PACFLT operates five major naval facilities throughout the AOR and has operational forces postured at several installations on the West coast of the U.S. mainland that support USPACOM. PACFLT installations provide a critical forward presence for the world's largest fleet command and include the Japanese homeport of the only forward-deployed aircraft carrier. Readiness MILCON requirements total \$395.3 million in FY2013, and are composed, in part, of \$280 million for the second increment of the Explosive Handling Wharf at Bangor, Washington, to significantly improve the handling of strategic weapons systems. Additionally, Naval Air Station Whidbey Island and Naval Base Coronado require \$6.3 million and \$2.5 million respectively to build flight simulator trainers for the new EA-18G Growler and the H-60

Sea Hawk. Projects supporting new weapons platforms include a \$14.8 million Broad Area Maritime Surveillance (BAMS) unmanned aerial vehicle maintenance and training facility at Lemoore, California, and a \$59.4 million LCS training facility in San Diego. Finally, a request for \$1.7 million would fund an electrical system upgrade at Diego Garcia.

***U.S. Pacific Air Forces (PACAF).*** Seven major PACAF installations are located in the region, encompassing Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, Japan and Korea. Through this web of air bases PACAF provides USPACOM integrated expeditionary Air Force capabilities to conduct their vital peacetime and wartime missions. For the last several years the Air Force has invested heavily in Guam to make it the hub for strike and refueling assets in the Asia Pacific and a premier regional training center. In alignment with an Air Force wide decision to significantly reduce FY2013 MILCON funding, PACAF is not asking for additional projects this fiscal year. They will, however, continue with initiatives in the coming years.

***U.S. Marine Forces Pacific (MARFORPAC).*** MARFORPAC forces operate and deploy from nine major installations located in Arizona, California, Hawaii, and Japan. These installations are the launching point for forward deployed combat ready Marine forces both ashore and afloat. MARFORPAC expects MILCON projects supporting readiness to cost \$253.7 million. Specific requirements include \$29.3 million for a Security Operations Complex and an aircraft loading apron at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, \$88.1 million for construction at Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base to support the arrival of the MV-22, and finally, \$97.3 million to construct a MV-22 hangar and staging area at Marine Corps Base Hawaii. MARFORPAC needs all of these projects to

project and sustain U.S. combat power into the Pacific and maintain force readiness for global commitments outside of USPACOM.

**Special Operations Command (SOCOM).** Special Operations Forces play an important role in counter terrorism operations, theater security cooperation engagements with allies and partner nations, and numerous other important missions. In support of these roles, SOCOM is requesting \$24.3 million for a waterfront operations facility in Hawaii.

**Defense Logistics Agency (DLA).** The breadth of the Pacific AOR magnifies the importance of providing and sustaining a sufficient forward-based logistics infrastructure. The services and material that DLA provides to the Pacific is a critical enabler. DLA requests \$67.5 million in Guam for the installation of 15.7 miles of fuel lines to increase current capabilities at Andersen Air Force Base.

### ***Sustainment MILCON: Quality of Life***

Quality of Life for active duty soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, and their dependents continues to be a primary focus and retention factor for these Americans serving overseas—often thousands of miles and many time zones away from family and loved ones. In FY2013, \$777 million will ensure the Services can provide adequate housing, medical facilities, and schools for these men and women and their families.

**Bachelor Housing.** For FY2013, the Services request \$265.3 million for five barracks projects. The Army requests \$181 million for three new barracks projects in Hawaii. The Navy requests \$76.1 million and \$8.2 million for barracks in California and Japan respectively.

**Family Housing.** Utilizing Military Family Housing Privatization Initiative (MHPI) and MILCON, the Services have renovated and replaced antiquated housing throughout the USPACOM AOR. While MHPI has accelerated the pace of modernization at U.S. bases, Family Housing Construction is still required overseas in Japan, Korea, and other locations where privatization is not authorized.

In FY2013, USPACOM requests \$149.7 million for family housing. Specifics for each Service are as follows: The Air Force seeks \$79.6 million to improve homes at Misawa and Kadena Air Bases in Japan. The Navy requests \$50.7 million to improve homes at Yokosuka and Atsugi, Naval Bases in Japan and in Guam. The Marines request \$19.4 million to completely renovate homes and provide playgrounds at Iwakuni Air Station in Japan.

**Medical Facilities.** High quality medical facilities continue to be a USPACOM priority. In response, the Air Force requests \$47.6 million for clinic additions at Kunsan and Osan Air Bases for FY2013.

**Schools.** A high-quality education for the children of our service members stationed in foreign countries prepares them for success in a dynamic, global environment; modern and well maintained facilities are critical to the education these children. Therefore, the Department of Defense Education Activity seeks \$314.3 million for aging facilities in Japan and Korea. In Japan, the Services will replace schools at Kadena, Zukeran and Sasebo. In Korea, they will renovate the high school at Camp Zama and replace the elementary school at Osan Air Base.

***Family Support and Recreation.*** Providing a variety of recreational and family support activities is important to USPACOM. However, there are no MILCON projects for FY2013.

### ***Conclusion***

USPACOM forces provide security throughout a vast and complex Asia-Pacific region and are engaged extensively across the AOR, enabled by supporting infrastructure that these MILCON investments seek to sustain and modernize. This Subcommittee's longstanding support for the first-rate facilities in use by the 330,000 men and women of USPACOM enable these forces to protect and defend the homeland while supporting U.S. interests throughout the Asia Pacific.