RECORD VERSION

STATEMENT BY

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Introduction

Chairwoman Hirono, Ranking Member Sullivan, and distinguished members of the subcommittee, thank you for this opportunity to present the state of Army's readiness, and for your continued support and commitment to the Army's soldiers, families, civilians, and soldiers for life. The committee's leadership has been invaluable in our shared pledge to successfully defend our Nation and its interests as we work to improve our installations and support the Army now and in the future.

As old threats evolve and new ones emerge, especially in the Indo-Pacific region, the Army is making decisions and prioritizing investments that not only contribute to current readiness, as reflected Army's Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 budget request, but will also pay dividends on the battlefields of 2030 and beyond. The Army's bedrock priorities of people, readiness and modernization guide our strategies and investments. For the Army, people are at the core of everything we do and installations are the foundational support for people, especially when it comes to soldier readiness. Installations are where we train, work, learn and live. Therefore, as we build the Army of the future, we must make strategic investments in our installations, making the best use of innovative technologies, and applying streamlined processes to accelerate improvements and promote readiness. The future of installations is now.

Putting "People First"

Providing high quality housing, barracks, and Child Development Centers (CDCs) for soldiers and families is essential to readiness. Modern amenities in housing and barracks and access to high quality childcare helps us attract recruits and retain soldiers and their families. We are demonstrating our commitment to achieve these quality of life goals in a number of ways, as reflected in our FY 2024 budget request. For example, we currently plan to invest over $11 billion in the next decade to improve barracks across the Army. We are committed to ensuring the availability of quality childcare by planning for construction of new childcare centers in multiple locations. And

we are holding private housing providers accountable for delivering high quality housing to soldiers and families. While we can't deliver the full returns on these investments overnight, we can provide consistent and enduring resources to continuously improve the quality of life for soldiers and families, caregivers, and survivors.

Army Infrastructure Investments

The Army remains committed to improving our infrastructure and addressing deferred maintenance needs. We are grateful to Congress for funding Facilities Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization (FSRM) and Military Construction (MILCON) in the FY 2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) and Omnibus Appropriations legislation. The FSRM funding will enable the Army to increase sustainment to 92% of its requirement for FY 2023, thereby slowing the pace of facility degradation. There is a direct correlation between the condition of facilities and readiness. As such, the importance of continually investing in facilities cannot be overstated.

The FY 2023 Omnibus Appropriations legislation also added critical MILCON construction funding for barracks and other construction priorities. This funding will advance new projects and address project cost overruns resulting from increases in the costs of building materials. Though inflation rates are leveling off, construction industry costs continue to out-pace core inflation. If Army MILCON construction projects end up costing more than the amount authorized and appropriated for FY 2024, the Army will adjust project scope, reprogram savings from other projects if available, or program the costs-to-complete in future years programs.

The Army incorporates the latest advances in sustainable and electrified building practices to enhance facility resilience and to reduce our carbon emissions footprint. We are developing pilot projects to explore the feasibility of incorporating low embodied carbon materials, including mass timber, green steel and concrete, to curb CO2 emissions from buildings, and minimize lifecycle maintenance costs and utility bills.

Also, in accordance with Administration and Department of Defense (DoD) directives, we are beginning to upgrade existing buildings for electrification and planning for construction of new fully electrified buildings. These buildings are expected to result in lower total energy demand and reduced energy costs by incorporating new and more efficient technologies and design strategies. Because of the authorities given to us by Congress, the realized savings from these improvements can then be directed to people and readiness programs.

Army Housing

The Army continues to focus on the oversight of our private housing providers to ensure quality services are delivered, consistent with Congressional guidance and authorities. We are addressing the remaining elements of the FY 2020 NDAA's Military Housing Privatization Reform and, with respect to Army-owned housing, we are implementing the FY 2021 NDAA's extension of these reforms to government-owned housing. We are also developing policies to address the FY 2023 NDAA's housing-related directives. Specifically, we will review the Housing Requirements Market Analyses processes, brief Congress on any ground lease extensions (GLEs) and consult as the law requires on demolition of homes at Fort McNair.

With the help of Congress, we are making great strides in improving the Army-owned housing inventory (located primarily overseas). MILCON housing projects are awarded and in progress in Baumholder and Vilseck, Germany; Vicenza, Italy; Camps Humphreys and Walker, Korea; Kwajalein Atoll; and Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico. All of these projects will significantly improve the quality of life for our soldiers and families in these locations.

Privatized Housing Update

Ground leases are the foundational legal documents governing the obligations of private housing providers who own and manage family housing on leased lands. The

Army recently developed revised ground lease language that specifically outlines the consequences of non-compliance by project companies. The new language reinforces the premise that project companies are charged at all times with having full knowledge, along with the obligation, to comply with all of the requirements of the ground lease and the associated Property Management Agreement for keeping homes properly maintained, and to correct any non-compliance expeditiously. Additional changes to the ground lease language include the application of Davis-Bacon Act wages, as required by Department of Labor regulations, the Code of Federal Regulations, applicable Executive Orders, and Federal Acquisition Regulations.

Additional financing through third-party investment helps establish a more secure operational footprint for privatized housing projects to remain financially viable. The Army is exploring the use of GLEs and project refinancing as tools to facilitate the private housing providers' recapitalization of housing inventory and infrastructure where the Army deems it necessary and appropriate to do so. The Army will use new reporting requirements detailed in the FY 2023 NDAA to brief Congress before proceeding with GLEs. For two installations where the private housing provider does not have adequate reserves or opportunities to obtain third-party financing, the Army is seeking in our FY 2024 budget request MILCON appropriations to meet immediate housing improvement needs. As we assess our future needs within the privatized housing portfolio, additional equity contributions may be programmed in future years.

When it comes to privatized housing oversight, the Army conducts quality assurance inspections for all changes of occupancy, and to confirm that all life, health, and safety maintenance work orders have been completed satisfactorily. Also, with the help of third-party inspectors, the Army is fulfilling the FY 2020 NDAA mandate to conduct comprehensive inspections of 100% of the privatized housing inventory. Third-party comprehensive housing inspections were completed at Fort Meade, Maryland in August 2022 as the Army's second installation in the 100% inspection pilot program. As with Army's first pilot inspection at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, Fort Meade's overall housing inventory was rated in good to excellent condition. The 100% inspection program

continued in April of 2023 with Fort Gordon, Georgia as the next installation to go through the comprehensive inspection process. Additionally, in FY 2023, the Army is continuing to conduct financial audits of privatized housing programs with independent third-party experts. To date, the Army has completed 21 reviews of 34 projects, with six additional reviews ongoing.

Implementation of the Tenant Bill of Rights, set forth in the FY 2020 NDAA, is improving service delivery and restoring trust between private housing companies and residents by clarifying rights and responsibilities and giving residents a more powerful voice. We have worked hard to ensure that residents know where to turn for assistance and how best to engage Installation leadership and Army housing offices to advocate on their behalf. Of the 37 disputes that were initiated since the Army created the Tenant Bill of Rights dispute resolution process, 33 were resolved informally and only four required formal adjudication under the process.

As part of the Army's commitment to oversight and accountability, the Commanding General of the Army Installation Management Command holds weekly meetings with private housing companies and stakeholders throughout the installations community to review the physical and financial conditions of privatized housing and to receive updates on the status of any displaced families. The Army has standardized the metrics in its Incentive Performance Management Plans and will deny payment of fees if standards are not met. The Plans contain maintenance management metrics used to assess and to reward improved work order response times and achieve better quality, thereby increasing resident satisfaction. Metrics are reviewed and updated annually to ensure it is achieving desired outcomes. The Army's FY 2024 budget request includes funding to continue rigorous oversight of private housing providers.

Barracks / Unaccompanied Housing

The Army is planning to invest over $1 billion per year in FSRM and MILCON for Unaccompanied Housing across all components - the Active Army, Army National

Guard and Army Reserve - as reflected in the FY 2024 budget and the Future Years Defense Program (FYDP). The Army continues to implement solutions to ensure every soldier is afforded the opportunity to live in a safe and high quality environment. These solutions include increasing investments across the FYDP; addressing deficits through MILCON; prioritizing restoration and modernization projects at installations with the greatest need; maximizing sustainment funding to address accelerated facility deterioration; managing room assignments to inventory; and evaluating privatization opportunities at select installations. To obtain soldiers' perspectives of barracks conditions, the Army conducted a survey of 40,000 soldiers residing in Permanent Party Barracks across five installations. The results of this survey will inform future decisions on improving soldiers' living conditions.

Innovation and modernization are at the forefront of the Army barracks construction program. The Army is using new construction standards for barracks to enhance quality of life for soldiers. For grades E1 to E4, the barracks standard includes a four-bedroom, two-bathroom module with a living room, full kitchen, and easy access to laundry facilities. For E5-E6, the barracks standard includes a two-bedroom, one bathroom module with a living room, full kitchen, and easy access to laundry facilities. Several barracks pilot projects are currently scheduled for construction and renovation to reflect these new building efficiencies.

Army Lodging

The Army's privatized lodging inventory consists of 12,275 rooms across 40 installations. Over the past 13 years, nearly $1.2 billion in private sector capital has been invested to recapitalize these facilities, with one out of three rooms having been newly built. In November 2022, a new 69-room hotel opened its doors at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. New hotels for Fort Bragg, North Carolina and Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas are currently in design. The Army is assessing ways to accelerate the construction of additional hotels.

Guest satisfaction scores at privatized hotels increased for the ninth straight year. The program continues to meet the Army's mission by providing safe, affordable, and high-quality on-post lodging for Army soldiers and their families.

The Army's overseas direct-run lodging inventory consists of 1,857 rooms across 11 installations. Six Army Lodging projects for overseas bases, totaling over $311 million are in design or construction. Specifically, new facilities are planned for Camp Walker, Korea; Baumholder, Germany; Camp Humphreys, Korea; Hohenfels, Germany; and Camp Zama, Japan; with an additional 71 rooms slated for renovation at Camp Humphreys.

Delivering on Child Care

Another important part of taking care of people is providing access to affordable quality childcare, particularly in communities where availability of off-post care is limited. The Army's child care strategy includes: increasing and sustaining child care infrastructure, recruiting and retaining additional quality child care providers, sustaining off-post care options, and exploring new initiatives and partnerships. However, ongoing staffing challenges related to recruitment and retention continue to limit child care availability at some locations, despite recent Army pay increases starting at $17.39 per hour, plus bonuses and other incentives.

The Army appreciates the committee's support of CDCs by funding seven new CDCs in FY 2021-2023 and providing additional funding for planning and design for future construction.

Army Historic Housing

The Army continues to work with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) to manage our inventory of historic homes in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA). The Army successfully worked with the

ACHP to complete the 2020 "Army Program Comment for Inter-War Era Historic Housing, Associated Buildings and Structures, and Landscape Features (1919-1940)." This landmark agreement allows Army to undertake improvements to more than 3,200 inter-war era historic homes in cost effective ways, such as through the use of imitative substitute building materials.

The Army also worked successfully with the ACHP to develop a similar Program Comment for Vietnam War era housing (1963-1975), approved by the ACHP on March 17, 2023. Thanks to excellent collaboration between the Army and the historic preservation community, the Army now has a programmatic solution in place for 95% of our historic homes. Programmatic solutions save the Army millions of dollars by streamlining the NHPA compliance process, delivering consistent preservation outcomes, and providing the flexibility to improve the quality of life, health, and safety of Army families. The Army Program Comments provide flexible management options that ensure the long-term preservation of historic Army housing while maintaining these structures as functional real property assets.

Safety and Occupational Health

Ensuring our soldiers and civilians are ready to support the Army mission requires continual investment in proactive injury and illness prevention. The Army's Safety and Occupational Health Management System moves us from a reactive to a proactive approach to safety.

This innovative safety management system will include comprehensive oversight of each command's and installation's safety and occupational health programs. We are also evaluating the entire Army safety enterprise to best support the Army of 2030.

To ensure facilities are safe and healthy for use by our workforce and military families, Army commanders are evaluating facilities with a specific focus on health and safety of housing and CDCs. The Army is inspecting all Army CDCs to identify any

safety issues, including the presence of lead, asbestos, and mold, that adversely impact health. The Army is improving training of our safety and health professional workforce to ensure they retain and enhance technical competencies to better inform commanders of health and safety risks and to provide recommendations for mitigating those risks.

Building A Resilient Force Through Partnerships

To support our "People First" strategy, the Army is focused on promoting resilience across the Army enterprise, beginning with our installations. This will ensure that Army facilities and the people working on them can adapt to new threats in a contested, multi-domain environment. Building resilience across the force requires collaboration with defense communities to identify common challenges that exist both inside and outside the fence line, and to work with third parties to develop solutions.

The Army continually advances new technologies by engaging with federal and private-sector research and development communities. For example, over thirty active technology demonstrations are underway at Army installations through the DoD's Environmental Security Technology Certification Program, and Army installations are also participating in pilot energy resilience projects with the Department of Energy. Congressional funding for Army research labs has also benefited installations' ability to test and leverage resilient technologies. For example, in FY 2021, Congress funded the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Engineering Research and Development Center to facilitate the demonstration of a "flow battery" at Fort Carson, Colorado, in partnership with industry and the local Colorado Springs Utility. Potential benefits of flow batteries include low projected lifecycle costs, long duration discharge with daily discharge capability, multiple times longer life-span compared to lithium-ion storage, easier material sourcing, and improved safety. The battery will be commissioned later this year and tested through 2026.

We are also working with the Defense Innovation Unit (DIU) to utilize Other Transaction Authority to test energy technology prototypes on Army installations and

more rapidly adopt those which are ultimately successful. In FY 2023, DIU issued an "area of interest" call to seek industry participation in developing large-scale geothermal electricity generation plants at installations which may have favorable geological conditions, such as Fort Wainwright and Fort Irwin. Geothermal energy could provide thermal and electric carbon-free, continuous, reliable, and resilient power, regardless of weather conditions.

Army Climate Strategy Implementation

The Army's mission to fight and win our nation's wars remains unchanged. Climate change makes this mission more challenging. The Army must proactively address climate risks to maintain our strategic edge in a climate-altered world. The Army Climate Strategy will put us on a path toward building a more modern, resilient and capable force of the future. By reducing our reliance on fuel, the Climate Strategy also minimizes the vulnerability of our soldiers, our physical assets, and operational supply lines. Nothing we are doing to address climate risks comes at the expense of readiness. To the contrary, climate resilience is a key part of readiness.

Microgrids are a central feature of Army's resilience planning. Microgrids, which can include on-site power generation, controllable distribution systems and energy storage, promote resilience by islanding on-base power in the event of an off-base power interruption. We plan to install microgrids on every installation by 2035, with a goal of combining these systems with enough carbon-free energy generation and battery storage to self-sustain critical missions at all Army installations by 2040. Currently, the Army has 28 operational microgrids, with nine under construction and 18 in design.

To help inform how our installations and facilities will specifically mitigate or adapt to the effects of climate change, the Army is moving forward on Installation Climate Resilience Plans (ICRP) as required by Title 10 U.S. Code § 2864. ICRPs incorporate data from the Defense Climate Assessment Tool (originally developed by

Army) among other relevant data sources to identify a specific installation's vulnerability to climate change impacts based on the geographic region where that installation is located. The ICRPs are valuable tools to inform installation leaders and planners about location-specific short- and long-term climate impacts. This information helps us better understand risk and identify mitigation actions that will protect the Army's ability to train and deploy under climate-altered conditions. The Army has completed ICRPs for Fort Carson, Colorado, and Anniston Army Depot, Alabama, and has ICRPs underway for Forts Greely and Wainwright, Alaska, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and Fort Bliss, Texas. ICRPs will be initiated in FY 2023 for Fort Hood, Texas, and Fort Stewart, Georgia.

When it comes to the operational force, we are examining how a reduction in energy usage can enhance warfighting capability. Working closely with industry partners, the Army is engineering and testing anti-idle retrofit kits for all tactical wheeled vehicles, with procurement beginning in FY 2025. Intelligent anti-idle controls reduce engine run-times by up to 50%, reduce fuel consumption by up to 30%, improve silent watch capability, and reduce maintenance costs. The Army is also developing and testing technologies for hybrid-electric tactical vehicles, with a goal to field hybrid drive tactical vehicles by 2035 and fully electric tactical vehicles by 2050. These efforts will enhance operational capability and mitigate risks to soldiers through reduced acoustic and thermal signature, silent mobility, increased sprint speed, extended range, and lower fuel consumption, resulting in significantly reduced supply line vulnerabilities. Early technology demonstrators of hybrid-electric vehicles are in the testing stages.

Battlefield charging remains a challenge and we will not advance any technologies that put the mission or our soldiers' safety at risk by having insufficient power to operate equipment or vehicles. To address this challenge, a coordinated, Army-wide effort led by Army Futures Command in collaboration with industry is developing technologies for efficient and effective battlefield charging capabilities. In the meantime, the Army is exploring opportunities to use the single charge of electric tactical vehicles for discrete missions so that we can better understand the observed operational benefits.

In the realm of more energy efficient aircraft, the Army's UH-60 Blackhawk, AH-64 Apache, and the Future Attack Reconnaissance Aircraft will be retrofitted with the T901 Improved Turbine Engine (ITE). The ITE is expected to reduce fuel consumption by 13% to 25%, decrease maintenance by 30%, and provide 50% increased shaft horsepower. This will enable full-payload aircraft to fly higher, in hotter temperatures, and for extended ranges. In March 2022, the first engine began testing.

The Army is partnering with the Joint Force to develop and standardize advanced high-performance, high-capacity batteries to power vehicle, aircraft, weapons, and soldier systems. Army-led efforts to create a family of advanced standard batteries is intended to simplify supply chain issues and address obsolescence in legacy systems. To reduce reliance on foreign battery material supplies, the Army is participating in a government-wide effort to strengthen domestic supply chains and mitigate critical materials vulnerability. This includes maximizing the authorities and funding under Title III of the Defense Production Act where possible. We are also exploring opportunities to develop substitutions for these critical elements, including by partnering with industry as battery technologies advance at a rapid pace.

Installation Energy and Water Resilience

Army installations and the critical missions they support—power projection, force mobilization, and command and control—rely predominantly on commercial utilities for energy and water. Energy and water supporting our installations must be readily available, and the sources and methods of delivery must be able to withstand attack—whether from grid or equipment failures, cyberattacks, or extreme weather events and natural disasters—and recover from interruption to ensure seamless mission execution. Resilience requires coordinated action and planning to anticipate, prepare for, and adapt to changing conditions.

The Army's Installation Energy and Water Resilience Policy empowers installation senior commanders to set energy and water requirements to support the critical missions on their bases. Through development of Installation Energy and Water Plans (IEWPs), the Army assesses risks and opportunities, generates risk mitigation options, and implements prioritized resilience and efficiency solutions at all installations. The Army has completed 148 of the 189 IEWPs that are expected to be completed, and is on track to complete the remaining plans in FY 2023.

Resilience capabilities must be validated at Army installations through semi-annual routine and annual full-scale testing of all backup systems that support critical missions. The Army conducts Black Start Exercises to test installations' ability to respond to and restore power upon an electric grid outage. These exercises have been completed at six bases and planning is underway to execute these exercises at five additional locations in FY 2023: Fort Carson, Colorado; Fort Drum, New York; Fort Campbell, Kentucky; Fort Riley, Kansas; and U.S. Army Garrison Bavaria, Europe. These exercises are the best way to test the inter-relationships of systems across an installation and determine how well they function in the event of an outage. These exercises are invaluable for identifying and resolving previously undetected problems such as generator circuit connection gaps, or malfunctioning equipment.

The Army is also promoting energy efficiency through the *Resilient Energy Funding for Readiness and Modernization, or REFoRM*, program, authorized by Congress in Title 10 U.S. Code § 2912, *Availability and Use of Energy Cost Savings.* REFoRM allows the Army to direct energy cost savings back to the installations to reinvest in energy programs and a variety of quality of life programs. Army has realized over $100 million in energy cost savings since REFoRM's inception.

Water plays an essential role in Army missions such as industrial base manufacturing, equipment maintenance and operations, facility heating and cooling, firefighting, and training land management. In FY 2022, Army installations used over 37 billion gallons of water. This number is down from previous years, reflecting a deliberate

water conservation effort. The Army continues to protect water from ever-increasing man-made and natural threats, such as drought. Many Army installations lead the way in water sustainability and resilience. For example, in FY 2022, the Army preserved drinking water by capturing, treating, and re-utilizing nearly 690 million gallons from alternative sources such as rainwater harvesting systems at Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico, and re-treated wash water at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. However, as environmental stresses worsen, the Army must continuously consider and improve how installations access, use, and re-use water, in partnership with utilities, communities, regional partners, industry, academia, and research institutions.

Alternative Financing

As the Army looks at ways to mitigate vulnerabilities, we must consider the full suite of resourcing and acquisition authorities. This includes utilizing all available appropriated fund programs, such as Operations and Maintenance, MILCON, and the specific subset of MILCON, the Energy Resilience Conservation and Investment Program. The threats which necessitate resilience planning do not start or stop at the fence line and we must partner with communities, utilities, energy service companies and state and local governments to address these threats. Therefore, in addition to appropriated funds, third-party financing resources are also a critical component for addressing vulnerabilities. This approach, which includes real estate out grants, energy savings performance contracts (ESPCs), utility energy savings contracts (UESCs), utilities infrastructure privatization and power purchase agreements, is invaluable to help the Army address utility vulnerabilities and resilience.

In FY 2022, the Army updated its ESPC and UESC policy to maximize use of these contracts as a part of an overall strategic approach to sustain, restore, and modernize facilities, to address the facilities maintenance backlog, and to achieve efficiency and resilience objectives. In FY 2022, the Army awarded four ESPCs and five UESC projects totaling $230 million, delivering the Army 2.234 megawatts of onsite

carbon-free energy generation. The Army is working to award over a dozen ESPCs and UESCs in FY 2023, with more to follow in FY 2024 and beyond.

The Army's Office of Energy Initiatives (OEI) is currently working with nearly thirty installations to rapidly develop large-scale, privately financed energy generation and storage projects, many of which include microgrid configurations. OEI collaborates with industry and other private investors to identify mutual needs and leverages those opportunities to meet the Army's requirements. To date, eleven installations host OEI-developed projects, providing a combined 325 megawatts of energy production capacity, secured through $627 million of private sector investment, with anticipated life-cycle operations and maintenance values of $603 million. In addition, the Army has entered into real estate agreements for two projects that will begin construction in FY 2023, and we are in the final stages of negotiations for three additional projects.

The Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot Program (DCIP) has been an invaluable tool to facilitate meaningful infrastructure planning between installations and defense communities. DCIP funds community resilience projects such as the FY 2022 $14.9 million grant awarded to the City of Boiling Springs Lake, North Carolina to restore four dams damaged by 2018 Hurricane Florence. This project will mitigate flood risks to the community and to the Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point, providing win-win benefits. Similarly, a $12.8 million grant to the Alaska Energy Authority to extend electric transmission lines will help offset the cost of expanding electricity access to Alaskans, while also making Fort Wainwright's Black Rapids Training Site less reliant on standalone diesel generators, thereby reducing fuel consumption and associated emissions.

In FY 2022, installations partnered with local communities and the Office of Local Defense Cooperation Communities on approved grants totaling $1.6 million for Military Installation Resilience projects at Fort Knox, Kentucky; Fort Drum, New York; Fort Bliss, Texas; and Camp Atterbury, Indiana. Projects range from addressing potential encroachment, physical assessments of critical defects in water lines, and other

resiliency and design studies for water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure as well as energy systems.

The Army will continue to explore beneficial partnerships to strengthen installation resilience. On March 15, 2023, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Edison Electric Institute as a framework to exchange information with utilities, and implement best practices to ensure a secure and reliable energy supply for military installations, as well as surrounding communities.

Intergovernmental Support Agreements to Enhance Readiness

The Army is aggressively using Intergovernmental Support Agreements (IGSAs) to obtain municipal services, resulting in cost and manpower savings to the Army. The Army currently has 122 IGSAs in place, including agreements for environmental services, firefighting services, waste management, and dozens of other contracts to procure local government support. Most recently, the Army joined with its sister services to sign the first-of-its-kind state-wide IGSA with the Texas Department of Transportation to provide operation and maintenance support for on-base roads, stormwater drainage, traffic lights, and bulk materials purchases. The ten-year IGSA contract includes Forts Hood and Bliss and is expected to save the Army over $3.78 million per year.

Environmental Stewardship

The Army's Environmental Program helps maintain access to testing and training lands in a variety of ways. Army biologists have been managing installation land and natural habitats for 50 years in with no impact on mission, while at the same time protecting species where possible. Part of this success is attributable to the Army's Compatible Use Buffer Program (ACUB), which is marking its 20th anniversary, and the related Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program. These programs authorize Army to use innovative tools to provide flexibility for training and testing while carefully managing endangered

species and other natural resources, in partnership with state and federal agencies and private landowners. One major success story is the progress toward recovery of the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker in the Southeastern U.S. Based on the Army's careful management practices, the red-cockaded woodpecker is being proposed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for down listing from endangered to threatened.

ACUB is also a critical tool to protect Army lands from nearby encroachment. To date, the Army, through ACUB, has preserved over 760,000 acres in 28 states. Leveraging generous partner funding, Army has invested over $1.2 billion to support the protection of natural resources. These investments help the Army remain well-positioned to protect the mission by deconflicting potential regulatory or encroachment impediments.

The Army recognizes that external pressures threaten long-term viability of our training ranges and lands. To help mitigate this threat, the Army participates in the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership. This coalition of federal agencies, state and local governments, and non-governmental organizations works with private landowners to advance sustainable land management practices in the vicinity of military installations and ranges. This program encourages federal agencies to combine resources and authorities to address regional natural resource challenges, and helps the Army strengthen military readiness. Participating in the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership over the last 10 years has improved resilience at Army installations and the surrounding communities.

Remediate Contaminants

The Army is committed to full compliance with environmental laws such as the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act, as well as our ongoing environmental restoration activities. The Army currently manages close to 5,000 environmental permits, and conducts our cleanup program in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) using Defense

Environmental Restoration Program authorities and funding. The Army has completed response actions at over 90% of the 12,000 sites in our restoration inventory. Our remediation work includes reducing risks posed by munitions resulting from historic training activities that may remain at some of our installations. The Army continues to rigorously address cleanup actions to ensure protection of the health of our soldiers, their families and the communities surrounding our installations, as well as the environment.

Following OSD guidelines, the Army has been taking actions to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) since 2016, using a three-pronged approach focused on identifying and cleaning up past releases, testing for, and mitigating risks from PFAS in drinking water, and mitigating the use of aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF). The Army is currently conducting PFAS investigations at 341 installations in the United States and its territories. The Army is discontinuing the use of AFFF in accordance with legal requirements, and our current use of AFFF is limited to fire emergencies. Moreover, in accordance with the FY 2020 NDAA requirements, we have developed an AFFF transition plan, which will commence when qualified fluorine-free products become available in late 2023.

Of the 341 facilities identified as requiring PFAS investigation, the Army has completed the first phase of investigations at 180 facilities, with investigations underway at the remaining 161 facilities. Ninety facilities have already moved to the next phase of investigation. Using the CERCLA process, the Army identifies impacts to drinking water outside installations, and has completed removal actions to cut off exposure through measures such as: provision of bottled water, links to municipal water connections, or installation of treatment technologies. The Army is fully transparent about our PFAS activities, and PFAS-related drinking water and cleanup information is available to the public via the Army's and DoD's websites that are updated regularly.

In sum, the Army is committed to fulfilling our cleanup responsibilities and will remain transparent about our progress with both Congress and the public. We will

continue to engage in robust community outreach efforts to inform stakeholders and solicit feedback.

FY 2024 BUDGET REQUEST FOR INSTALLATION INFRASTRUCTURE

The Army's requested investments for installation infrastructure underpin the critical importance of our installations both at home and abroad, including the INDOPACIFIC region. These investments are intended to achieve three purposes: (1) support our Army's continued focus on improving quality of life for our people; (2) ensure our ability to achieve installation resilience and supporting capabilities at pace with our modernization strategy; and (3) enable our soldiers' ability to train, mobilize and project force from our installations to achieve national defense priorities.

Military Construction

The Army's FY 2024 MILCON and Family Housing request for $2.8 billion will improve installation readiness, industrial base readiness, and soldier and family quality of life, as more fully described below.

The breakdown of $2.8 billion request by component is as follows: $2.16 billion for the Active Component; $340 million for the Army National Guard (ARNG); $107 million for the U.S. Army Reserve (USAR); and $150.6 million in the Base Closure Account for environmental remediation, caretaker services, and program management costs at Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) sites.

Military Construction, Army (MCA). Included in the Active Army's $1.47 billion request is $1.027 billion supporting installation and soldier readiness, broken down as follows: $288 million for permanent party barracks, $286 million for range and training facilities, $105 million for maintenance facilities, $274 million for the industrial base and $74 million for a power projection project.

Military Construction, Army Reserve (MCAR). The FY 2024 MCAR budget request supports two major construction projects: The USAR Center at Birmingham, Alabama, ($57 million) and an Area Maintenance Support Activity at Phoenix, Arizona, ($12 million).

Military Construction, Army National Guard (MCNG). The ARNG request supports readiness by funding $140 million for seven readiness centers, $7.9 million for a training range, and $75 million for five maintenance facilities.

Minor Construction/Planning & Design. All three components have requested a combined $154 million for Unspecified Minor Construction and $354 million for planning and design for future MILCON projects.

Army Family Housing (AFH). The Army's request for $305 million in construction funding supports two new/replacement projects providing 70 new homes in Baumholder, Germany; 20 new homes at Kwajalein Atoll; and equity investments for improved homes at Fort Gordon, Georgia and Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

The Army's request for $385 million in Family Housing Operations funding provides for Army Family Housing operations, maintenance and repair, utilities, and management of the privatized housing Residential Communities Initiative.

BRAC. The Army's request for $151 million includes $8 million for continuing caretaker and program management requirements at remaining BRAC installations closed or realigned under the five previous BRAC rounds (1988, 1991, 1993, 1995, and 2005) and $143 million for environmental cleanup requirements at BRAC sites. The Army continues to work with federal and state regulators to resolve complex environmental issues that exist on the Army's BRAC sites so that each property can be conveyed and used for a beneficial non-military purpose.

Operation and Maintenance of Facilities

Facilities Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization (FSRM). The Army is requesting $7.1 billion in FSRM as set forth below to address our backlog of facilities maintenance, provide sustainment to slow degradation of facilities and for demolition of facilities as appropriate ($166 million). The Army is working with OSD to develop a comprehensive facility asset management approach to optimize sustainment, restoration, and modernization, demolition and MILCON funding to meet requirements. The emphasis of the approach is to enhance the accuracy of Army's building condition indices generated from BUILDER to maximize our return on investment.

Army Sustainment. The Army's FY 2024 FSRM request includes $4.5 billion in Facilities Sustainment, which will provide 89% of the Facility Sustainment Model requirements for all components.

Restoration and Modernization (R&M), Active Army. The FY 2024 FSRM request includes $1.98 billion in R&M funding for the Active Army, which will fund restoration projects for quality of life facilities, including barracks and CDCs, as well as readiness and power projection facilities, including airfields and utilities at key installations.

Restoration and Modernization (R&M), Army Reserve. The FY 2024 FSRM request includes $157 million in R&M for the USAR. This funding will fund restoration projects for barracks, maintenance activities, and reserve centers.

Restoration and Modernization (R&M), Army National Guard. The FY 2024 FSRM request includes $246 million in R&M for the ARNG, which will fund restoration projects for collective training barracks, reserve component readiness facilities, and recapitalization of training facilities.

Investments in the Indo-Pacific Region

The importance of investing in requirements in the Indo-Pacific Region cannot be over-stated. The Army's FY 2024-2028 Future Years Defense Plan contains over $2 billion in Military Construction investments in this Region (Guam, Japan, Hawaii, Kwajalein and Alaska). We expect this figure to increase in future years as stationing decisions are concluded.

Conclusion

Building the Army of 2030 begins on our installations. We need ready and resilient installations to ensure our soldiers are properly trained and can deploy anywhere in the world to fight and win our nation's wars. For installations, the future is now. Your continued support helps us realize these important goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony and for your continued support of our soldiers, civilians, soldiers for life, and their families, caregivers, and survivors.