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Department of the Air Force

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May 1, 2024

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Presentation

Before the Senate Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Military Construction,  
Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies

### *Fiscal Year 2025 Military Construction Program*

Witness Statement of

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### Introduction

Chair Murray, Ranking Member Boozman, and distinguished members of the Subcommittee. Thank you for the opportunity to discuss the Department of the Air Force (DAF) Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) Military Construction Program.

Our installations remain the platforms from which we enable and project combat power in and through the air, cyber, and space domains. DAF installations serve as key nodes in a global network of operating locations that enable Joint Force mission success around the world; making the readiness, resiliency, and sustainability of installations matters of strategic importance. Our installations are where we train and equip for joint operations, control, and sustain air and space weapon systems, test new weapon systems, generate readiness, and provide safe, healthy communities that many of our Airmen, Guardians, and their families call home. However, after decades of operating our installations with nearly unprecedented freedom of action, the homeland is no longer a sanctuary - as the National Defense Strategy (NDS) clearly describes.

Our Nation faces the nexus of complex challenges: the rise of great power competition with China and Russia; the increasing complexity of multi-domain threats; the competition for access to resources; and the increasing rate of technology change. We must ensure our installations are resilient, optimized, and operationally efficient to successfully defend the homeland; prevail against the full range of man-made and natural threats; deter strategic attacks against the United States, our Allies, and our partners; deter aggression and be prepared to prevail in conflict when necessary; and build a resilient Joint Force and defense ecosystem. We recognize the foundational capability our installations provide in advancing these priorities through integrated deterrence, campaigning and building enduring advantages.

In the face of these challenges, we made hard choices to prioritize efforts focused on integrated deterrence in an environment of shrinking advantage against aggressive competitors, operating in an evolving security environment. Last year, in a continued effort to meet the challenge of pacing adversaries, we focused on seven operational imperatives. This year's budget reflects continued modernization efforts in a resilient, effective space order of battle; operationally optimized Advanced Battle Management System; achieving Moving Target Indication at scale; development and fielding of a Next Generation Air Dominance family-of-systems; cost-effective,

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resilient forward basing; global strike capabilities built around the B-21 Raider; and expeditious transition to a wartime posture.

In support of these imperatives, the DAF Military Construction (MILCON) program continues to prioritize nuclear enterprise modernization and Combatant Command (CCMD) infrastructure support with an emphasis on the Pacific and Europe. The Facilities Sustainment, Restoration and Modernization (FSRM) portfolio remains focused on sustaining our existing infrastructure. Furthermore, we preserve the well-being and quality of life of our service members and their families through investments in housing, dormitories, and child development centers (CDCs). We remain committed to sustaining the DAF's power projection, enabling platforms, and searching for operational energy improvements to increase range and operational capability. We appreciate the continued partnership with Congress to ensure Air and Space Forces are well-postured to compete, deter, and win.

## **UNITED STATES AIR FORCE**

### **Installations**

We advance our commitment to optimizing installation investment through implementing the Infrastructure Investment Strategy (I2S), increasing senior leader oversight of the portfolio, and pursuing reforms within our MILCON program. First introduced in 2019, the I2S is the Department's long-term strategy to restore readiness of our power projection platforms by guiding investment decisions at the enterprise and installation level. We are taking the lessons learned from the I2S and building an action plan to ensure our installations are ready, right sized, and resilient to enable the DAF to compete in Great Power Competition.

We oversee I2S implementation efforts through recurring Infrastructure Councils and Infrastructure Program Management Reviews to assess resourcing and asset management practices on infrastructure readiness. The Council developed a series of metrics that quantify the impact of I2S policies and investment decisions on infrastructure condition, facility space use, and MILCON cost growth. Regular assessments of the I2S allow senior leaders to make timely decisions, which affect program execution and future budget decisions.

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### **Installation Resilience**

Ruggedizing our installations against evolving natural and man-made threats to continually project power and compete in an era of Great Power Competition is paramount for overall installation resilience and Department of Air Force mission assurance.

Our Installation Energy Program focuses on ensuring Air and Space Force installations are truly resilient to the broad range of threats from adversaries, cyber-attacks, and changing climate. We define resilience within the “5 Rs” of robustness, redundancy, resourcefulness, response, and recovery. Installation Energy Plans apply the “5Rs” to assess gaps and prioritize energy and water projects to ensure mission readiness. The “5Rs” help describe how a system is prepared for crises using the preventative attributes of robustness, redundancy, and resourcefulness, as well as how the system functions during crises using the performance attributes of response and recovery.

Installation resilience is not “one size fits all”—it is multifaceted, context specific, and spread across different domains, including people, infrastructure, and the environment. To incorporate risk-informed installation resilience planning into the Department’s existing policy and planning structures, the Department developed the Clean, Agile, Secure, Efficient (CASE) Framework, a comprehensive approach to identify, prioritize, and put forth competitive climate-informed resilience initiatives and investments and complements the “5Rs.”

Adversarial threats and natural hazards pose a growing risk of prolonged power outages for installations. Using a mission thread perspective, we are working to identify key nodes on and off installations that, in a denial-of-service scenario, may result in a significant impact on our ability to deliver key capabilities. A comprehensive understanding of mission requirements, current system operations, accurate reporting, and historical outage data assist in identifying possible service vulnerabilities. We strive to mitigate operational impacts from disruptions to energy and water through increasing investment in and improving maintenance of energy systems.

### **SPECIAL INTEREST ITEMS**

#### **Natural Disaster Recovery Efforts**

The Natural Disaster Recovery (NDR) program has greatly benefitted from Congressional support over the last several fiscal years and we are seeing the results of this sustained and

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significant investment. The program is substantially complete with Planning and Design (P&D), nearly complete with acquisition, only two projects remaining to award, pending the availability of funding. The DAF will make use of the \$150 million Congress provided in FY24 to address the remaining disconnect at Tyndall AFB, Florida. To date, we awarded 94% of the NDR program, totaling over \$4 billion of investments to improve mission readiness, resilience, and efficiency at Tyndall AFB, Florida, Offutt AFB, Nebraska, and Joint Base Langley Eustis, Virginia.

### **Taking Care of People: Child Development Centers and Dormitories**

We 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 and safe, high-quality dorms for our unaccompanied members.

The inability to access affordable and quality childcare can impact a service member's ability to report for duty and his or her decision to stay in the service. To this end, the DAF is using a two-prong programmatic approach to improve Child Development Centers (CDCs): targeted investments in FSRM to address facility condition concerns, and posturing MILCON projects to increase capacity. The DAF continues to invest in CDCs through our MILCON and FSRM, of the 134 CDCs in the DAF inventory none are in poor or failing condition.

In FY24, we are spending \$46 million in FSRM funding on 11 CDC projects, and in FY25 we intend to commit \$50 million in FSRM funds for CDC requirements.

Generous Congressional support in FY22 through FY24 funded most of the CDC MILCON projects currently at an executable design stage, and the DAF is actively working the design of CDC projects for inclusion in future President's Budget and Unfunded Priority List submissions. The Child and Youth Facility Master Plan facilitates project advocacy by identifying CDC MILCON and FSRM projects that address child and youth facility condition and capacity challenges. The FY25 President's Budget includes a \$40 million dollar CDC at Mountain Home AFB, Idaho which will also serve as the Department's first use of mass timber.

Equally important to us is providing unaccompanied service members high quality housing in our dormitory campuses. We will meet the FY22 NDAA Quality of Life requirements for permanent party dorms and are committed to investing \$1.1 billion, nearly a three-fold increase over the previous five years, to address facility and living conditions through FY26. The

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Government Accountability Office report on barracks identified many issues; however, problems with our dorms are limited and we remain committed to providing safe and adequate living conditions.

In FY25, 99.3% of permanent party beds assess as adequate. From FY22 through FY23, we funded 67 projects totaling \$341 million to repair and renovate dorms rooms. The DAF plans to spend approximately \$216M for 31 projects in FY24 to repair and improve dormitory facilities. We are planning \$300 million in FY25 FSRM to repair and improve the condition of our dorms.

The DAF investment strategy for unaccompanied housing focuses on restoration and modernization of dorms in their existing configurations using FSRM funds, which allows MILCON funds to address capacity shortfalls and facility recapitalization. Additionally, the DAF appreciates the pilot program authority provided in the FY24 NDAA allowing the replacement of dormitories using FSRM funds when needed repairs exceeds 75% of the MILCON project to replace it. Though the DAF has few dormitories which meet the replacement criteria, we can certainly make great use in some high-need areas. The FY25 President's Budget includes a request for two new dorm projects, one at Joint Base Langley Eustis, Virginia, \$81M, and the first increment of a Medical Education and Training Campus dormitory at Joint Base San Antonio, \$77M.

### **FY25 Air Force MILCON Program**

In FY25, the Active-Duty Air Force and Space Force MILCON request is \$3.19 billion. This funding supports the DAF's commitment to fulfilling NDS requirements, postures us for the future high-end fight, and ensures we continue taking care of our Airmen, Guardians, and their families. The program supports Combatant Commanders with a focus on the Pacific and European theaters and modernizing the nuclear enterprise. Additionally, the MILCON program continues efforts to bed down new weapons systems and seeks to recapitalize facilities that have outlived their useable life or no longer meet mission requirements. Our request also focused on Planning and Design to reinforce the Air Force's MILCON program stability and consistency. Program stability continues to be a major focus, ensuring mature projects are included in the budget and improve confidence they will award within programmed amount in the year of appropriation.

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### **Combatant Commander Infrastructure**

The FY25 MILCON program prioritizes Combatant Commander requirements with a particular emphasis on the Indo-Pacific and European theaters. Direct support to the Combatant Commanders accounts for 20% of the FY25 MILCON request and aligns with the National Defense Strategy to Build a More Lethal Force, while directly Prioritizing Preparedness for War. Our FY25 program addresses some of the urgent U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM), U.S. Strategic Command (STRATCOM), and U.S. European Command (EUCOM) facility priorities.

Support to INDOPACOM will enhance the United States defensive posture in the region, reassure allies and partners, and increase readiness capabilities. The investment of resources to improve infrastructure and facilities throughout the Indo-Pacific Theater provides our allies, partners, and potential competitors a clear indication of the United States' long-term commitment to the Pacific. Two projects support the Pacific Deterrence Initiative (PDI) totaling \$247.7 million: a Runway extension at Yap International Airport (\$96M), Federated States of Micronesia; and a Theatre Corrosion Control Hangar, Kadena AB, Japan (\$132.7M).

The Air Force remains committed to European Defense Initiative (EDI) efforts to reassure North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies and other European partners of United States commitment to collective security and territorial integrity. In FY25, the Air Force requests \$110 million for EDI to support the repositioning of equipment in Denmark. This project will further improve deterrence efforts in the theater and enable joint and coalition forces to quickly respond to aggressive regional actors. The Air Force request also supported Combatant Commands within the United States to include a continued focus on Weapons Generation Facilities directly supporting STRATCOM at Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota and Malmstrom AFB, Montana.

### **New Mission Bed Downs**

The NDS directs the Department of Defense to build a force that is lethal, resilient, sustainable, survivable, agile, and responsive through modernization of key capabilities; the first of which are nuclear forces. The FY25 budget request continues the focus on modernizing the nuclear enterprise by supporting the bed down of new weapons systems and missions. The request includes three projects at Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota, for a total of \$177 million, and two projects at Dyess AFB, Texas, totaling \$31.3 million to beddown B-21 Raiders. It also includes

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three projects at F.E. Warren AFB, Wyoming, totaling \$403 million, a project at Malmstrom AFB, Montana, totaling \$20 million, and two projects at Vandenberg SFB, California, totaling \$277 million, to support transition from the Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile weapon system to the Sentinel Weapon System.

Sentinel will develop and deploy modern Aerospace Vehicle Equipment, Command and Launch infrastructure (e.g. launch facilities, launch centers, and other ground infrastructure), and Support Equipment & Trainers. The Sentinel program is the largest Air Force land acquisition effort since the original Minuteman, primarily to acquire temporary construction easements for utility corridors in the missile fields. Minuteman III-to-Sentinel conversion must occur on a precise timeline to maintain the operational readiness of the nuclear deterrent and deliver Full Operational Capability to the warfighter by 2036. We will continue to inform Congress on the Air Force's progress during design, construction, and commissioning of Sentinel facilities. Once on-line, the B-21 Raider and Sentinel weapons systems will ensure the Air Force can effectively deliver two-thirds of the nation's nuclear triad well into the future, should the need ever arise.

Approximately 41% of the program, \$1.42 billion, supports New Weapon Systems to ensure the DAF remains the world's premier Air and Space Force. These systems include the Sentinel Ground Based Strategic Deterrent, B-21 bomber, C-130J, F-35 fighter, T-7A training aircraft, Long Range Stand Off facilities, F-16 fighter, Combat Rescue Helicopter, Over the Horizon Radar System, and the E-11A Battlefield Airborne Communications Node aircraft.

### **Existing Mission Recapitalization**

The FY25 request also includes \$719.2 million funds current mission projects, focusing on the most critical recapitalization of existing infrastructure. The funding request includes a new dormitory in Virginia, a dormitory in Texas, a Child Development Center in Idaho, research facilities in Massachusetts, Joint Integrated Test and Training Center in Alaska, Security Forces facility in Georgia, a Fire Station in Ohio, the U.S. portion of a NATO Airlift Hangar in Spain, and support for infrastructure in the United Kingdom.

### **Planning and Design**

Planning and Design (P&D) remains a central focus of the DAF program to reinforce program stability and consistency. Sufficient P&D enables projects to progress rapidly through design and meet maturity criteria for admissibility into the program, provides more accurate cost estimates,



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and maximizes the opportunity to award projects in the year of appropriation. Without sufficient P&D, the Air Force must award designs by design phase, adding risk associated with costs and timely delivery of design. The FY25 P&D request is \$451.3 million, which is consistent with last year's request to maintain a robust Space Force P&D program (\$84.9 million of the request) and includes weapons system specific P&D supporting B-21, Over the Horizon Radar, Sentinel, and other programs.

### **Facility Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization (FSRM)**

We view the FSRM and MILCON programs as interdependent. Together, these two funding streams serve as the foundation of sustainable Air Force installations. FSRM provides a non-MILCON pathway to repair facilities and infrastructure, maximizing their lifespan. The FSRM program prioritizes projects based on mission risk and commander prioritization. In FY23, the Department of the Air Force's Deferred Maintenance and Repair (DM&R) backlog surpassed \$46.8 billion. This represents a significant increase compared to previous years as is contributable to a confluence of economic factors such as inflation, increased labor and material costs, and continuation of post-pandemic supply chain issues. The FY25 request includes \$4.91 billion in FSRM funding. Our priority for FSRM continues to be sustaining our existing infrastructure with increased emphasis on quality-of-life projects (i.e., dormitories, CDCs) and our operational and training infrastructure. To maximize the near-term impact of current funding levels, the Air Force will also continue to assess mission threat vulnerabilities and prioritize infrastructure repair requirements which directly affect an installation's primary mission. Our I2S drove changes in how we execute FSRM funding distributed directly to installations (considered decentralized FSRM), empowering Commanders to make the right local investment decisions, including day-to-day maintenance and smaller scale repair and sustainment projects, based on mission requirements and I2S guidance.

### **Housing Construction, Operation and Maintenance**

The Air Force prioritizes providing safe and healthy homes to our families. The FY25 DAF Housing President's Budget requests \$548 million for housing construction, planning and design, and operations and maintenance while focusing on eliminating inadequate housing from our inventory and correcting health and life safety deficiencies. The Air Force Housing program provides for housing construction, P&D, and operations and maintenance using the Family

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Housing Master Plan (FHMP) to posture a comprehensive investment strategy to execute projects at the right time, scope, and cost.

The FY25 Family Housing construction request includes of \$222M funds \$6.6 million for planning studies and design for future construction projects, \$65 million for two separate projects at Yokota Air Base, Japan, providing whole house improvements of 51 homes for Senior Non-Commissioned Officers, Company Grade Officers, and Field Grade Officers, and \$5.7 million to construct two deficit General Officer Quarters and replace five garages at Ramstein AB, Germany. Additionally, our request supports \$144 million for restructures of privatized housing Phase III at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, and Lackland AFB, Texas.

The military family operations and maintenance request of \$326 million supports the day-to-day operations and administration of our military and privatized family housing, correcting health and safety deficiencies, and provides for the alterations and major repair projects to sustain and modernize the housing inventory of approximately 15,200 government-owned family housing units and provides enhanced oversight of over 52,000 privatized homes. The Air Force continues to focus investment in the Air Force housing inventory to provide adequate housing for all service members and their families.

### Privatized Housing

Quality, affordable housing has a direct correlation to recruitment, retention, and readiness. Hence, we remain focused on improved oversight, long-term financial health, and sustainment of the housing inventory. We are committed to ensuring Military Housing Privatization Initiative (MHPI) projects provide safe, quality, and well-maintained housing where military members and their families and caregivers will want and choose to live.

We continue our efforts to improve our privatized housing portfolio and address the remaining elements of the MHPI reforms set out in the FY 2020-23 National Defense Authorization Acts (NDAA). We made significant progress to implement reforms to enhance our oversight of privatized housing and hold MHPI companies accountable for providing quality housing. Specifically, several congressionally mandated provisions were implemented throughout various DAF housing programs including:

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- FY 2020 NDAA Section 3011: We collaborated with the private-sector MHPI companies to universally agree to adopt 18 rights set out in the MHPI Tenant Bill of Rights. As Congress has recognized, applying many of the Tenant rights at existing MHPI housing projects requires voluntary agreement by the MHPI companies. All companies will implement the 18 rights by the end of this calendar year (2024).
- FY 2020 NDAA Section 3036: We implemented the amended section 606 payments to MHPI Projects to focus on the most urgent needs of underfunded MHPI projects and ensure the projects invest these funds investing appropriately to safeguard long-term project viability.
- FY 2020 NDAA Section 3051: We began the process to complete standardized privatized housing and government-owned housing inspections and assessments at all locations. Using the DoD's uniform housing standards, we completed a total of 45 inspections in FY23 and plan to complete the remaining 14 by end of CY24.
- FY 2022 NDAA Section 2813: We verified the appropriate application of Disability Laws and Collection of Modification Costs requirements are documented in existing MHPI projects' transaction documents. These requirements ensure the projects make reasonable accommodations for any resident with a disability.

In 2020, we added 218 government positions across the privatized housing program, increased inspections, provided additional training to housing personnel, and revamped housing governance. We continue to maintain Resident Councils for two-way communication between the residents and installation and project owner leadership. We then utilize feedback from tenant satisfaction surveys to develop action plans for improving the residents' experiences and encourage our Airmen and Guardians, and their families to engage with Resident Advocates to help resolve any disputes and improve communications among all relevant DAF stakeholders.

We also expanded our metrics for assessing the health of the privatized housing portfolio, particularly with regards to resident satisfaction, maintenance quality and responsiveness, and property management operations. Most of our private partners meet or exceed DAF standards as prescribed in our metrics. However, when we identify concerns with operational performance, we have placed a small number of private partners on Community Action Plans, or if more systemic,

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on Performance Improvement Plans with milestones and schedules. The goal is to remedy deficiencies and ensure our military families receive quality service and housing.

Some privatized housing projects require financial restructuring to continue to remain financially stable and market comparable. The restructure goals are to ensure the projects can fully fund operational expenses, debt servicing, and sustainment of the homes for the life of the lease and also fund reinvestment needs during the mid-term reinvestment period. The FY25 President's Budget request includes \$144 million to support two such restructures for the phase III project at Joint Base Elmendorf- Richardson, Alaska, and the Lackland AFB, Texas project.

### **Environmental Stewardship**

The safety and health of the servicemen and women who work and live on our installations, their families, and the surrounding communities remain our highest priorities. We appreciate congressional support for our efforts to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and facilitate further progress in our Environmental Restoration Program.

### **Environmental Restoration**

We are focused on being good stewards of the environment while also meeting our cleanup obligations under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). 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 the approximately 15,000 restoration sites at our active and closed installations. Currently, much of our restoration program focus is on chemicals of emerging concern, most notably, PFAS.

The DAF PFAS response framework is built on the following lines of effort: (1) protecting human health and the environment, (2) fulfilling our cleanup obligations, (3) proactively communicating and collaborating with stakeholders (local communities, states, federal agencies, and Congress), and (4) mitigating and eliminating aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) use in accordance with NDAA requirements.

As of 30 September 2023, we've spent \$2.1 billion to identify, investigate, prevent, and respond to PFAS releases. Drinking water response actions are complete at nine Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) installations and 31 Active, Reserve and Air National Guard (ANG)

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installations. Response actions include providing bottled water, installing point-of-use filtration or whole-house filtration systems, and connecting residents to municipal water supplies.

The generous FY23 appropriations provided \$216.4 million above the budget request, of which \$68 million is allotted to address PFAS at BRAC installations. FY24 appropriations have also provided an additional \$5 million for PFAS, \$15 million for RDT&E for PFAS Destruction Technologies, and \$23 million for PFAS at BRAC installations. As of January 2024, we completed 100% (204 installations) of our CERCLA Preliminary Assessments and Site Inspections and initiated 68% of our Remedial Investigations for 191 DAF installations. We are investigating the potential for other non-AFFF PFAS sources in cleanup process and have leaned forward to take prompt actions under CERCLA by implementing 23 interim remedial actions to address drinking water impacts.

The FY24 budget includes \$259 million to continue to identify, investigate, mitigate, and respond to PFAS releases across our Active, Reserve, Guard, and BRAC installations and we received an additional \$26 million to transition from AFFF to the new fluorine free foam (F3). The FY25 budget request includes \$362 million to further that effort.

On April 10, EPA announced a final proposed a national primary drinking water regulation for six PFAS. We appreciate the clarity that the final regulation provides and we remain committed to align our PFAS research and remediation efforts with the state of the science and state and federal regulatory frameworks.

We proactively engage with community members concerned about the environmental and health effects from PFAS and collaborate with our local Restoration Advisory Boards (RABs) as we constantly strive to improve our community outreach programs to be more inclusive and responsive.

### **Environmental Quality**

We manage our natural and built infrastructure to reduce risks to human health, the environment, and the mission; comply with applicable regulations, executive orders, and DoD policies; and continuously improve our environmental stewardship. Specific efforts to ensure compliance include detailed air quality assessments, management and inspection of underground and above ground storage tanks, hazardous and solid waste management and disposal, and

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environmental planning and permitting procedures. Through these compliance programs, we continue to protect the health of our Airmen, Guardians, and the environment by making investments to meet regulatory requirements and promote efforts to prevent non-compliance through pollution prevention programs and routine inspections.

We remain firmly committed to a robust program of integrated conservation management covering a full suite of environmental, natural, and cultural resources. Conservation funding has allowed us to invest in natural and cultural activities on and around our installations and training ranges that provide direct support to mission readiness. The conservation program FY24 budget of \$106.2 million and the FY25 budget of \$106.7 million supports ongoing habitat and species management for 123 threatened and endangered species found across 54 DAF installations and provides for continued cooperation and collaboration with the other military Services, federal government agencies such as the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and applicable State fish and game agencies. The DAF Cultural Resources Program supports mission needs through maintaining our Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plans. These 117 plans work to preserve 6,910 historic buildings and structures and 22,377 archaeological sites.

Recent efforts carried out at Eglin AFB, Florida exemplify integrated natural and cultural resources management and effective partnerships. Archaeologists at Eglin teamed with biologists and conservationists from the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance to construct a series of “Living Shorelines” to protect sensitive archaeological sites from shoreline erosion while also enhancing natural habitat and water quality.

We remain committed to responsible environmental stewardship. As trustee for more than 8.3 million acres of land including forests, prairies, deserts, wetlands, and coastal habitats, we understand the important role natural resources play in maintaining our mission capability. DAF collaborated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), through the DoD Recovery and Sustainment Partnership, to enhance mission operations and increase range access while protecting at-risk species. In 2023, the USFWS officially removed the Okaloosa darter from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife after more than thirty years of successful recovery efforts and proposed down-listing of the red-cockaded woodpecker from Endangered to Threatened status after nearly twenty years of recovery efforts. These great collaborative accomplishments were made against the backdrop of the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Endangered Species

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Act. As part of the recovery efforts in 2023, the AF Wildland Fire program worked with USFWS, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Colorado State and Montana University Cooperators to treat 147,000 acres (of which 145,000 acres were treated with prescribed fire activities) in support of habitat management for at risk species as well as to increase training land availability. In addition, this collaboration assisted with managing 14,000 acres of wildfires on DAF managed lands to reduce impacts to daily training missions in support of the warfighter. FY24 funding and investments will allow us to continue to support our robust conservation program.

### **Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC)**

BRAC received a generous \$23 million plus-up for PFAS in FY24, which will facilitate the execution of Interim Remedial Actions to remove or treat PFAS and prevent its migration. The FY25 request for BRAC cleanup and property transfer is \$122 million. This funding will facilitate environmental restoration and property transfer activities at 34 former DAF installations closed through prior BRAC law and keep us on-track to transfer the remaining four former installations by 2027.

### **UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE**

The Space Force was built specifically for Great Power Competition as a lean, agile, and mission-focused military Service. To enable a laser focus on primary missions, we have a partnership with the United States Air Force for infrastructure, logistics, security, medical services, and a host of other support functions at our Space Force installations. Formal agreements, directives and instructions codify stakeholder roles and responsibilities for support to the mission and the Guardians, Airmen, Civilians, and their families who work and live on Space Force installations.

Most of the combat-ready space forces that we field are “Employed-in-Place,” meaning they execute Combatant Command missions from their home station. Mission-ready, resilient installations and facilities are integral to our readiness and effectiveness. Both the Space Force Military Construction (MILCON) and Facility Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization (FSRM) programs prioritize power resiliency within the Future Years Defense Program (FYDP). Additionally, assured access to space procures launch services and delivers on-orbit capabilities used by joint warfighters, combatant commands, intelligence agencies, civilian services, and the commercial space industry. Over the next five years, our Spaceport of the Future program

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invests over a billion dollars into our aging launch infrastructure to guarantee the Department of Defense's ability to provide world-class launch capability to public and private partners.

The Space Force receives, prioritizes, and obligates an independent appropriation for Facility, Sustainment, Restoration and Modernization (FSRM) funding. We have shown a commitment to resourcing infrastructure requirements by identifying those projects that directly impact the performance of weapons systems and prioritizing them for funding consideration. The Department of the Air Force provides an allotment of military Construction (MILCON) funding to the Space Force based on the Space Force's portion of the total plant replacement value. This approach provides flexibility to resolve resource challenges due to the Space Force's prioritization of requirements as an independent Service. We prioritize projects balancing weapons systems, quality of life, and force support infrastructure requirements to reduce risk to mission and address the requirements of an independent military Service.

### **Military Construction (MILCON)**

MILCON increases capacity and readiness for the Space Force. In FY24, the Space Force requested and was appropriated \$132.3M. Projects include a \$15M Commercial Vehicle Inspection Facility, \$12M for Final Denial Barriers at the South Gate, and \$15M to complete the Consolidated Communications Center at Patrick Space Force Base, Florida; and \$90.3M for General Planning & Design (P&D), including \$24M for assured access to Space (Spaceport of the Future). This significant P&D request was necessary for projects to rapidly develop, providing accurate estimates and maximizing opportunity to award future MILCON projects in the year of appropriation.

The Space Force's FY25 President's Budget Request includes \$24.9M for three Unspecified Minor Military Construction (UMMC) projects to include two projects that support our Spaceport of the Future initiative. Notably, the Space Force also requested \$84.9M for P&D, including \$62.8M for Space Port of the Future.

### **Facility Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization (FSRM)**

We view the FSRM and MILCON programs as interdependent. Together, these funding streams provide the sustainable foundation for fourteen Space Force installations and more than 70 smaller geographically separate units, sites, and ranges. FSRM provides flexibility to repair facilities and infrastructure, maximizing lifespan. The FY25 budget request of \$417M reflects a



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39% decrease from FY24 requested levels. The Space Force requested \$679M in the FY24 President's Budget request. The large increase in the FY24 request compared to FY23 includes funds repair of a Pituffik Space Base Power Plant that powers the Missile Warning/Missile Defense weapons systems, and electrical distribution projects supporting both the Eastern and Western Space launch ranges. The decrease in the FY25 request reoptimizes funding; it is a 42%/\$124M increase from the FY23 appropriated amount.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss the Department's FY25 MILCON program. We appreciate Congress' continued support for our enterprise and look forward to working with you on our FY25 priorities.