

NOT FOR PUBLICATION UNTIL  
RELEASED BY THE SENATE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY CONSTRUCTION,  
VETERANS AFFAIRS, and RELATED AGENCIES,  
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

**STATEMENT OF  
MR. DAVID R. CLIFTON**

**DEPUTY ASSISTANT DEPUTY COMMANDANT, FACILITIES, INSTALLATIONS  
AND LOGISTICS DEPARTMENT**

**AND**

**DEPUTY COMMANDER, MARINE CORPS INSTALLATIONS COMMAND  
UNITED STATES MARINES CORPS**

**BEFORE THE**

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

**OF THE**

**COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS**

**MARCH 17, 2015**

NOT FOR PUBLICATION UNTIL  
RELEASED BY THE SENATE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY CONSTRUCTION,  
VETERANS AFFAIRS, and RELATED AGENCIES,  
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Chairman Kirk, Ranking Member Tester, and distinguished Members of the Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to discuss the Marine Corps' facilities infrastructure programs which are critical to our ability to train forces and be ready. Thanks to the strong support we have received in the past from Congress, the Marine Corps has been able to make great improvements in the quality and condition of facilities on our bases and stations.

Marine Corps bases and stations represent an irreplaceable national asset today and as far into the future as we can project. They are fundamental to combat readiness, particularly the pre-deployment training, launching, sustaining, and reconstituting of Marine operating forces. Additionally, those bases and stations are and will continue to be integral to the quality of life of Marines, Sailors, and their families through provision of a range of support facilities and related infrastructure.

The operation and maintenance of these installations as well as their future development and use require planning, wise investment, and sound execution. Numerous Marine-Corps wide efforts are underway to ensure Marine Corps installations are ready, responsive, and capable of meeting current and future support requirements of the Marine Corps force.

The Marine Corps has more than \$58 billion of facilities that are used to train, house, and provide quality of life for Marines and their families. These facilities are used to perform mission-essential tasks and must be appropriately maintained. Adequately sustaining facilities is the highest facilities management priority.

### **Impact of Sequestration**

As the Commandant of the Marine Corps has stated in earlier testimony, the Marine Corps' share of FY 2013 sequestration cuts, combined with a sustained high level of operations, will challenge our future ability to be the Nation's force-in-readiness. The Marine Corps continues to evaluate long-term impacts of sequestration. The fiscal challenges we face today will be exacerbated and significant challenges will be forced on all the Services if FY 2016 sequestration reductions are implemented. Through thorough analysis, we have determined that the Marine Corps will assume significant risk in long-term modernization and infrastructure sustainment. Though the Marine Corps has made significant progress over the last 8 years in replacing old and unsatisfactory buildings, delayed or cancelled military construction projects

will have long term impacts on our future operating budget, force posture, and the overall welfare of our Marines.

## **Military Construction**

Generally, the need for Marine Corps MILCON is driven by the Operating Force and Marine Corps wide mission requirements such as:

- New platform or weapons introduction
- Relocating forces
- Meeting a force protection or safety standard
- Eliminating or replacing facilities in inadequate condition
- Meeting new and improved training standards
- Modernizing critical infrastructure
- Improving utilities reliability to support readiness
- Meeting environmental and energy reduction mandates
- Improving training areas to include aerial /ground ranges
- Acquiring land as necessary for Operating Force use

The Marine Corps' Fiscal Year 2016 Military Construction (MILCON) program includes 22 projects valued at approximately \$719 million. The primary focus areas of the Fiscal Year 2016 Marine Corps MILCON budget are to support new capabilities and platforms, provide facilities to support training of the modern 21<sup>st</sup> century force, recapitalization and replacement of inadequate facilities, and meeting safety and environmental mandates. Our Fiscal Year 2016 program accomplishes the following:

- Supports new aviation platforms such as F-35, KC-130J, CH-53K, and RQ-21A with new aircraft maintenance facilities and aircraft parking aprons.
- Improves quality of life for junior enlisted Marines at Marine Corps Base Hawaii by providing a new barracks.
- Provides a new live fire training range to support current and future ground unit training on Guam.
- Provides for embassy security guard training and operations at Marine Corps Base Quantico.

- Completes the expansion of Townsend Bombing Range initiated and approved by Congress in 2014 to enable training with precision guided munitions at this location.
- Improves airfield lighting and electrical distribution system at the Marine Corps Base Hawaii airfield at Kaneohe Bay.
- Improves and ensures safety, security, and environmental compliance posture at various bases.
- Improves utility system reliability at various bases in order to support training and day-to-day operations.
- Replaces numerous inadequate and obsolete facilities in order to improve operations and training.

### **Infrastructure Sustainment and Restoration**

The President's budget for Fiscal Year 2016 funds 81% of the OSD facilities sustainment model requirement for the Marine Corps (an increase over the Fiscal Year 2015 level). The OSD guideline is to fund 90% of the requirement. We remain aware that underfunding facilities sustainment increases the rate of degradation of Marine Corps infrastructure which leads to more costly repairs, restoration, and new construction in the future. We are taking strategic risk in infrastructure sustainment to support current operational readiness for deployed forces.

When restoring and modernizing our infrastructure, we prioritize life/safety issues and efficiency improvements to existing infrastructure and focus on repairing only the most critical components of our mission critical facilities. By deferring less critical repairs, especially for non-mission critical facilities, we are allowing certain facilities to degrade and causing our overall facilities maintenance backlog to increase. We acknowledge this backlog must eventually be addressed.

### **Family Housing**

Our world-wide family housing inventory is 96% privatized. Privatization has improved the homes in which our families live and provides community support facilities such as community centers, playgrounds, and "green spaces" that help create neighborhoods and a sense of community for our Marines and their families. Utilizing both traditional military construction

and our privatization partners the Marine Corps will continue to build and improve the homes necessary to supplement local community housing.

The Marine Corps is not requesting any new construction in Fiscal Year 2016 through either traditional MILCON or through the use of privatization authorities. However, we are requesting \$7.9 million for the sustainment and restoration of 18 enlisted townhomes at MCAS Iwakuni, Japan in order to complete the final phase of renovation for the Monzen Townhouse neighborhood. This will provide much needed improvements to quality of life for our Marines and their families stationed overseas.

### **Marine Corps in the Pacific**

The Marine Corps continues to rebalance its force lay-down in the Pacific to support the Defense Strategic Guidance. The Fiscal Year 2016 budget request includes funding to support the arrival of new aviation assets and personnel to Marine Corps Base Hawaii and Japan. Additionally, the budget includes \$126 million to construct a live-fire training range complex in Guam that will support current and future training needs of the Marine Corps and our allied partners.

Guam, and the relocation of Marines to this island, remains an essential part of the United States' larger Asia-Pacific strategy of achieving a more geographically distributed, operationally resilient and politically sustainable force posture in the region. We appreciate the removal of the restrictions from the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2014, as well as the language in Section 2822 in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 permitting us to enter into a Refuge agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Together, these provisions will allow us to move forward on the essential Guam component of our Pacific force laydown plan.

Last July, we provided Congress with our revised Guam Master Plan. Under this plan, also referred to as "the distributed laydown", approximately 5,000 Marines and 1,300 dependents will come to Guam versus the original plan that had considered approximately 8,600 Marines and 9,000 dependents. The estimated cost, scope, and schedule for the military construction and Government of Japan funded projects necessary to carry out the revised plan were detailed in the Guam Master Plan. In the next year, the Government of Japan will commit \$176 million to construct a Driver Convoy Course and a complex for Urban Terrain Range Operations at

Anderson Air Force Base. To date, we have received in our Treasury almost \$1 billion in Japanese funding toward completion of the relocation. This in itself is indeed a strong statement of the Japanese commitment to the relocation.

### **Conclusion**

Our infrastructure programs are an important part in maintaining our high state of readiness as the Nation's crisis response force. The Fiscal Year 2016 budget request supports this premise. As funding becomes more constrained in the future, the Marine Corps will continue to rely on the sound stewardship of existing facilities and infrastructure to support our needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today and appreciate your consideration of our Fiscal Year 2016 budget request. I look forward to working with you to sustain the warfighting capability and quality of life of the Marine Corps.