

**PRESENTATION TO THE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS AND MANAGEMENT,
UNITED STATES SENATE**

SUBJECT: INSTALLATION READINESS

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COMMAND

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This statement represents the views of the witness and does not represent those of the Air Force, Department of Defense, or the Administration

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BY THE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
UNITED STATES SENATE**

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, good morning, I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today to discuss the impact that reduced military construction and real property maintenance funding has on the 74,000 men and women who proudly serve in the Air Force Reserve.

The Air Force Reserve owns and operates 12 installations consisting of over 10,000 acres, 1,000 buildings, and 11 million square feet of facilities. The plant replacement value of these installations is \$4.5 billion. From these 12 installations and the 55 other locations we operate from, the men and women of the Air Force Reserve provide 20 percent of the total, across the board, Air Force capability. In the past 10 years, we have engaged in full and equal partnership with the Air National Guard and Active Air Force in responding to over 50 contingency and real world operations. This is a five-fold increase over the previous 40 years.

The Air Force Reserve military construction requirements are over \$683 million. These requirements are merged with the priorities of the active Air Force and Air National Guard to produce an integrated MILCON program. As a whole, the Air Force MILCON funding

requirements compete against the most serious needs of our business. The Air Force Reserve military construction program has consistently focused on sustaining what we own, bedding down new missions, upholding quality of life, reducing infrastructure, and continued environmental leadership. We have also established a lodging master plan and are working to build a fitness center facility improvement plan. The Air Force Reserve military construction program has benefited greatly from the congressional interest in the Air Force Reserve people and missions across America. Being good stewards of the taxpayer's dollars, we are proud to report for Fiscal Years 1998, 1999 and 2000, we have awarded 100 percent of our MILCON projects in the year of appropriation. We believe no other component has matched that performance and this is indicative of our aggressive effort to provide the best facilities we can.

The Air Force Reserve real property maintenance budget presents challenges similar to the MILCON program. We currently have over \$308 million in facility investment requirements identified. The limited funding forces the field to balance their aging infrastructure, force protection requirements, quality of life in the workplace, airfield systems and environmental requirements. The real property maintenance

budget competes with all other requirements in the day-to-day operations of Air Force installations. Although our focus is on recapitalizing the physical plant, the level of funding allows us to only maintain or sustain critical systems such as heating and air conditioning systems, water lines and valves, electrical systems and substations, streets, and airfield lighting and pavements. This results in a pattern of fixing only what breaks and saving the remaining money for the next breakage to occur. We continue to only fund our most urgent needs in the real property maintenance budget. We cannot continue to mortgage the Air Force infrastructure without significant, long-term negative effects on morale, retention, and readiness. In my opinion, the Air Force has routinely had to trade off infrastructure and modernization to shore up near-term readiness causing a steady deterioration of our physical plant.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the committee for its continued strong support to the men and women of the Air Force Reserve and investment in their futures. I will be glad to address any questions at this time.