

UNCLASSIFIED

READING VERSION

STATEMENT BY

**COLONEL GARY W. WRIGHT
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, FORT SILL, OKLAHOMA
UNITED STATES ARMY**

BEFORE THE

**READINESS AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT SUBCOMMITTEE
SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
UNITED STATES SENATE**

FIRST SESSION, 107TH CONGRESS

ON INFRASTRUCTURE READINESS

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UNITED STATES SENATE**

COLONEL GARY W. WRIGHT

Biographical Sketch

Colonel Wright assumed his duties as the Director of Public Works at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, on 31 May 1998. He came to Fort Sill after a series of recent assignments with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. These assignments include Commander of the Vicksburg District (August 95-May 98) and as Executive Director and Assistant Director for both the Military Programs and Civil Works Directorates (June 93-August 95) at USACE Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Colonel Wright has served in a variety of command and staff assignments in the United States and overseas during his 30 year career. Command assignments include Platoon Leader, Executive Officer, and Company Command in the 547th Engineer Battalion (Combat), Darmstadt, Germany (1975-1977); Aviation Section Leader, 5th Engineer Battalion (Combat), Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri (1978-1980); Battalion Commander of the 35th Engineer Battalion at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri (1989-1991); and Commander of the Vicksburg District, Vicksburg, Mississippi (1995-1998).

His major staff assignments include Secretary to the General Staff, Headquarters, U.S. Army Training Center Engineer, Fort Leonard Wood (1981-1982); Battalion Operations Officer and Executive Officer, 5th Engineer Battalion (Combat), Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri (1982-1983); Senior Assistant Professor of Military Science at Indiana University/Purdue University at Indianapolis, Indiana (1983-1985); Executive Officer of the 25th Aviation Battalion (Attack) and Operations Officer of the Aviation Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (Light) Schofield Barracks, Hawaii (1986-1989); and Chief of Concepts and Studies Division, U.S. Army Engineer Center, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri (1991-1992).

The Tennessee native holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Construction from Memphis State University and a Master of Arts in Management from Webster University. He is a graduate of the U.S. Army War College, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and the Engineer Officer Basic and Advance Courses.

His military awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal (three awards), Army Commendation Award (two awards), Army Achievement Medal, the National Defense Medal, Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, and the Master Army Aviator Badge.

Colonel Wright and his wife, the former Cathie Harmon, are both from Memphis, Tennessee. They have three children, Christopher, Scott, and Catie.

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COLONEL GARY W. WRIGHT
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, FT SILL, OK
ON INFRASTRUCTURE READINESS

I am Colonel Gary Wright, the Director of Public Works at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma.

Ft. Sill is the home of the Field Artillery for both the United States Army and Marine Corps. We currently have over 2200 buildings totaling 14 million square feet with 94,000 acres and over 400 miles of roads to support 14,000 service members and 19,000 family members. Our mission is to develop, train, equip, mobilize and deploy the Field Artillery force. During FY 2000 our Training Command graduated 25,508 Army and Marine Field Artillery officers, non-commissioned officers and Initial Entry Training soldiers and Marines. We also have the III Armored Corps Artillery, which is the largest and most diverse artillery organization in the free world. Its four brigades totaling 5,000 soldiers are prepared to deploy to any theater of operations and provide fire support for the III Armored Corps.

The good news is that Ft. Sill leads the Army in constructing and remodeling single soldiers quarters to meet the new 1+1 standards, with over 2,200 spaces completed and construction under way for the remaining 880 units. In addition, a new Army Strategic Mobility rail project is under construction to facilitate power projection deployments. However, nine of thirteen battalion tactical equipment shops are close to fifty years old

with no projects to correct this situation in the Army Future Years Defense Plan (FYDP). In fact, Ft. Sill has only two Military Construction Projects in the FYDP, far below what is required to renew aging infrastructure.

Ft. Sill's 1,415 Army Family Housing units are well maintained at a C-2 status (supports majority of assigned missions). Moreover, we consistently maintain occupancy rates in excess of 98%. However, the age of our quarters range from 40 to 130 years and privatization is not scheduled for at least 10 years.

Our most pressing challenge is that after fourteen years of declining Army budgets, Ft. Sill's infrastructure and facility readiness is now rated at C-3 (impairs mission performance). Leaky roofs, inoperable and insufficient heating and air conditioning systems, broken and leaking plumbing, failing roadways, structural failures, and inadequate range facilities are common throughout Ft. Sill.

Ten years ago Ft. Sill had a budget of 178 million dollars to support training, and operate and maintain the installation. The Public Works Directorate had nearly 500 personnel. Today, Ft. Sill has one additional FORSCOM Corps Artillery Brigade, the same mission, supporting the same training load, but is funded at a reduced rate of approximately 100 million dollars in FY 01. More importantly, the installation is only able to fund 24% of its 43 million-dollar annual facility sustainment requirement. The DPW now has only 232 employees to maintain the same infrastructure. As a result, Ft. Sill, like many other installations, has stopped doing preventative maintenance and only does facility

breakdown and emergency repairs. This not only leads to poor readiness and ineffective training, but it also leads to more rapid system failures which cost more to repair in the long run. This reduced funding has resulted in a backlog of over 214 million dollars in facility maintenance at FT Sill.

In summary, unless significant resources are added to the Army's overall budget for Real Property Maintenance the Army will continue to be forced to drastically under fund the maintenance of its installations infrastructure as a sacrifice to fund training and readiness mission requirements.