

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
PRESENTATION TO THE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT
UNITED STATES SENATE

SUBJECT: FY01 MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

STATEMENT OF: THE HONORABLE RUBY B. DEMESME
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(MANPOWER, RESERVE AFFAIRS,
INSTALLATIONS AND ENVIRONMENT)

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Introduction

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, good day. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today to discuss the Department of the Air Force FY 2001 Military Construction (MILCON) program. The MILCON program reflects a delicate balance among our people, readiness, and modernization needs, which are vital to sustaining a decisive and premier aerospace fighting force. Mr. Chairman, this committee's continuing support of the Air Force MILCON program is greatly appreciated and, on behalf of our uniformed members and their families, I want to thank you and this committee for your support, especially during the last budget cycle.

Overview

The United States Air Force is the most technologically advanced and powerful aerospace force in the world today. To maintain this strategic advantage, we continue to balance a myriad of missions around the world ranging from major conflicts and peacekeeping operations to humanitarian relief efforts. Although the number of uniformed Air Force members is the lowest since the end of the Cold War, the constant high operational tempo far exceeds the tempo of that era when we had over twice the number of people. Consequently, the demands placed on our people, and the allure of the opportunities created by a robust economy, make it very difficult to keep them in uniform without addressing their concerns, which range from health care and pay, to providing better conditions for them and their families to live, work, play, and worship. As a result of the constant high operational tempo, the Air Force is paying a heavy price to meet the

challenges in the areas of recruiting and retention. This is why we consider our MILCON and housing programs as vital components in addressing these challenges.

As one of the primary pillars supporting Air Force quality of life initiatives, the MILCON program provides better working facilities and safe, affordable, and quality housing for our people and their families. Regrettably, the FY 2001 MILCON funding continues on a downward trend, which began in the 1980's, and our budget submission reflects only one-third of our total validated MILCON requirements. The Air Force continues to under-invest in a number of programs, including MILCON, Military Family Housing (MFH), and Real Property Maintenance (RPM), because of the many high priorities competing for limited funding. Consequently, because of the large number of unneeded facilities and infrastructure remaining after the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission decisions, we are compelled to continue investing scarce resources to maintain them.

The Air Force seeks to balance the needs of the Total Force so as to minimize any negative impact on unit readiness and modernization and quality of life programs by targeting scarce resources towards our most critical needs. Our installation programs continue to reflect hard decisions based on tough choices, but the Air Force recognizes that every dollar invested in MILCON is an investment in our people, our most treasured resource. Our Total Force of active-duty members, Guardsmen, Reservists, civilians, and contractors are the backbone of our aerospace force and are the reason our Air Force is the premier aerospace force in the world today.

The transition from a Cold War garrison force to the revolutionary Expeditionary Aerospace Force (EAF) construct is enabling the Air Force to meet the Nation's demands for deployed forces, and to respond to the stresses being placed on our uniformed members and their families by the constant high operational tempo. We continue to ensure the highest priorities of the Total Force are satisfied first, using the following methodology:

- Maintain our operations and maintenance programs to preserve mission support infrastructure, as well as the quality of life of our personnel and their families.
- Ensure that our MILCON program places emphasis on supporting new mission beddowns and current mission necessities, to include redirecting limited capital investment to our most pressing requirements.
- Ensure realistic training for our aircrews and access to ranges.
- Reinvest in the few remaining overseas bases, which, even after host-nation burdensharing, require funds to maintain critical facilities necessary to sustain Air Force core competencies.
- Focus on cleaning up our Active and Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) installations to protect human health and the environment, and facilitates reuse at BRAC bases.

To meet these daunting challenges and leverage our limited dollars that support people, readiness, and modernization needs, we look for better business practices through private sector business ventures. We are pleased to report on our first military family housing privatization success story.

In January 2000, the Air Force celebrated the grand opening of Frank Tejada Estates at Lackland AFB, Texas, named after the former Congressman from Texas. This 8:1 return on investment is providing 420 housing units for our lower ranking airmen several years ahead of the conventional MILCON process. This is a great example of leveraging our limited resources, and I thank this committee for its support.

Although not part of the MILCON appropriations, I want to briefly touch upon a significant concern for us, the Air Force RPM. Our RPM funding is at what we call the Preventive Maintenance Level, which sustains mission operations, until we can upgrade facilities and infrastructure through the MILCON program. Although we fund our RPM account at 1% of our overall plant replacement value, the backlog of maintenance and repair continues to grow past the current \$4.3 billion level, placing additional strain on our people who are working in deteriorated facilities. We know that you share our concerns and are appreciative of the additional funds this committee has provided over the past four years for quality of life enhancements.

Mr. Chairman, I will now discuss the major programs in our FY 2001 MILCON budget request. I will review the Total Force MILCON program, which includes the MFH program and privatization initiatives. And, I will address the Air Force BRAC account and our perspective on the need for two more rounds of base closures.

Total Force Military Construction Budget

The Total Force MILCON program consists of five principal areas: Current Mission; New Mission; Planning & Design and Unspecified Minor Construction; Environmental; and BRAC. Current Mission construction revitalizes existing facilities and infrastructure, and builds new facilities to correct existing deficiencies. New Mission construction supports the beddown of new weapon systems and force structure realignments. Planning & Design and Unspecified Minor Construction include funds to design our construction projects and to fund a small program to handle urgent, unforeseen construction requirements. The environmental program supports those regulatory compliance projects, which, by law, requires accomplishment, or to avoid any health or safety risks to people on or off our installations. The BRAC program supports the closure and realignment of bases previously selected by the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commissions and includes environmental cleanup and compliance costs at closed bases.

For FY 2001, we are requesting a program of \$1.65 billion for MILCON. This request includes \$1.58 billion for active duty MILCON (\$531 million for traditional MILCON and \$1.05 billion for MFH); \$50 million for Air National Guard (ANG); \$15 million for Air Force Reserve (AFR); and \$12.8 million for BRAC MILCON.

Total Force Military Construction Program

Our Total Force MILCON and MFH programs are developed using the following facility investment strategy:

- Sustain and Operate What We Own

- Beddown New Missions
- Uphold Quality of Life
- Optimal Use of Public and Private Resources
- Reduce Infrastructure
- Environmental Leadership

Program Overview

Our facility investment strategy identifies and distributes funds based on the most urgent needs of the Total Force. The strategy provides a mechanism for allocating funds based on the priorities of the Major Commands (to include the ANG and AFR), Chief of Staff, and Secretary of the Air Force.

To determine priorities, each Major Command submits a prioritized, unconstrained list of its construction requirements. Subsequently, we use a weighted matrix to establish a priority list based on the most urgent needs of the Total Force. The Air Force leadership reviews and approves the final priority list.

Sustain and Operate What We Own

Our FY 2001 current mission MILCON program consists of 39 projects totaling \$363 million. These projects include significant infrastructure improvements to airfield ramps and water distribution systems; upgrade operations, maintenance and corrosion control complexes; and, in the spirit of joint cooperation, our continued support for air operations on Army installations. With these projects, we continue the “sustain what we own” concept to identify the

most urgent priorities of the Total Force, while constantly looking for opportunities to consolidate functions and reduce infrastructure.

Beddown New Missions

The F-22, C-17, and B-2 are new weapon systems designed to enhance the capabilities of our forces. These systems will provide the rapid, precise, global response that enables our combat commanders to respond decisively to conflicts in support of national security objectives.

Our MILCON program supports new weapon system requirements to include, but not limited to, the F-22 fighter, C-17 airlifter, B-2 bomber, and the enhanced training range in Idaho (Juniper Butte Range). Our FY 2001 new mission MILCON program consists of 20 projects, totaling \$130.8 million.

F-22 Raptor

The F-22 Raptor is the Air Force's next generation air superiority fighter replacement for the F-15. The proposed location for two training squadrons is Tyndall AFB, Florida. The FY 2001 MILCON includes two F-22 projects at Tyndall AFB totaling \$25 million.

C-17 Globemaster-III

The C-17 Globemaster-III aircraft will replace our fleet of C-141 Starlifters. The C-17 has established an outstanding track record as a rapid global mobility asset by combining the C-141's reliability, with the C-5's capability to carry oversize cargo, and the C-130's capability to land and maneuver on short, unimproved forward-located airstrips. To support this program, our budget request includes facilities at McChord AFB, Washington; Charleston AFB, South

Carolina; and our first Air National Guard location at Jackson International Airport, Mississippi. The FY 2001 C-17 MILCON program includes four projects totaling \$23 million.

B-2 Spirit

The B-2 is a multi-role bomber capable of delivering both conventional and nuclear munitions. The bomber represents a major leap forward in technology and is an important milestone in the United States bomber modernization program. Our FY 2001 MILCON program includes two projects at Whiteman AFB, Missouri, totaling \$12 million.

Enhanced Training Range in Idaho (Juniper Butte)

The Air Force is building a training range and modifying airspace in Southwest Idaho, which will enhance local training for aircrews from Mountain Home AFB, Idaho. This project is an excellent example of how the Air Force strikes an effective balance between training and readiness requirements and local environmental, cultural, and economic concerns. The new range will include acreage for drop zone sites; no-drop zone sites; simulated target areas; and emitter sites. This multi-year request includes \$10 million in FY 2001 for phase III.

Air National Guard B-1 Beddown at Robins AFB

This \$9 million project supports the conversion from F-15 to B-1 aircraft and the relocation from Dobbins ARB, Georgia, to Robins AFB, Georgia. The facility space will support munitions build-up and storage, munitions maintenance training, and administration.

Uphold Quality of Life Investments

Our national security policy relies on aerospace presence around the world, which means the Air Force must be ready to respond anywhere in the world on very short notice. While modern technology enables our forces to perform their missions more effectively, technology cannot substitute for high quality people. By continuing to support quality of life initiatives, we are letting our people know that we are aware of their many sacrifices in support of national objectives and are committed to addressing their concerns. Yes, we acknowledge that we are spreading our people thin, but we also realize that it is much cheaper to retain them than to train new people, and we need experienced warriors to maintain our systems and to train junior airmen. This is why our MILCON and housing programs are very important when it comes to retention, which directly affects readiness.

The Air Force dormitory program is a proven quality of life force multiplier. An update on our three-step dormitory investment strategy, as outlined in the Air Force Dormitory Master Plan as follows: (1) buyout of all permanent party central latrine dormitories (now complete given the generous congressional support in FY 1999); (2) the conversion to 1+1 room configurations; and (3) the replacement of our worst existing dorms is on track for 2009.

This year's MILCON program funds ten enlisted dormitory projects identified as among the most critical requirements in our dormitory master plan for a total of \$91.5 million. Other quality of life initiatives include a child development center at Bolling AFB, DC; and fitness centers at McGuire AFB, New Jersey; Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona; Los Angeles AFB, California; and Little Rock AFB, Arkansas; for a total of \$38 million.

Now that our housing program is in progress, we are constructing a Fitness Center Master Plan. Physical Fitness Centers continue to rate high in our quality of life surveys, and are needed to help our members develop and maintain their physical fitness requirements. They also provide a place where stress, tension, and anger can be channeled into non-violent activities.

Overseas MILCON: Significant Need to Reinvest

First, I thank this committee for supporting the Department of Defense Kosovo Supplemental Bill last year. The additional funding will enable us to fund mission critical facilities that are vital for deployed forces supporting contingency operations.

The Air Force realizes that not all threats to the United States national security are conventional in nature. These non-conventional threats necessitate we invest in force protection infrastructure, safety, and quality of life at our overseas locations, as well as at home. We now have eleven overseas main operating bases, of which six are to the East: two in England, two in Germany, one in Italy, and one in Turkey; and five bases in the Pacific: three in Japan and two in Korea. After years of base closures and force reductions, we have achieved stability in the overseas theaters. Because of reduced MILCON investment, coupled with restrictive host-nation funding, we cannot sustain overseas requirements. We are actively pursuing NATO funding, increased host-nation funding, and payments-in-kind to realize a good measure of success. But, the quality of life improvements we owe to our personnel stationed overseas remain greater than available burden-sharing funding can satisfy.

Our FY 2001 MILCON program for our European and Pacific installations total \$48 million. The program consists of a fire training facility at Incirlik AB, Turkey; and two water distribution system upgrade projects in Korea; one at Osan AB and one at Kunsan AB. The program also includes a munitions storage igloo project that will support the Bomber Forward Operating Locations (FOLs) concept at Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory; and a project that constructs replacement facilities, enabling the out-year phased construction of sixteen wide-body aircraft parking spaces at Rota Naval Station, Spain. These parking spaces will provide an en-route strategic airlift hub critical to United States strategy. There are also two overseas dormitory projects; one at Aviano AB, Italy, and another at Osan AB, Korea. We strongly ask for your support of these crucial operational and quality of life projects, which represent critical requirements for airmen stationed overseas.

We understand the desire to maximize the contributions of others where possible, and we take advantage of every opportunity. We are sending a precautionary prefinancing statement to the NATO infrastructure committees for all NATO-eligible European projects. These statements will permit recoupment from the NATO infrastructure program if eligibility is subsequently established.

Although we do not have projects in the budget for Rhein Main AB, Germany, I want to make you aware of the Air Force's recently signed agreement with various functions in Germany to transfer the mission capabilities of Rhein Main AB to Ramstein AB and Spangdahlem AB, Germany. This agreement will ensure the facilities and infrastructure are in place to provide the same support for United States operations in Europe. However, the agreement was never intended to, and will not, address current mission facility or housing requirements for Ramstein

and Spangdahlem, so we must continue to support these requirements. We must not continue to ask our people stationed overseas on the front lines to excel every day in support of our Nation's security interests while living and working in deteriorated, deplorable conditions, which suffer from years of minimal funding. We strongly solicit your favorable support of our overseas program.

Optimize Use of Public and Private Resources

As we continue to operate in a constrained fiscal environment, we must look for ways to free up scarce resources for the preservation of our existing assets. To do this, we are adopting modern business practices, e.g., eliminating redundancy; using competition to improve quality and reduce costs; and reducing support infrastructure. While we look for advantages through outsourcing and privatization efforts, we are mindful of the impact it may have on national security and on our people and strive to seek a careful, balanced approach to the exploration of new asset management initiatives.

Housing Privatization

The Air Force is pleased with its first housing privatization project at Lackland AFB, Texas, awarded in August 1998. As stated earlier, on January 28, 2000, we participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony for the first 92 units. We also have three more projects under solicitation review at Robins AFB, Georgia; Elmendorf AFB, Alaska; and Dyess AFB, Texas. While the Lackland AFB project took longer than we would have liked, the experience gained in developing housing privatization policies and procedures will enhance our handling of future challenges. We are consulting with national real estate and financial institutions to improve our performance in housing privatization, and we firmly believe that through privatization, we can provide improved

housing to more airmen in less time than using the standard military construction process. We request your support by extending the housing privatization authorities beyond February 2001.

Utilities Privatization

We are implementing the defense reform initiative to privatize utility systems. Our goal is to privatize utility systems where it makes economic sense and does not negatively impact national security. We have identified 435 of our 640 systems as potential privatization candidates. We issued a request for proposals for 34 utility systems in January 2000. We have now reached a critical time in our privatization effort, as we transition to the execution phase. We are working diligently to ensure that we meet the goals established by the Department of Defense to privatize all utility systems by 2003.

Laboratory Infrastructure

Another private sector venture the Air Force is exploring is the Brooks City Base Concept. Brooks AFB, Texas, is a science and education oriented installation that houses some of the most prestigious Air Force schools and organizations. Under recently enacted legislation, we are assessing innovative ideas to improve Air Force asset management by reducing base operating costs, which in turn will free up funds for higher priority programs. We are considering a plan to convey the entire base's real property to the City of San Antonio and will then lease back facilities required to accomplish the Air Force missions. This greater reliance on the private sector and local government for base support services will result in the receipt of municipal services at no cost, a share of future development revenues, and other compensation from the City of San Antonio as fair market value compensation for the base property. The initiative would also allow the local community to have access to the facilities currently at Brooks, and would provide

a valuable place for future industrial and commercial development while retaining areas for parks and recreation.

These partnerships with local communities have great potential and may, with the approval of this committee, become models for future Air Force infrastructure plans. We look forward to sharing the results of our efforts and any subsequent plans with this committee as we work together to maintain faithful stewardship of our Nation's assets.

Reduce Infrastructure: Demolish and Consolidate

Our commanders continue to express their concerns about having to spend their scarce resources to operate and maintain excess and obsolete facilities. While we strive to increase our RPM dollars for infrastructure or new facilities, we must continue to demolish worn out or obsolete facilities in order to reduce recurring operations and maintenance costs. Over the past four fiscal years, we have demolished approximately 11 million square feet of obsolete facilities. Our FY 2001 budget submission continues this commitment.

Environmental MILCON: Lead by Example

As our record demonstrates, we are dedicated to enhancing our already open relationships with both the regulatory community and the neighborhoods around our installations. We strive to ensure that our operations meet environmental regulations and laws, and we seek out partnerships with local regulatory and commercial sector counterparts to share ideas and create an atmosphere of trust.

Our continuing efforts to foster an environmental ethic within the Air Force, both here in the United States and abroad, has enabled us to enhance operational readiness, be a good neighbor, and leverage our resources to ensure that we remain a leader in environmental compliance, cleanup, conservation, and pollution prevention. Our record speaks for itself. We have reduced our open enforcement actions from 245 in FY 1992 to just 10 at the end of FY 1999.

Our environmental compliance MILCON request for FY 2001 totals \$19 million for seven, level-1 “must pay” compliance projects. All of these projects satisfy level-1 requirements, which refer to conditions or facilities currently out of compliance with environmental laws or regulations, including those subject to a compliance agreement. Our program includes two fire-training facilities, which are closed due to fuel-contaminated property and potential ground water contamination. These fire-training facilities are located at Incirlik AB, Turkey; and Fort Smith ANGB, Arkansas. We have water treatment facility projects at Beale AFB, California; and Moody AFB, Georgia; a hazardous material storage facility at Eielson AFB, Alaska; a water distribution system upgrade project at Vandenberg AFB, California; and a generator fuel storage facility at Cape Romanzof Radar Site, Alaska.

Planning and Design

Our request for FY 2001 planning and design is \$66 million. These funds are required to complete design of the FY 2002 projects and to start design of our FY 2003 projects.

Unspecified Minor Construction

We have requested \$18 million in FY 2001 for unspecified minor construction, which will provide the total Air Force with a primary means of responding to small, unforeseen facility requirements that cannot wait for normal MILCON. From FY 1996 through FY 1999, an additional \$7 million was reprogrammed into the account to fund urgent requirements. The FY 1996 through FY 1999 accounts are fully obligated, or committed, to valid projects.

Military Family Housing

As in years past, family housing is one of our most important quality of life programs. We are convinced that no other facility program so greatly influences the performance and commitment of our people than having quality homes. To reinforce this commitment, in August 1999 we published our first-ever Family Housing Master Plan that will guide our MILCON, O&M, and privatization efforts through FY 2010. The average age of our housing inventory is 36 years and 65,000 of our 106,000 units require revitalization.

Maintaining our responsibility to the family housing program is even more important in this era of major force reductions and increased frequency and length of deployments. Because these factors are so stressful for military families, particularly overseas, it is imperative that we continue to emphasize quality of life programs to mitigate the stress. Consequently, we have developed, consistent with the corporate priorities of the Air Force, a housing program to best serve the most urgent needs of our families.

Our family housing investment has three equally important prongs: the replacement/improvement program, the operation and maintenance program, and the leverage we can obtain through a balanced privatization program. Our \$224 million FY 2001 family housing replacement and improvement program will construct two units and replace 270 worn-out units at two separate locations. We also propose to improve 1,278 units at 12 locations, and seek authority for six new privatization initiatives for 6,921 units, and continuation of the efforts at Tinker AFB, Oklahoma. The housing operations & maintenance program totals \$826 million. It supports “must pay” requirements such as refuse collection, snow removal, utilities, leases, and critical housing maintenance tasks. These are necessary to keep the houses in good condition. Finally, we will use privatization at selected locations to leverage our funds, while meeting the strict criteria established by our leadership, economic viability and severability. Privatization is just one tool that allows us to accelerate the buyout of repairs to inadequate homes, and we are committed to a careful, measured approach to balance privatization initiatives with traditional MILCON.

Housing Improvements

The Air Force “whole house/whole neighborhood” improvement concept has proven extremely successful. Under this concept, we upgrade older homes to contemporary standards by updating worn-out bathrooms and kitchens, replacing obsolete utility and structural systems, providing additional living space as permitted by law and, at the same time, accomplishing required maintenance and repair. The result is a cost-effective investment that extends the life of these houses a minimum of 25 years. In addition, the “whole neighborhood” program provides recreation areas, landscaping, playgrounds and utility support systems to give us attractive and functional living environments.

Our FY 2001 improvement request is \$174 million. This amount revitalizes or privatizes 8,199 homes at 24 bases as identified in the Housing Master Plan. This includes \$56 million for 7,147 homes stateside, \$112 million for 1,052 homes overseas, and \$6 million for seven infrastructure improvement projects. In the development of our Housing Master Plan, Air Force engineers traveled to every location in the Air Force, except Italy and Turkey. They assessed every housing type and 108 items within each house. After a year of analysis, our results show that most of the worst housing in the Air Force is located in Germany and the United Kingdom. The significant amount of improvement funding identified for overseas reflects, not only consistency with the Master Plan, but our commitment to our personnel and their families overseas to improve their quality of life now, rather than years from now.

Housing Construction

We are requesting \$37 million for FY 2001 projects, all at three stateside bases to construct two houses and replace 270 existing houses that are no longer economical to maintain.

Operations, Utilities, Maintenance, and Leasing

Our FY 2001 request for family housing operations, utilities, maintenance, and leasing is \$826 million. These funds are necessary to operate and maintain the 106,000 homes in the Air Force inventory and for 7,200 leases worldwide. Approximately 75 percent of this request represents "must-pay" requirements due to the Air Force's obligation as the landlord for items such as utilities, refuse collection, leases and other key services. The remaining 25 percent of the funds are for essential maintenance of homes and infrastructure. Our FY 2001 request includes \$114 million for leasing 284 domestic homes, 3,027 foreign homes, and 3,835 Section 801 homes.

The leasing program supports critical missions in non-traditional locations, such as foreign sites where family housing is not available, and for recruiters in the United States not located near military installations.

Planning and Design

We have requested \$13 million for planning and design. This includes planning and design for new construction and improvement programs.

Base Closure Account

First, I thank this committee for your support of the BRAC No-Cost Economic Development Conveyance (EDC) legislation. This legislation authorizes the Air Force to transfer property at closed or realigned military installations without consideration, via an EDC, to support local redevelopment as a result of changed local economic circumstances. This legislation has been instrumental in allowing communities, such as the former Lowry AFB, Colorado, to expedite their reuse efforts and is a win-win situation for local communities and the Department of Defense.

The Air Force FY 2001 BRAC program request reflects a thorough review of remaining requirements and careful budgeting to fulfill validated requirements to the greatest extent possible within the budget constraints. We continue to use the full flexibility of the account to manage our requirements and we appreciate your support of using BRAC funds until expiration within the environmental program.

Included in the \$369.7 million Air Force BRAC submission is a \$ 12.8 million project for a Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (DRMO) facility at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. This project supports the FY 1995 BRAC decision to realign Kelly AFB, Texas.

We continue to work closely with communities to ensure that we achieve our common goal to expeditiously transfer property to the local redevelopment authorities to help facilitate reuse, and we are pleased to report a few of our successes. At Reese AFB, Texas, we implemented the last remedy in place (LRIP) cleanup milestone four years faster than predicted and achieved a cost avoidance of \$10 million in capital costs through close coordination with our regulatory partners. In FY 1999 we also completed the LRIP milestones at Roslyn ANGS, New York; Eaker AFB, Arkansas; and Bergstrom AFB, Texas. In May 1999, we celebrated the grand opening of the Austin-Bergstrom Airport. This monumental event saved the community \$200 million by relocating the planned airport to the former Bergstrom AFB. Therefore, we consider Bergstrom an environmental and reuse success story.

I also highlight the closure and realignment of the Illinois Air National Guard's 126th Air Refueling Wing, which operates the KC-135, from the former Chicago O'Hare ARS to Scott AFB, Illinois. In exchange for the Air Force's property at O'Hare International Airport, the City of Chicago paid over \$102 million to fund the movement of personnel, equipment and construction of facilities at Scott AFB. A portion of the former O'Hare ARS is now the planned site for the International Headquarters of United Airlines and the Illinois Air Guard is now the owner of world-class facilities that complement the mission of Scott AFB.

The final success story I want to highlight happened at the former Loring AFB, Maine. In FY 2000, the base also completed its critical LRIP milestone and are in the final stages for complete turnover of operations to the redevelopment authority. We continue to learn many lessons as we close and realign our BRAC bases, and intend to apply them to future base conversions should the Congress approve additional rounds of closures.

As we focus on closing our BRAC environmental restoration sites, we remain committed to the selection of cleanup remedies that are protective of human health and the environment. In addition to converting bases to civilian reuse, we are continuing the realignment beddown process at remaining installations to ensure base closure actions neither disrupts our operational requirements nor adversely affects quality of life. We appreciate the support of this committee in helping us meet these objectives.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to make one final comment on BRAC. We cannot overemphasize how the reductions in Air Force manpower and force structure have outpaced those in infrastructure. Since 1989, the Department of Defense has reduced force structure by 36 percent, but infrastructure has only been reduced by 21 percent. Only additional BRAC rounds can correct this disparity. We cannot afford to continue spending our scarce resources on unneeded infrastructure. Furthermore, cost savings generated from two additional BRAC rounds are necessary to ensure we have the proper force structure and topline to address our priority needs for people, readiness, and modernization. We strongly support the Secretary of Defense's request for two additional rounds of base closures. Mr. Chairman, while we continue to work

within existing authorities to reduce Air Force infrastructure, there is no substitute for BRAC. We would appreciate this committee's support for two additional BRAC rounds.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I want to again thank this committee for its strong support of the Air Force MILCON program, which supports Air Force people, readiness, and modernization needs. I also want to thank this committee for sending a powerful message to our uniformed members and their families that you are aware of their many sacrifices and appreciate their dedication to the defense of this great nation by approving the military pay and compensation package. This action coupled with your continued support of the Air Force MILCON program sends a positive message to our people that we not only hear them but we care about them and want to keep them in uniform. We realize we cannot continue as the world's premier aerospace force without our people, and providing better working and living conditions demonstrate our commitment to them.

Our installations serve as our launch platforms to expeditiously project aerospace power around the world when called upon, as well as to provide places for our people to live and work. This budget submission reflects our commitment to maintain quality Air Force installations around the world for our Total Force members.

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the committee.