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STATEMENT BY

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BEFORE THE

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COL JAMES W. DUNKELBERGER

Colonel James W. Dunkelberger was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on September 15, 1946. He graduated from West Virginia University in May 1969, where he also earned a commission as a Second Lieutenant after having completed the Reserve Officer Training Corps Program. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science.

The colonel is a graduate of numerous military schools including the Air Defense Artillery School, the Engineer School, Director of Public Works Management School, Command and General Staff College, and Army Management Staff College.

As a Second Lieutenant on active duty, he served as a Staff Officer, Headquarters, United States Air Defense Center Fort Bliss, Texas. As a First Lieutenant he served as an Assistant S-3, 5th Battalion, 57th Artillery at Fort Bliss, Texas. He then began his Reserve career as a Captain, serving as a Construction Officer, 463th Engineer Battalion (Combat), Wheeling, West Virginia. As a Major he returned back to active duty serving as a Staff Engineer at the 77th ARCOM, Fort Totten, New York, then as Liaison Officer and Chief, Engineering Branch, 412th ENCOM (FWD) at Heidelberg, Germany. He also served as Chief, Engineer Operations, Combined Task Force, Operation Provide Comfort at Incirlik Air Force Base, Turkey. As a Lieutenant Colonel he served as Chief, Facilities Branch and Chief, Engineer Support Division for the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Engineer, USARC at Atlanta, Georgia and as Chief, Base Operations Branch, Engineers Office, Office of Chief Army Reserve, HQDA, Washington, D.C. As a Colonel he currently serves as the US Army Reserve Engineer, Office of the Chief Army Reserve, Headquarters, Washington, D.C.

Colonel Dunkelberger is the recipient of many awards and decorations, including the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Southwest Asia Service Medal and the Humanitarian Service Medal.

In his position as US Army Reserve Engineer, with combined staffs in Atlanta and Washington DC, Colonel Dunkelberger is responsible for strategic management of all US Army Reserve facilities and installations in the United States, Puerto Rico, the South Pacific and Europe. He manages an operations and maintenance budget in excess of \$498 million and a military construction budget of \$179 million in FY01.

He is married to the former Catherine M. Smeresky of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and they have five children, including two serving in the military, and five grandchildren.

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Good morning Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of the subcommittee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of more than 360,000 men and women serving today in your Army Reserve – a ready, relevant, and essential part of THE ARMY.

I'm Colonel James Dunkelberger, the Army Reserve Engineer. I represent the Army Reserve Installation Community that proudly sustains two of the Army's Major Installations and 12 Regional Support Commands. These regional commands function as "virtual installations" with facilities in 1,300 communities across all 50 states, most US territories, and in Europe.

On any given day some 2,200 Army Reserve soldiers are engaged around the world in support of the Army or one of our warfighting commands. In Fiscal Year 2000, this amounted to about three and a half million man-days of support from your Army Reserve. That's equivalent to an active Division, plus some.

As you know, the Army Reserve brings tens of thousands of professionals from the civilian world to the Army with skills and abilities the Army may not have or cannot afford to develop. Many are leaders and experts in their chosen fields. To train these "citizen soldiers," we utilize more than 45,000,000 SF of widely dispersed Reserve Centers and support facilities worldwide. This equates to more square footage than Forts Hood and Sill combined, with Fort Belvoir thrown in for good measure. Like these posts, we experience inherently the same challenges, but in a little different setting.

My mission is to support readiness by providing and maintaining facilities in which Army Reserve units and soldiers may train, and of which they may be justifiably proud. Therein lies my challenge today.

Our primary facilities, Army Reserve Centers, are prominent symbols of The Army on "Main Street America." They often create the very first impressions of the entire Army and present a permanent "billboard" for all Americans to see. Imagine, if you will, the impression that poorly maintained and seriously outmoded facilities leave on young men and women considering the military; on their mothers and fathers; on our neighbors in the community, and on the American taxpayer. Sad but true, this is the case today all across our nation. These factors alone provide a compelling reason for focused facilities support.

For today's Army Reserve soldiers, the impacts of poor facility conditions are even more acute. Overcrowded, inadequate and poorly maintained facilities seriously degrade our ability to train and sustain units and decay soldier morale and esprit de corps. This situation stems from a lack of adequate resources to address these conditions over time. For eight of the past ten years, we've been functioning on less than 40% of required funding to sustain existing facilities and we're constructing on average only 5-6 new facilities per year with 28% of required funding. Couple these facts with the advancing age of the inventory, greater mission demands, and a shifting population, it's easy to see that we are in a facilities death spiral without immediate help.

Most Army Reserve facilities consist of 1950's era, red brick, flat roofed, tired looking structures that remain virtually the same as when they were constructed. They're sorely in need of modernization or, as in most cases, replacement.

We have hundreds of deplorable facilities. They siphon off an inordinate amount of our maintenance and repair dollar. Given current Real Property Maintenance funding, we're unable to break free from sustainment let alone improve our facilities.

The Army Reserve Engineer Theme is "Building Pride." We try to do so in many ways, but primarily through major maintenance and repair projects, full facility revitalization, and, to a small degree, new military construction. With respect to our Full Facility Revitalization Program, if we were to receive on average of \$2M per facility, we could completely modernize many of our existing and enduring locations into state-of-the-art and space efficient facilities our soldiers will train in and be proud for the next 25-30 years. This is a cost effective and practical way to meet our mission.

We're "Building Pride" at the rate of six or eight centers at a time, but it's not enough. We've developed an overall Pride Builder Strategy to modernize our Army Reserve facility inventory by 2025. It is in concert with the Army's Facility Strategy. We have the will to succeed, but resources are the essential but elusive key to success. Our soldiers, whom we proudly proclaim as the "twice citizen," deserve better. We appreciate your help in building Army Reserve Pride. Thank you very much.