

**MILITARY CONSTRUCTION  
APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR  
1997: HEARINGS BEFORE A  
SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE COMMITTEE ON  
APPROPRIATIONS, U.S. SENATE, 104TH  
CONGRESS, 2ND SESSION, H.R. 3517**

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# MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1997

THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 1996

U.S. SENATE,  
SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS,  
*Washington, DC.*

The subcommittee met at 9:45 a.m., in room SD-192, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Conrad Burns (chairman) presiding. Present: Senators Burns, Stevens, Campbell, and Reid.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

STATEMENT OF ROBERT M. WALKER, ASSISTANT SECRETARY, INSTALLATIONS, LOGISTICS, AND ENVIRONMENT

ACCOMPANIED BY:

PAUL JOHNSON, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INSTALLATIONS AND HOUSING

FRANK MILLER, ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF FOR INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT

MAJ. GEN. WILLIAM A. NAVAS, DIRECTOR, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

BRIG. GEN. JAMES HELMLY, DEPUTY CHIEF, ARMY RESERVE

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. CONRAD BURNS

Senator BURNS. Good morning, Mr. Walker. It is nice to have you. Sorry I am a little late. I found somebody who was a worse driver than I am.

I am going to forgo my opening statement, and let us hear from the witness. First, I would call on my ranking member and good friend from Nevada, if he has an opening statement he would like to make. I will put mine in the record and just comment as the hearing goes on. And I thank you for your patience this morning.

[The statement follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF SENATOR CONRAD BURNS

The subcommittee will come to order. Today, we will hear testimony of the military construction, family housing, and BRAC programs for the Army and the Navy. This will include projects for the Guard and Reserve. First, we will hear from the Department of the Army.

Once again, we are pleased to hear from the Honorable Robert Michael Walker, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Logistics, and Environment. Welcome back. I want to thank you for all your efforts this past year in assisting this subcommittee in putting together a bill that is helpful to the Army and was acceptable to the Congress.



I also want to commend you for all your efforts concerning the operations in Bosnia. It is a good indication of your work when we did not see the anticipated problems of entering Bosnia during the dead of winter.

Last year the Army downsized itself in the BRAC round. Many of us are still smarting from that round. However, we anticipated that a renewed effort would appear to rebuild the Army's infrastructure. We know what bases we will have, going into the next century. Alarmingly, the Army's request for military construction is \$435 million. This is a \$200 million decrease from the fiscal year 1996 appropriated amount.

Secretary Walker, we welcome you before this subcommittee. I would ask you to keep your statement brief because we also have to hear from the Navy this morning. Your statement will be included in its entirety for the record. Secretary Walker, may I ask you to please introduce the back up witnesses with you before proceeding with your statement.

#### PREPARED STATEMENT OF SENATOR REID

Senator REID. Mr. Chairman, I have a brilliant opening statement, which says a lot of nice things about you, but I am going to also forgo that and put it in the record. [Laughter.]

Senator BURNS. Did you want to go ahead and read that one? I need one this morning. [Laughter.]

Senator STEVENS. Mine says a great deal about Mike Walker, but I think we can forgo that one, too.

Senator REID. I ask unanimous consent that my opening statement be made a part of the record.

Senator BURNS. So be it.

[The statement follows:]

#### PREPARED STATEMENT OF SENATOR HARRY REID

Thank you Mr. Chairman. Thank you for arranging for this early hearing on our Army and Navy Military construction, BRAC and Housing programs. This is going to be a short year, and I look forward to working with you, Mr. Chairman in much the same fashion as we worked so successfully together last year. As you recall, we were able to mark-up and report our bill out, get it through the Senate and conference and to the President's desk early in the process. Ours was the first appropriations bill he signed and only one of only two that made the fiscal year deadline on October first. And even though we added some \$497 million to the request, the President wisely signed it. It was overwhelmingly supported in the Senate, much of that due to your excellent work in putting it together. I hope that we can repeat that performance this year.

Mr. Chairman, judging from the President's budget request, it looks like we are being invited to rewrite the budget as submitted. The request for our Guard and Reserve program is totally inadequate and in some categories a complete joke. For the Army Guard; we appropriated \$137 million last year. The request for fiscal year 1997 is for less than \$8 million, and that included zero major construction for the Army Guard. So either the administration is preparing to put the Army National Guard out of business or, more likely, it expects us to add to the budget to fund it appropriately. And I have no doubt that we will, together, do just that. We admonished the Administration last year not to repeat this budget performance for the Guard and Reserves, but it has done just that. The overall request for the Guard and Reserve is less than half the amount we appropriated for fiscal year 1996. In order to match last year's amount, we would have to add nearly \$250 million to the budget.

Second, Mr. Chairman, I have looked through this budget and I have found that the only category which actually experiences an increase over last year is for NATO Infrastructure. The request is some 29 percent over last year's amount. Some \$208 million. What is wrong with this picture. We gut the American National Guard and Reserve and plus up the amounts for allied construction in Europe. I thought the Cold War is over.

Having said all this, Mr. Chairman, I warmly greet the Honorable Mike Walker, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations. He has been most helpful to this committee in the past. In particular, I want to thank him for taking quick action to begin rebuilding the decrepit rail line at Hawthorne Army depot when we discov-

ered the problem last year. He is a real professional, having been seasoned on this subcommittee. I know that he is concerned about the budget problems that I have just cited, and I know that whatever can be done to correct them, he will do so. So, without anything further, I welcome Mike Walker back before us, and look forward to your testimony.

#### PREPARED STATEMENT OF SENATOR CAMPBELL

Senator BURNS. Senator Stevens, do you have an opening statement? And Senator Campbell?

Senator CAMPBELL. I think I will follow the precedent already set, Mr. Chairman, and ask that mine be included in the record under unanimous consent. I have a few questions I would like to ask, and at the appropriate time I will ask those. If I have to run, I will submit those for the record.

Senator BURNS. Without objection, that shall be made a part of the record, and you shall have your questions asked.

[The statement follows:]

#### PREPARED STATEMENT OF BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL

Mr. Chairman, as the newest member of the Appropriations Committee, I would like to say I am pleased to be a member of this subcommittee on military construction. I know there is much I will learn from my involvement, but I am particularly interested in this subcommittee for there are many aspects of its work that directly affect my state of Colorado.

With that, I would like to welcome both Secretary Walker and Secretary Pirie. Colorado being a landlocked state, I think it's obvious that my focus today will be on what the Army is doing in my state.

I know that all of our Armed Forces have been changing dramatically with the drawdowns by prioritizing and refocusing efforts in an attempt to be more fiscally responsible. Know that through this process, which is difficult at best, I feel what will emerge is a better trained, better equipped force.

Having served in the Armed Forces myself, I know how essential good training is to any soldier, but I think too, as you have both mentioned in your submitted testimony, that the quality of life of our soldiers is a key component to any strong and capable armed force. I appreciate both of you taking the time to come before us here today to testify and allow us the opportunity to learn from you, first hand, some of the issues you are grappling with.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

#### STATEMENT OF HON. ROBERT M. WALKER

Senator BURNS. Mr. Secretary, it is good to see you this morning. Thank you for your patience.

Mr. WALKER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would ask that my entire statement be included in the record. Senator BURNS. Well, let us just close the hearing. [Laughter.]

Senator STEVENS. Mr. Chairman, if I might say, I have another hearing. I just dropped by in order to hear the statement of Mr. Walker. I do not urge him to read it, but I do hope he makes some comments.

Mr. WALKER. Yes; I will, Senator Stevens.

Mr. Chairman, I am accompanied this morning by my Deputy Assistant Secretary for Installations and Housing, Mr. Paul Johnson, who is well known to this committee. I am also accompanied by Maj. Gen. Frank Miller, who is the Assistant Chief of Staff of the Army for Installation Management. And I am also accompanied by Maj. Gen. Billy Navas, who is known very well by this committee. He is the Director of the Army Guard. And I am also accom-

panied by Brig. Gen. James Helmly, who is the Deputy Chief of the Army Reserve.

Mr. Chairman, 2 years ago this month, I was sworn in as Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Logistics, and Environment. And I have got to tell you, it has been an exhilarating 2 years, because it has enabled me to see the best of America up close. It has enabled me to spend countless hours with our soldiers and their families. I wish that every American could be with me when I visit our soldiers. And I know all of you know what I am talking about.

Whether it is in 120-degree heat in Kuwait or -5 degrees in Korea, America's soldiers are always the same. Even under the most adverse conditions, they always display courage, they always display dedication, they display professionalism, and especially patriotism. This committee should be very proud of the contributions that you have made to the U.S. Army, to your Army.

I recently saw the value of your contributions on a trip in Korea. In the past, as you know, we have had some of the worst living conditions in the Army in Korea. Well, I have been there three times in the last 2 years, and I have already seen the difference. The \$30 million a year that this committee is providing for barracks construction in Korea is making a difference. And on behalf of our soldiers and their families—our soldiers who are asked to serve in very difficult conditions and in the middle of a tense political and military situation—I want to thank you for that support. And you can be assured that these funds you are providing are being put to the very best use possible.

When I have met with this committee in the past, I have shared with you how difficult it has been to find all the resources that we need to do all the things that we need to do in the Army. That is as true in the 1997 budget as it has been in previous year budgets. But we have been able to provide overall for a balanced program, one that requires us to keep the Army trained and ready to meet national security requirements. Your Army is prepared to do its job today. But we must all be concerned about the future.

In order to pay for today's readiness, we are frankly unable to fully resource our modernization needs both in terms of weapon systems and modern facilities. And that, sadly, is the budget reality in fiscal year 1997. And as we approach balanced budgets in the future, we know the task could be even more difficult. But we must find a way to modernize the Army.

I read the intelligence reports every morning, and there continue to be, as you know, very real and significant threats to America's interests throughout the world. And even the poorest of our potential enemies are improving their own armies. Of course, we have no way of knowing who our next enemy will be, but we do know this: that our next enemy will be better prepared than Saddam Hussein's army was in the last war.

So that is why we must always stay ahead of our potential enemies by investing in technology and especially investing in people, which give us the edge—technologies and people, which not only enable us to inflict unacceptable casualties on a potential enemy, but enable us to fight a fast-moving, lethal battle with minimum casualties ourselves.