



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
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FEB 22 2018

The Honorable Mac Thornberry
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I would first like to convey my gratitude for the support of Congress and your steadfast support and commitment to Marines, Sailors and our Families. The recently enacted Bipartisan Budget Act (BBA) of 2018 provides the Marine Corps with relief from the Budget Control Act (BCA) defense spending caps in both Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 and FY 2019. While reduced funding levels over the past several years have impacted every aspect of the Marine Corps, particularly our readiness, the FY19 President's Budget (PB19) request, building on the increased funding levels in the FY17 Request for Additional Appropriations (RAA) and PB18 request, emphasizes modernization to meet the objectives of the National Defense Strategy and the future operating environment, especially increasing the lethality of the Joint Force. Your Marines continue to innovate and build a Next Generation Marine Corps – a lethal, adaptive, and resilient force that implements combined arms as a means to conduct maneuver warfare across all warfighting domains, no matter the challenge – ready to fight tonight and win across the range of military operations.

Despite the challenges facing us in today's strategic environment, our Marine Corps remains the Nation's forward deployed, agile, Expeditionary Force in Readiness. As the service with unique readiness requirements, we require sustained, adequate, and predictable funding to develop the correct mix of advanced capabilities and ensure a ready force. As we look ahead to the FY19 budget, we have prioritized the modernization of our Corps, the recovery of our current readiness, and investments to resource the next generation of Marines. The continued investment in these priorities will ensure Marines are capable as a high-end, conventional combat deterrent, able to respond to immediate contingencies and crisis response across the continuum of conflict. With the Committee's support and sustained commitment, we can begin to increase the gap in our competitive naval advantage, enhance global deterrence, and ensure that we never send our Nation's sons and daughters into a fair fight.

We have made extensive efforts to assess, prioritize and balance force capacity, capability and readiness in the development of PB19 and, with the recently enacted defense funding levels, fully funded our ground and aviation requirements at prudent and executable levels that supports our ability to achieve our C1/C2 readiness goal of 2/3 of the Operating Forces by FY22, enabling the capacity to meet steady state and contingency requirements within established timelines. Investing in and accelerating our modernization programs will directly correlate to improved readiness by achieving efficiencies and providing needed capabilities sooner. Modernization is central to addressing near-term readiness and foundational to building the Marine Corps of the 21st century. I would greatly appreciate congressional support of our full PB19 request.

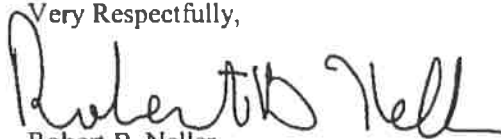
In support of the requirement mandated in section 1064 of the FY17 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), I am submitting a list of the Marine Corps' Unfunded Priorities for FY19. While I appreciate the opportunity to share our Unfunded Priority List (UPL), it is imperative that Congress prioritizes and supports those requirements included in our PB request first and foremost before considering additional items in our UPL. The list of unfunded requirements this year is composed of additional military

construction items that would help to address the degradation resulting from past near-term readiness tradeoffs that led to chronic underfunding of our infrastructure. While these investments presented here are important, they are not of a higher priority than items in PB19 submission. The items contained on the list would further enhance our combat readiness and effectiveness should additional funds above those already requested in our PB19 submission be made available.

The items provided on the UPL support military construction related to the Marine Corps Infrastructure Reset Strategy. Our installations support Marines, Sailors and their families and serve as the premier Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) training, sustainment and deployment platforms. Additional military construction funding will directly impact readiness and quality of life. Our Infrastructure Reset Strategy is focused on optimizing and modernizing our bases and stations. Its intent is to provide Marine Corps installations that are data-driven power projection platforms, capable of adapting ready training venues to the evolving operating environment while maintaining a high quality of life for our Marines, Sailors, and their families, all at an economically sustainable rate. Congressional support and continued funding of the Infrastructure Reset Strategy will improve the operational readiness of the Marine Corps.

A similar letter has been sent to Chairmen McCain, Frelinghuysen, and Cochran. I thank you for your continued support for the Marine Corps and look forward to further dialogue. Your full support and timely congressional approval of PB19 and the attached unfunded requirements will provide needed stability to ensure your Marine Corps, as the Nation's crisis response force, is most ready when our Nation is least ready.

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert B. Neller", written in a cursive style.

Robert B. Neller
General, U. S. Marine Corps
Commandant of the Marine Corps

Enclosure: (1) FY 2019 Marine Corps Unfunded Priority List and Supporting Material

Copy to:

The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Minority Member

**FISCAL YEAR 2019
MARINE CORPS UNFUNDED PRIORITY LIST**

PRIORITY	ITEM	APPN	FY19 (\$M)
1	P2000 - 62 Area Mess Hall & Consolidated Warehouse, Camp Pendleton, CA	MCN	71.7
2	P400 - USMC Unspecified Minor Construction	MCN	25.0
3	P947 - Welding and Body Repair Shop Facility, MCLB Albany, GA	MCN	31.9
4	P334 - Supply Warehouse SOI – West, MCB Camp Pendleton, CA	MCN	16.6
5	P1458 - 2nd Radio BN Complex, Phase 2, MCB Lejeune, NC	MCN	51.3
6	P724 - Ammunition Supply Point Upgrade, Phase 2, MCB Quantico, VA	MCN	13.1
7	P457 - Cryogenics Facility, MCAS Beaufort, SC	MCN	6.3
8	P101 - USMC Planning & Design	MCN	20.0
USMC TOTAL			235.9