



ACQUISITION,
TECHNOLOGY
AND LOGISTICS

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3010

09 FEB 2004

The Honorable Duncan Hunter
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2515

Dear Mr. Chairman,

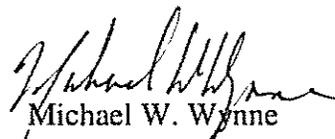
House Report 108-106, the report accompanying the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004, calls on the Secretary of Defense to provide a report to Congress on the plan of the Department of Defense to address issues outlined in a February 2003 report on defense infrastructure issued by the General Accounting Office (GAO). The report expressed concern about funding sustainment of defense facilities at the expense of recapitalization programs for facilities.

Generally, our facilities strategy is to stop deterioration and corrosion of our existing assets before replacing or recapitalizing older assets or buying new assets. This strategy favors sustainment over recapitalization. Nevertheless, we have set goals for both sustainment and recapitalization and are making progress toward both goals. The Department improved its recapitalization rate in FY 2004, compared to FY 2003, and we are working to continue progress.

The Department concurred with each of GAO's recommendations, and I assure you that all are being actively worked. The Department is updating its facilities strategic plan, which should be available during the second quarter of FY 2004. In addition, we will submit a separate report to Congress explicitly addressing our sustainment and recapitalization programs as soon as is practicable after the revised facilities strategic plan is completed.

A similar letter has been sent to the appropriate congressional defense committees.

Sincerely,


Michael W. Wynne
(Acting)

cc:
The Honorable Ike Skelton
Ranking Member

