

Military Construction Appropriations and Relocation of U.S. Forces in Korea

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Relevant sections of the Conference Report, as printed in the November 4 Congressional Record, below

Congressional Record: November 4, 2003 (House)]

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CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2559, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

Mr. YOUNG of Florida (during consideration of H. Con. Res. 280) submitted the following conference report and statement on the bill (H.R. 2559) making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes:

[deleted section]

Korea--Camp Humphreys: Barracks.--The administration has informed Congress of its plans to move substantial numbers of United States forces in Korea to bases south of their present locations, with Camp Humphreys being the primary consolidation point for the shift of U.S. Army combat forces and for personnel currently stationed at Yongsan Garrison. To support this transformation, the May 1, 2003 budget amendment requested that \$212,000,000 in FY 2004 and prior year construction projects intended for other bases in Korea be moved to Camp Humphreys; extensive additional construction at the base is planned for future fiscal years. However, according to U.S. Forces Korea officials, no master plan exists for construction at Camp Humphreys, and cost-sharing arrangements to fund the move of U.S. forces are still under negotiation between the governments of the United States and the Republic of Korea.

While the conferees support the Defense Department's overall plan for the relocation of U.S. forces in Korea and have provided funding in this appropriations bill for two projects at Camp Humphreys, they are concerned that planning for this significant undertaking is insufficiently developed at this time. Though planning may proceed, construction may not proceed on the two barracks at Camp Humphreys provided for in this Act until:

- (1) A master facilities plan is developed for the entire Camp Humphreys installation which accommodates the anticipated relocation of U.S. forces to that facility, and
- (2) Cost-sharing arrangements for the relocation of U.S. forces are agreed to by the governments of the United States and the Republic of Korea.

Upon completion, the master facilities plan should be presented to the Military Construction Subcommittees.

[deleted section]

The conference agreement deletes the House provision requiring the Secretary of Defense to certify and report to Congress that the United States and the Republic of Korea have entered into an agreement on the availability of land before obligating or expending funds made available in the bill for construction projects at Camp Humphreys, Korea. The Senate bill contained no similar provision.

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