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Issue: Installation Maintenance Funding

The Department of the Navy historically underfunds installation maintenance.

- From an industry standard, corporations fund facility maintenance and upkeep plans at a rate of 2 to 3% of their Plant Value.
- If Kings Bay were to receive the full amount of its documented requirement for facility sustainment, restoration and maintenance funding it would equate to about 1.5% of facility Plant Value.
- However, 100% funding is not distributed to Naval installations. Instead, naval shipyards are currently funded at a 70% level and other installations receive 55% of their requirements. Kings Bay is funded at the 55% level.
- The operational impact of this reduced funding is a growing backlog of past due maintenance, and the associated degradation in facility condition and quality of services.

Kings Bay fights the perception of a new base and faces unique maintenance challenges.

- Kings Bay became operational in 1978, with all major facilities being brought online in a period of about five years.
- Not only are most facilities about 30 years old, most utility infrastructure systems are almost 40 years old.
- Because of the similar age of facilities, Kings Bay is experiencing the beginning of all major systems (roofs, heating and air conditioning, electrical distribution) reaching and exceeding the end of their useful service lives.
- Facility and utility restoration programs at other installations make these bases effectively “younger” than Kings Bay.
- Trident Refit Facility performs depot-level maintenance action on Trident submarines. Strategic Weapons Facility, Atlantic manufactures and performs depot-level maintenance on the D-5, Trident II missile. As such, Kings Bay maintains a covered drydock, submarine component fabrication and maintenance facilities, missile onload/offload systems, and sophisticated missile production and repair facilities. In essence, the majority of the base more closely resembles a Naval shipyard than a typical Naval installation.

Recommendation. Recognize the critical nature of infrastructure at Kings Bay required to support the Navy’s strategic deterrent force and fund maintenance, at a minimum, to the same level as Naval shipyards. This funding should be put in place as soon as possible, to get ahead of the growing maintenance problems associated with the Base’s similar in service life, but aging infrastructure.

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