



United States Senate

January 23, 2019

General Robert B. Neller
Commandant of the Marine Corps
Headquarters, US Marine Corps
3000 Marine Corps, Pentagon
Washington, DC 20350-3000

Dear General Neller:

I write today to request information pertaining to the operation and maintenance of privatized military housing at Camp Pendleton, California.

As you know, more than 99% of the Marine Corps' on-base military housing in California is operated by two private entities: Lincoln Military Housing and Hunt Military Communities.

There were anticipated advantages to the Department of Defense in utilizing private contractors to renovate and sustain an ageing stock of government-owned military housing when Congress first approved the privatization initiative more than twenty years ago. However, today, recent public reports have indicated that the private contractors charged with ensuring that our servicemembers and their families have safe housing are failing to do so in some instances.

According to a recent investigation conducted by *Reuters*, Marines and their families living at Camp Pendleton have been forced to endure rodent and insect infestations, water leaks, mold blooms, and other frustrations of poor construction and maintenance.

The *Reuters* articles describe military officials unable or unwilling to intervene on behalf of our servicemembers, and private contractors who either blamed servicemembers for the poor state of their housing or otherwise failed to remedy serious health and safety hazards.

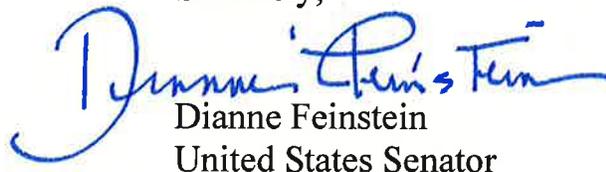
I found the details of the *Reuters* investigation horrifying and unacceptable, and strongly believe the military must do all that it can to ensure our servicemembers live in housing free of environmental or health hazards.

To that end, I request:

- 1) Copies of the contracts—with the appropriate redaction of competition-sensitive information—currently in place at Camp Pendleton for Lincoln Military Housing and Hunt Military Communities.
- 2) Copies of the service or department-level guidance and policy documents that relate directly to contracting for on-base privatized housing.
- 3) Copies of the standard operating procedures for responding to and rectifying mold/mildew and other habitability, safety, and health complaints in government-owned housing, as required by Marine Corps Order 11000.22.
- 4) Any information on whether cure notices were sent to either Lincoln Military Housing or Hunt Military Communities for failure to adhere to their contractual obligations at Camp Pendleton.

Thank you and I look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Dianne Feinstein
Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

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