

GREGORY F. MURPHY, M.D.
3RD DISTRICT, NORTH CAROLINA

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE,
AND TECHNOLOGY

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
AND LABOR

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2333 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3415

DISTRICT OFFICE:
1105 CORPORATE DRIVE, SUITE C
GREENVILLE, NC 27858
(252) 931-1003

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3303

July 24, 2020

The Honorable Kenneth J. Braithwaite
Secretary of the Navy
2000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, DC 20350

Dear Secretary Braithwaite:

I am honored to represent Fleet Readiness Center East (FRC East), a Navy tenant command aboard MCAS Cherry Point. More than 4,000 civilian constituents work at FRC East. Together with its active duty military partners, it generates combat air power primarily for the Marine Corps and the Navy. FRC East also supports the Air Force, the President's helicopters, and our foreign allies. Our national security depends on the ability to maintain, upgrade, and repair our military aircraft. FRC East meets that challenge every day.

Unfortunately, I have heard loud and clear from my constituents that FRC East faces physical plant problems that threaten its future ability to perform. Working in facilities and hangars that are 40 to 70 years old may have been adequate in the past, but there are concerns that we cannot sustain twenty-first century aircraft without significant reconstruction.

I recently saw this first-hand when I toured FRC East. The commitment of the work force to serving our nation is remarkable. But their ability to perform is being hindered by a lack of investment from the Navy in new construction and major structural upgrades.

It has come to my attention that there are two funding matters that you can help hopefully resolve quickly. I would be grateful if you and your staff could take a look at them and give me an update along with an action plan for execution.

1. When will FRC East receive its share of the Navy's Hurricane Florence relief funding for the repair of the facilities? These funds were appropriated by Congress for military facilities that needed repair or replacement after Hurricane Florence. It is my understanding that FRC East has around \$40 million in unmet need.
2. Why has the construction of the Lift Fan Testing Facility been delayed? This project was appropriated through Congress. The State of North Carolina contributed an additional \$5 million to support the project. Three years later the Navy has yet to break ground. Is there anything I can do to support your Department's efforts to build this critically needed F-35B testing site at FRC East?

I am grateful for you and your staff's attention to these vitally important issues. I look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,


Gregory F. Murphy, M. D.

Cc: Governor Cooper; Senator Burr; Senator Tillis