

**MONDAY MORNING GROUP OF WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY
ANNUAL ADVOCACY TRIP – WASHINGTON, DC
APRIL 20-23, 2026**

**INCREASING MINOR MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY
FOR LABORATORY REVITALIZATION PROJECTS**

ISSUE: Naval Surface Warfare Center, Corona Division (NSWC Corona) requires increased Unspecific Minor Construction (UMC) authority to modernize aging laboratory infrastructure and meet rapidly expanding mission demands.

ACTION: The Monday Morning Group urges Congress to authorize a permanent increase of the UMC Laboratory Revitalization (LR) threshold under 10 U.S.C. 2805(d) to \$20 million, with a minimum of \$15 million, to provide Department of War (DoW) laboratories the flexibility needed to sustain mission-critical facilities.

BACKGROUND: Congress previously raised the UMC threshold for LR projects from \$6 million to \$9 million in the FY2023 National Defense Authorization Act, enabling NSWC Corona to pursue projects that were previously infeasible. However, the current threshold remains insufficient for the scale and complexity of modern laboratory requirements, especially in high-cost regions such as Southern California. Rapid advancements in technology, inflation, and increasing operational needs have outpaced MILCON programming cycles, limiting the Navy's ability to deliver timely, purpose-built RDT&E infrastructure.

Increasing the authority to \$20 million enables NSWC Corona and other DoW laboratories to quickly repair, replace, or expand essential facilities to support innovation, mission responsiveness, and the rapid delivery of capabilities to the warfighter. A higher threshold also better aligns with market conditions and area cost factors, ensuring projects remain executable without delay.

The Naval Research and Development Establishment (NR&DE), supported by the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development, Test & Evaluation (DASN RDT&E), continues to advocate for refined LR authorities that relieve pressure on the MILCON program and more effectively address RDT&E infrastructure risks. As a Navy Working Capital Funded organization, NSWC Corona relies on existing Capital Investment Program funds—no new appropriations are requested. UMC projects typically yield a return on investment within 2–5 years while reducing long-term operational costs through modernization.

Without an increased UMC threshold, NSWC Corona cannot construct the mission-specific facilities required to meet emerging warfighter needs, respond to sponsor demand, or sustain its planned installation footprint.