

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4315

May 20, 2026

Honorable Pete Hegseth
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

The Honorable Hung Cao
Acting Secretary of the Navy
U.S. Department of the Navy
1200 Navy Pentagon
Washington DC, 20350

Dear Secretary Hegseth and Acting Secretary Cao:

I write with serious concern over the impending funding shortage at the U.S. Department of the Navy caused by costs associated with extended combat operations in the Middle East, such as Operation Epic Fury, and were not accounted for in the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026* [P.L. 119-75]. If the Department continues to divert funds from other accounts to fund this unauthorized war, there will be substantial disruptions on Navy personnel, "...training, operations, and certification events..." across the country by July.¹

As you know, South Texas hosts some of the most significant military training installations in the United States including, Naval Air Station (NAS) Kingsville and NAS Corpus Christi. These two interconnected installations, which have been operating since the 1940s, are premier locations for aviation training and are responsible for producing around 800 new naval aviators each year, including 50 percent of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps' tactical jet pilots.

Any disruption in funding for U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps training caused by a funding shortfall would severely degrade military readiness, compromise our domestic installations, and directly jeopardize broader national security.

To better understand the steps that the Navy is taking in response to this looming funding shortage and the impacts this may have on NAS Kingsville and NAS Corpus Christi, I request the following information:

1. To prevent budgetary shortfalls, the Department of Defense (DoD) must officially request supplemental war funding from Congress rather than continually draining its baseline operations and maintenance budget for Middle East combat operations. Is this something the Department plans to do by the July funding cliff?
2. If DoD does not submit a supplemental funding request to Congress before July, which specific training programs would the U.S. Navy be forced to halt or delay?

¹ Cedar, R. (2026, May 13). US Navy could run out of money by July, top officer warns, *Navy Times*.
<https://www.navytimes.com/news/your-navy/2026/05/13/us-navy-could-run-out-of-money-by-july-top-officer-warns/>.

- a. What process is the Navy using to select the training programs that will be delayed in the event of a funding shortfall?
 - b. When does the Navy expect these cuts to take place?
 - c. How many new Sailors and Marines will be affected should the Navy delay Permanent Change of Stations orders?
3. What other operations, aside from training, would be cut if this shortfall is not properly addressed?

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'VG' followed by a stylized name.

Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress