

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

April 29, 2026

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

Dear Acting Secretary Cao:

I write with grave urgency and ask that you prioritize and include two pressing infrastructure projects at Naval Air Station (NAS) Kingsville in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Navy Unfunded Priority List (UPL): a new pass & tag facility and a new fire station.

NAS Kingsville, located in the 34th Congressional District of Texas, has been essential to training the next generation of U.S. Navy and Marine Corps aviators since it first opened its doors in 1942. Today, it is home to Training Air Wing Two and trains nearly half of Navy and Marine Corps' tactical jet pilots each year. The base also employs over 4,000 people and contributes at least \$1 billion to the Texas economy annually.

As you can see, NAS Kingsville is vitally important to my district and to the nation. That is why the Navy must act quickly to address these long overdue infrastructure issues.

NAS Kingsville's current pass & tag facility is located 1.3 miles beyond the South Entry Control Point (ECP), requiring gate security personnel to escort visitors and contractors over a mile into the installation before they can obtain credentials. Allowing this level of access before proper vetting occurs poses significant security risks for NAS Kingsville, delays vehicle entry into the base, and places a substantial administrative burden on security personnel.

Additionally, NAS Kingsville's fire station, which was built in 1956, is in desperate need of renovation or replacement. The current facility is too small to accommodate modern firefighting equipment and has numerous infrastructure issues including a leaking roof, mildew, and ineffective climate control. These issues pose a grave health and safety risk for the base and hamper the installations' ability to provide important fire and emergency services internally and to the greater community.

In light of NAS Kingsville's critical naval aviation training mission, I urge you to prioritize these two projects by including them in the Navy's FY 2027 UPL. Doing so will enhance the safety and security of the over 4,000 people that are proud to work at NAS Kingsville.

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 'M' and a flourish.

Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress