

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 29, 2026

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

Dear Secretary Hegseth:

We write to you with fresh concerns regarding the reported failures of the Department of Defense (DoD) to ensure that injured service members received adequate care in the aftermath of the March 1st Iranian drone strike on a U.S. military post at Port Shuaiba in Kuwait.¹ As President Trump once again ramps up his reckless war in Iran, and new reports indicate that additional American bases have come under attack, it is critical that DoD provide answers about its capacity to provide care for injured service members.

Several of us wrote to you in April 2026 with concerns about significant gaps in DoD's efforts to adequately protect service members in preparation for the war, including the six service members killed and more than thirty troops injured in the Port Shuaiba strike.² You have not yet provided Congress with the results of the Army's investigation and failed to directly answer all of the Senators' questions from the April letter.³ Since we sent those letters, at least five more service members have been killed and additional reporting sheds further light on the Trump administration's ineptitude and lack of preparedness in launching its war against Iran.⁴ We request further information on why soldiers injured in the attack appear to have not gotten timely access to medical care and on the Trump administration's apparent inadequate preparation for attacks against service members in region, including at Port Shuaiba.

¹ The Washington Post, "Survivors of Iranian attack that killed 6 U.S. troops say generals ignored warnings," Tara Copp and Alex Horton, July 12, 2026, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2026/07/12/survivors-iranian-attack-that-killed-6-us-troops-say-generals-ignored-warnings/>.

² Letter from U.S. Senators Elizabeth Warren, Kirsten Gillibrand, Richard Blumenthal, and Mark Kelly to Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth, April 26, 2026, https://www.warren.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/media/doc/letter_from_senator_warren_dems_to_secretary_hegseth_on_service_member_protection_in_operation_epic_fury.pdf; Office of Congressman Pat Ryan, "Following Deadly Attack on U.S. Base in Kuwait that Killed 6 Servicemembers, Congressman Pat Ryan and House Democratic Veterans Demand Secretary Hegseth Investigate Force Protection Failures," press release, April 23, 2026, <https://patryan.house.gov/media/press-releases/following-deadly-attack-us-base-kuwait-killed-6-servicemembers-congressman-pat>; Office of Congressman Pat Ryan, "ICYMI: Congressman Pat Ryan Demands Accountability from Secretary Hegseth on Port Shuaiba Drone Strike," press release, April 29, 2026, <https://patryan.house.gov/media/press-releases/icymi-congressman-pat-ryan-demands-accountability-secretary-hegseth-port>.

³ Letter from Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs Dane Hughes to U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren, May 11, 2026, [On file with the Office of U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren].

⁴ ABC News, "Who were the 4 US soldiers killed in Iranian attacks over the weekend?" Steve Beynon, July 22, 2026, <https://abcnews.com/Politics/3-us-soldiers-killed-iranian-attacks-weekend/story?id=134950485>.

Lack of Medical Care for Injured Service Members

We are alarmed by reports of failures of DoD to provide medical care for soldiers from the Army's 103rd Sustainment Command who were injured in the strike. Before the attack, soldiers reportedly requested increased medical resources, including medical personnel and supplies, but these requests "were ignored."⁵ After the strike, survivors of the attack believed at least one soldier "could have survived her wounds had there been a doctor, a fixed aid station or more than one ambulance at the post."⁶ Ultimately, soldiers wounded in the attack concluded "the military's medical system failed them."⁷

Those soldiers who survived the attack reported facing delays and challenges in getting necessary medical care. Immediately following the strike, survivors had to "climb[] into unit vans and trucks and dr[i]ve themselves to a hospital in Kuwait City" and injured personnel were then sent to safe houses after spending a day there.⁸ A few days later, about ten of the troops who were most seriously injured were evacuated, but it wasn't until nine days after the attack that two dozen other soldiers were finally flown out to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany.⁹ According to reports, the soldiers "still needed medical care at that point, for shrapnel wounds and broken bones, or...had not been screened for brain injuries or other internal wounds."¹⁰ However, even when they arrived in Germany, soldiers reported that they were unable to get the care that they needed and that the military medical teams "had no clue we had injured [personnel] on the flight."¹¹ Doctors told them that because they hadn't been recorded as medical evacuees on the flight's manifest or as seriously injured in DoD's casualty-processing database, they could only get limited treatment and had to wait in nearby barracks because the hospital was unable to admit them.¹²

Concerning reports that Senator Warren previously raised in a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing in April also indicate that those who were likely suffering from traumatic brain injuries from the strike had to wait even longer to get the full care they needed.¹³ TBIs can have serious long-term effects, such as memory loss, seizures, mood swings, balance problems, paralysis, and increased risks of depression and suicide.¹⁴ But nearly a month after the strike, a

⁵ CBS News, "Troops say Army ignored request for more medical support before deadly attack on Kuwait base," Michael Kaplan and Jonah Kaplan, May 19, 2026, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/troops-army-medical-support-iran-kuwait-attack/>.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ The Washington Post, "Survivors of Iranian attack that killed 6 U.S. troops say generals ignored warnings," Tara Copp and Alex Horton, July 12, 2026, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2026/07/12/survivors-iranian-attack-that-killed-6-us-troops-say-generals-ignored-warnings/>.

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² *Id.*

¹³ Office of U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren, "On Day 59 of Iran War, Warren Warns of Delays in Care for Troops with Brain Injuries Caused by Combat," press release, April 28, 2026, <https://www.warren.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/on-day-59-of-iran-war-warren-warns-of-delays-in-care-for-troops-with-brain-injuries-caused-by-combat/>.

¹⁴ University of Utah, "Long-Term Effects of Traumatic Brain Injury," February 20, 2025, <https://healthcare.utah.edu/healthfeed/2025/02/long-term-effects-of-traumatic-brain-injury>; U.S. Department of Defense, Defense Suicide Prevention Office, "What You Should Know About Traumatic Brain Injury and Suicide Prevention," March 11, 2025, <https://www.dsppo.mil/Portals/113/Documents/20250311-DSPO-TBI-and-Suicidality->

service member who survived the attack reported that even after their unit had been flown out from Germany to Fort Hood in Texas, they and others in their unit had “been stationed [there] for weeks without seeing a doctor who could formally diagnose and treat traumatic brain injury” despite having “taken multiple post-event [brain function] screeners” that they “failed multiple times.”¹⁵

Additionally, soldiers and the families of soldiers who survived the attack have also reported that the Army downplayed injuries sustained in the strike. One soldier’s injuries were classified as “not seriously injured” despite being “riddled with shrapnel” and suffering “a concussion, hearing and vision loss, and damage to his lungs.”¹⁶ Another soldier “suffered severe shrapnel wounds from the blast and underwent multiple emergency surgeries at a Kuwaiti hospital” but an Army official told his wife after the strike that his injuries were “minor” and the soldier said he “absolutely” believes that DoD and the Army have tried to downplay the strike.¹⁷ Nearly four months after the strike, he reported that he was still at Walter Reed with a “pretty severe” traumatic brain injury and was expected to stay there for at least the next six months.¹⁸ The reports of these families point to a pattern of the soldiers who were injured in this attack not having their medical care and needs taken seriously.¹⁹

These reports are also emblematic of a broader pattern of the Trump administration’s blatant dismissal and disregard for the injuries and deaths of service members in this war. At least 18 service members have been killed and over 620 troops have been wounded in the war against Iran so far.²⁰ But on July 23, DoD lowered the number of U.S. service members who had been killed in the war so far from 18 to 14.²¹ While DoD has claimed that this was due to “a temporary data disruption”, three other “military officials said that one reason behind the change was that the Trump administration decided to remove four service members killed this past weekend from the list – three in Jordan and one in northern Iraq – because their deaths occurred after President Trump declared a cease-fire in the war in April.”²²

One-Pager-508c.pdf.

¹⁵ WSAW-TV, “Service members say they’re not receiving needed care following drone strikes,” Emily Davies, March 31, 2026, <https://www.wsaw.com/2026/03/31/service-members-say-theyre-not-receiving-needed-care-following-drone-strikes/>.

¹⁶ CBS News, “Wounded soldiers, families accuse Army of downplaying war injuries,” Jonah Kaplan and Michael Kaplan, June 24, 2026, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/wounded-soldiers-families-accuse-army-downplaying-war-injuries/>.

¹⁷ *Id.*

¹⁸ *Id.*

¹⁹ *Id.*

²⁰ CNN, “Iran war casualty count eclipses 600 as Pentagon quietly changes accounting,” Davis Winkle, July 27, 2026, <https://www.cnn.com/2026/07/26/politics/iran-war-casualties>.

²¹ The New York Times, “Number of U.S. Troop Deaths Suddenly Appears Lower on Pentagon Website,” Helene Cooper, Lara Jakes, and John Ismay, July 23, 2026, <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/07/23/us/politics/iran-troop-deaths.html>.

²² Post on X by Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs Sean Parnell, July 23, 2026, <https://x.com/SeanParnellASW/status/2080467772694265963>; The New York Times, “Number of U.S. Troop Deaths Suddenly Appears Lower on Pentagon Website,” Helene Cooper, Lara Jakes, and John Ismay, July 23, 2026, <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/07/23/us/politics/iran-troop-deaths.html>.

This is shameful and a complete and utter disrespect to these service members, their loved ones, and those who served alongside them. The claim that their deaths do not count because of the ceasefire are also illogical. These service members were killed on July 17 and 18²³ – long after President Trump notified Congress that strikes had resumed against Iran on July 7.²⁴

Additionally, regardless of whether their deaths occurred during the ceasefire, those service members were deployed in association with President Trump’s war. Instead, DoD has put the deaths of these four service members under a new category called “Overseas Operations” for service members who have been wounded or killed since July 7.²⁵ It dishonors their ultimate sacrifice to attempt to hide the real costs of this war from the American people.

This latest incident comes after weeks of President Trump and DoD attempting to downplay the deaths and injuries from this war. On July 22, President Trump appeared to “attempt to downplay the rising number of fatalities” in a post in which he compared the death tolls of service members in the war in Iran to other U.S. conflicts.²⁶ In the week leading up to the attack on the Muwaffaq Salti Air Base, in which three service members were killed, Iran carried out three other strikes against U.S. forces in Jordan, and “[t]hose attacks injured dozens of U.S. service members and damaged several helicopters” but “[t]he Pentagon did not disclose the earlier strikes, nor the casualties and damage they inflicted.”²⁷ It wasn’t until after this reporting that DoD confirmed in the afternoon of July 20 that almost 100 people “were deemed to have some degree of injury since July 7, 2026,” while claiming that “[t]he vast majority of injuries experienced were minor concussions.”²⁸

Inadequate Protections against Iranian Strikes

Additionally, with the end of the ceasefire and resumption of strikes,²⁹ we are concerned about whether DoD has learned its lessons to better protect service members from additional Iranian attacks. The soldiers who were killed so far since the end of the ceasefire “were all assigned to

²³ Post on X by U.S. Central Command, July 19, 2026, <https://x.com/CENTCOM/status/2078920477779890312>; NBC News, “U.S. and Iran trade strikes after two U.S. service members killed in Jordan,” Gordon Lubold, Courtney Kube, Mosheh Gains and Freddie Clayton, July 18, 2026, <https://www.nbcnews.com/world/middle-east/two-us-service-members-killed-jordan-another-missing-centom-says-rcna588181>; U.S. Department of Defense “DOW Identifies Army Casualties,” press release, July 20, 2026, <https://www.war.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/4549661/dow-identifies-army-casualties/>.

²⁴ CBS News, “Military action against Iran formally restarted last week, Trump told lawmakers,” Caitlin Yilek, July 14, 2026, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/iran-military-action-formally-restarted-trump-lawmakers-war-powers/>.

²⁵ CNN, “Iran war casualty count eclipses 600 as Pentagon quietly changes accounting,” Davis Winkle, July 27, 2026, <https://www.cnn.com/2026/07/26/politics/iran-war-casualties>; Defense Casualty Analysis System, “U.S. Military Casualties – Overseas Operations (OO) Casualty Summary by Casualty Category,” July 25, 2026, <https://dcas.dmdc.osd.mil/dcas/conflictCasualties/oo/byCategory>.

²⁶ ABC News, “Trump appears to downplay Iran war deaths in social posts comparing them to previous conflicts,” Mary Bruce, Nicholas Kerr, and Elise Spenner, July 22, 2026, <https://abcnews.com/Politics/trump-appears-downplay-iran-war-deaths-social-posts/story?id=134983380>.

²⁷ The New York Times, “Pentagon Withheld Dozens of U.S. Military Injuries in Iran War,” Eric Schmitt, July 20, 2026, <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/07/20/us/politics/troops-injured-jordan-iran-war.html>.

²⁸ CBS News, “Nearly 100 U.S. service members injured in Iranian strikes this month,” Jennifer Jacobs, Eleanor Watson, and James LaPorta, July 20, 2026, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/iran-injuries-us-service-members/>.

²⁹ CBS News, “Trump orders new round of strikes to ‘hold Iranian forces accountable,’ CENTCOM says as two sides exchange threats,” Tucker Reals, Faris Tanyos, Mark Osborne, et al., July 13, 2026, <https://www.cbsnews.com/live-updates/us-iran-war-trump-ceasefire-talks-strait-of-hormuz/>.

air defense units, assuming the risk of staying on vulnerable bases to protect others from incoming ballistic missile and drone attacks.”³⁰ But on July 20, a U.S. official reported that “[t]he U.S. is planning for a wider war” despite its continuing “dwindling stockpiles of air defense and long-range munitions” used to protect service members from Iranian attacks.³¹ The official explained that, “We do not have enough to safely sustain operations, and I don’t think the White House is aware of that.”³² Additionally, according to U.S. officials, Iran has been able to adapt to U.S. defenses by “firing missiles that travel at extremely high speeds and can maneuver as they streak toward the earth.”³³ There are also concerns about whether Iran is obtaining targeting assistance from China or Russia too, given its “ability to hit sensitive targets.”³⁴

We are already seeing the tragic consequences of Iranian strikes evading U.S. defenses and we are concerned by reports that military infrastructure in the region is unable to protect service members from these attacks. A soldier who had been deployed to Muwaffaq Salti Air Base in Jordan, where the three service members were killed in renewed strikes by Iran, “said many of [the] buildings there are containerized or metal buildings and tents and are not able to withstand rocket, mortar or drone attacks.”³⁵ Even at some bases where there has been new construction and defenses have been hardened with layers of thick walls, the facilities still “cannot protect against a direct hit from a ballistic missile.”³⁶ For example, a direct Iranian hit on hardened barracks at a U.S. Army facility in Kuwait, Camp Arifjan, “broke through layers of protection, destroying about half of the structure.”³⁷ As the administration looks to widen this war, these reports raise questions on whether it is adequately accounting for if the U.S. has the resources to institute necessary force protection measures for our service members in the Middle East.

New reporting around the Port Shuaiba attack also raises questions about DoD’s preparedness and the lack of force protection measures prior to the attack. Several of us previously raised concerns about the Trump administration’s apparent failure to take even basic precautions to protect the lives of those deployed to Port Shuaiba.³⁸ We are alarmed by new reporting that the

³⁰ The Washington Post, “Latest combat deaths show risk has shifted to troops far from Iran’s borders,” Tara Copp, Alex Horton, and Aaron Schaffer, July 22, 2026, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2026/07/21/troops-killed-iranian-attacks-were-tasked-with-defending-bases-incoming-strikes/>.

³¹ The Washington Post, “U.S. teeters on all-out war with Iran after more troops are killed,” Karen DeYoung, Tara Copp and Dan Lamothe, July 20, 2026, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2026/07/19/us-teeters-return-all-out-war-with-iran-after-more-troops-killed/>.

³² *Id.*

³³ The Wall Street Journal, “Two U.S. Troops Were Killed, One Is Missing After Iran Missile Attack in Jordan,” Shelby Holliday, Michael R. Gordon, and Lara Seligman, July 18, 2026, <https://www.wsj.com/world/middle-east/two-u-s-servicemembers-killed-one-missing-in-iran-missile-attack-on-jordan-a59f9699>.

³⁴ *Id.*

³⁵ The Washington Post, “U.S. teeters on all-out war with Iran after more troops are killed,” Karen DeYoung, Tara Copp and Dan Lamothe, July 20, 2026, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2026/07/19/us-teeters-return-all-out-war-with-iran-after-more-troops-killed/>.

³⁶ *Id.*

³⁷ *Id.*

³⁸ Letter from U.S. Senators Elizabeth Warren, Kirsten Gillibrand, Richard Blumenthal, and Mark Kelly to Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth, April 26, 2026, https://www.warren.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/media/doc/letter_from_senator_warren_dems_to_secretary_hegseth_on_service_member_protection_in_operation_epic_fury.pdf; Office of Congressman Pat Ryan, “Following

lack of safety measures at Port Shuaiba were so significant that the unit's force-protection assessments "recommended against positioning any personnel at Shuaiba Port" according to a complaint a soldier reportedly filed with the Army Inspector General.³⁹ And when soldiers in the unit attempted to make the facility more secure in preparation for Operation Epic Fury, their request for an EAGLS, a truck-mounted drone defense system, to be sent to Port Shuaiba, reportedly "was denied because of lack of assets."⁴⁰ Despite this reporting, you claimed that "not a single drone or defense request [was] denied at any level" when questioned about it by Senator Baldwin during a hearing before the Senate Appropriations Committee.⁴¹

Concerns about Inadequate Casualty Investigations

As you and President Trump continue taking actions that place service members at risk amid a widening war, we are also concerned about whether investigations into service member casualty incidents will be conducted objectively. Following the Port Shuaiba strike, one of the unit commanders originally "appointed a mid-career officer under his command to conduct the review," something that "alarmed some of the unit's soldiers who answered questions from the officer."⁴² One soldier "said they came away with a sense that 'we are investigating ourselves and found no wrongdoing.'"⁴³ While the Army has said that the original appointed officer was only tasked with collecting preliminary information and the investigation was then taken over by a more senior officer and by U.S. Army Central, the decision to task that role with someone under the commander makes it more difficult for service members and their families to believe that the investigation has been conducted objectively, and about whether DoD is committed to learn the lessons needed to prevent future attacks and casualties.

Conclusion and Questions

As you and President Trump continue to risk the lives of service members in this reckless war, the American people deserve answers on whether you were adequately prepared to protect service members from Iranian attacks and get them the care they needed, and whether you will be prepared to do so if the war continues and escalates even further. Given our concerns about

Deadly Attack on U.S. Base in Kuwait that Killed 6 Servicemembers, Congressman Pat Ryan and House Democratic Veterans Demand Secretary Hegseth Investigate Force Protection Failures," press release, April 23, 2026, <https://patryan.house.gov/media/press-releases/following-deadly-attack-us-base-kuwait-killed-6-servicemembers-congressman-pat>; Office of Congressman Pat Ryan, "ICYMI: Congressman Pat Ryan Demands Accountability from Secretary Hegseth on Port Shuaiba Drone Strike," press release, April 29, 2026, <https://patryan.house.gov/media/press-releases/icymi-congressman-pat-ryan-demands-accountability-secretary-hegseth-port>.

³⁹ The Washington Post, "Survivors of Iranian attack that killed 6 U.S. troops say generals ignored warnings," Tara Copp and Alex Horton, July 12, 2026, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2026/07/12/survivors-iranian-attack-that-killed-6-us-troops-say-generals-ignored-warnings/>.

⁴⁰ *Id.*

⁴¹ U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations, "A Review of the President's Supplemental Funding Request of June 24, 2026," July 21, 2026, <https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/hearings/a-review-of-the-presidents-supplemental-funding-request-of-june-24-2026>.

⁴² The Washington Post, "Survivors of Iranian attack that killed 6 U.S. troops say generals ignored warnings," Tara Copp and Alex Horton, July 12, 2026, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2026/07/12/survivors-iranian-attack-that-killed-6-us-troops-say-generals-ignored-warnings/>.

⁴³ *Id.*

DoD's failures to provide service members that sustained injuries in this war with adequate care and its inability to be honestly and openly inform the American people about the consequences of this war to our service members and their families, we request answers to the following questions no later than August 12, 2026:

1. What medical support did the 103rd Sustainment Command request prior to the strike on Port Shuaiba on March 1st and on what basis were those requests for support denied?
2. Why were military medical teams at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany unaware that there were injured personnel on the flight?
 - a. Why did DoD or the Army fail to record the injured personnel as medical evacuees on the flight's manifest or as seriously injured in DoD's casualty-processing database?
 - b. Why did the military medical teams at Landstuhl fail to admit the service members as patients and provide them with the full treatment they required?
3. When were injured service members who were flown out from Germany to Fort Hood finally able to see a doctor who could diagnose and treat them for a traumatic brain injury?
 - a. Why were these service members unable to get this care for TBIs until this point?
4. How does DoD determine whether a service member is considered seriously injured or very seriously injured?
 - a. How many soldiers did DoD and the Army consider to be seriously injured or very seriously injured from the Port Shuaiba strike?
 - b. On what basis did the Army reportedly consider a soldier who was "riddled with shrapnel" and suffered "a concussion, hearing and vision loss, and damage to his lungs" to not be seriously injured?⁴⁴
 - c. On what basis did the Army reportedly consider another soldier who "suffered severe shrapnel wounds from the blast and underwent multiple emergency surgeries at a Kuwaiti hospital" to not be seriously injured?⁴⁵
5. How many total service members have sustained traumatic brain injuries in the Middle East since the start of Operation Epic Fury on February 28, 2026, including any TBIs sustained during any other overseas operation in the region?⁴⁶ Please provide a breakdown of the number of mild, moderate, and severe TBIs.
6. What steps is DoD taking to protect service members from TBIs during Operation Epic Fury and any associated operation?
7. What is the average number of days before a service member who sustained a TBI during Operation Epic Fury was able to get care from a medical provider who was able to diagnose and treat their TBI?
8. According to reports, a U.S. official claimed that U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) is not required to report on service member injuries, especially when

⁴⁴ CBS News, "Wounded soldiers, families accuse Army of downplaying war injuries," Jonah Kaplan and Michael Kaplan, June 24, 2026, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/wounded-soldiers-families-accuse-army-downplaying-war-injuries/>.

⁴⁵ *Id.*

⁴⁶ U.S. Central Command, "Operation Epic Fury: Fact Sheet," March 16, 2026, <https://media.defense.gov/2026/Mar/16/2003899496/-1/-1/1/OPERATION-EPIC-FURY-FACT-SHEET.PDF>.

they return quickly to duty.⁴⁷ In the cases in which CENTCOM or DoD has not reported injuries to the public, how many of those injuries were TBIs and what was the severity of each of those TBIs?

- a. On what basis did CENTCOM or DoD determine they did not need to publicly report those injuries?
9. What steps is DoD taking to fortify U.S. military installations across the Middle East from Iranian strikes?
10. What coordination is being conducted with host nations to ensure that U.S. forces are integrated into host-nation air defense and early warning systems?
11. How is DoD evaluating its ability sustain adequate force protection measures, including its dwindling air defense systems, against Iranian strikes in its planning for Operation Epic Fury or any overseas operation in the region?
12. How many total service members have sustained injuries in the Middle East since the start of Operation Epic Fury?
13. Why did the Department reduce the number of deaths of service members in Operation Epic Fury from 18 to 14 in its Defense Casualty Analysis System?
 - a. Did the Department base its decision to reduce these deaths to any extent on the inaccurate claim that their deaths occurred during the ceasefire and thus did not count as being part of Operation Epic Fury? If so, what was the basis for this argument?
14. Why did the Department later categorize these 4 deaths, in addition to over 200 injuries, as part of “Overseas operations casualties starting July 7th 2026”?⁴⁸
 - a. What criteria is DoD using to determine whether these deaths and injuries are attributed to Operation Epic Fury rather than the named operation in support of which the service members deployed to support (e.g., Operation Inherent Resolve, overseas operations)?
 - b. Is DoD considering these deaths and injuries as part of a new operation? If so, on what basis?
15. Does DoD no longer consider the families of the service members who were killed in Jordan and Iraq on July 17 and 18 to be Gold Star families?
 - a. If there is a service medal to recognize troops who have served in Operation Epic Fury, will these families no longer be considered qualified to receive it on behalf of their loved ones who were killed?
16. Why did the Department fail to initially disclose until July 20 that almost 100 service members had sustained injuries since July 7, 2026 as part of the war against Iran?
17. On July 25, DoD disclosed that over 200 service members had sustained injuries since July 7 as part of the war against Iran. When did service members sustain these injuries?⁴⁹
 - a. If service members sustained the additional approximately 100 injuries before July 20, why did DoD fail to disclose them on July 20 as well?

⁴⁷ The New York Times, “Pentagon Withheld Dozens of U.S. Military Injuries in Iran War,” Eric Schmitt, July 20, 2026, <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/07/20/us/politics/troops-injured-jordan-iran-war.html>.

⁴⁸ Defense Casualty Analysis System, “U.S. Military Casualties – Overseas Operations (OO) Casualty Summary by Casualty Category,” July 25, 2026, <https://dcas.dmdc.osd.mil/dcas/conflictCasualties/oo/byCategory>.

⁴⁹ *Id.*; CNN, “Iran war casualty count eclipses 600 as Pentagon quietly changes accounting,” Davis Winkle, July 27, 2026, <https://www.cnn.com/2026/07/26/politics/iran-war-casualties>.

18. Is the Army Inspector General or DoD Inspector General conducting an investigation into actions related to the Port Shuaiba strike? If so, when does it expect that investigation to be completed?
19. The Army's investigation into the Port Shuaiba attack was reportedly shared with families of the deceased service members in early July.⁵⁰ Has the Army provided a written copy of the investigation with the families of the deceased service members and concluded their briefings with them? Please provide a copy of this investigation.
 - a. When will the Army release a public copy of this investigation? If not, on what grounds will it not do so?
 - b. If the Army has not provided the families with a written copy of the investigation, on what grounds is it failing to do so?
20. Why did one of the unit's commanders initially appoint someone under his command to conduct the Army investigation into the Port Shuaiba attack, instead of a disinterested officer outside of his command to investigate the strike and response to it?
 - a. What preliminary information did this individual collect as part of the investigation?
21. In your response to the Senators' previous letter, you indicated that CENTCOM would be conducting an investigation into the Port Shuaiba attack.⁵¹ Did CENTCOM conduct a separate investigation, in addition to the Army? If so, please provide a copy of this investigation's findings.
 - a. When will CENTCOM release a public copy of this investigation? If not, on what grounds will it not do so?
22. The 103rd Sustainment Command's force-protection assessments reportedly "recommended against positioning any personnel at Shuaiba Port."⁵² Please provide a copy of these force-protection assessments.
 - a. If the assessments recommended against positioning personnel at this location, on what grounds did DoD or the Army still position personnel at Port Shuaiba?
23. Did DoD or the Army deny providing a drone defense system, or any other defense systems, to Port Shuaiba, and if so, on what basis?

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

⁵⁰ The Washington Post, "Survivors of Iranian attack that killed 6 U.S. troops say generals ignored warnings," Tara Copp and Alex Horton, July 12, 2026, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2026/07/12/survivors-iranian-attack-that-killed-6-us-troops-say-generals-ignored-warnings/>.

⁵¹ Letter from Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs Dane Hughes to U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren, May 11, 2026, [On file with the Office of U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren].

⁵² The Washington Post, "Survivors of Iranian attack that killed 6 U.S. troops say generals ignored warnings," Tara Copp and Alex Horton, July 12, 2026, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2026/07/12/survivors-iranian-attack-that-killed-6-us-troops-say-generals-ignored-warnings/>.

Sincerely,



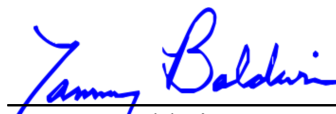
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Patrick Ryan
Member of Congress



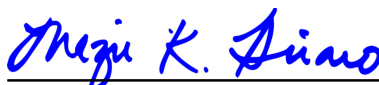
Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



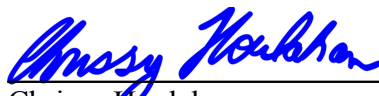
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



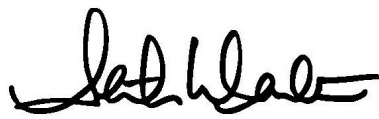
Jason Crow
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



Derek T. Tran
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress



Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress



Maggie Goodlander
Member of Congress