

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 18, 2026

Admiral Brad Cooper
Commander
U.S. Central Command
7115 South Boundary Boulevard
MacDill AFB, FL 33621

Dear Admiral Cooper,

We write to you today to request that the Department of Defense (DoD) publicly disclose estimated costs associated with the damage incurred by Iranian attacks on U.S. bases and facilities since the U.S. launched its unauthorized war against Iran on February 28, 2026.¹

The publicly disclosed costs of the war have already been tragic: as many as 23 service members killed, 861 service members wounded, at a cost of at least \$42 billion spent.² Americans have also felt the costs of this war at home, as prices for gasoline, diesel, fertilizer, and many products connected to the petroleum supply chain have skyrocketed.³ The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) found that during the second quarter of 2026, this reckless war drove more than 40 percent of inflation.⁴

On May 12, 2026, DoD comptroller Jay Hurst provided an estimate that the war had cost \$29 billion – but this did not include the cost of base damage.⁵ When Senator Murray asked Secretary Pete Hegseth about the cost of the damage to U.S. facilities that same day, he refused to provide

¹ New York Times, “The United States and Israel Attack Iran,” Lauren Jackson and Lara McCoy, February 28, 2026, <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/02/28/briefing/us-israel-strike-iran.html>.

² Washington Post, “More U.S. troops have died amid Iran war than Pentagon has disclosed publicly,” Noah Robertson, Tara Copp, Warren P. Strobel, and Alex Horton, September 18, 2026, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2026/09/18/more-us-troops-have-died-amid-iran-war-than-pentagon-has-disclosed-publicly/>; Washington Post, “Pentagon quietly adds dozens to tally of troops wounded amid Iran war,” Alex Horton, September 25, 2026, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2026/09/25/pentagon-quietly-adds-dozens-tally-troops-wounded-amid-iran-war/>; The Hill, “Pentagon tells Congress Iran war cost at least \$42B,” Filip Timotija, September 30, 2026, <https://thehill.com/policy/defense/6090292-pentagon-iran-war-cost-increase/>.

³ NPR Illinois, “How a fertilizer shortage caused by the Iran war could affect U.S. food prices,” Joe Hernandez, July 3, 2026, <https://www.nprillinois.org/2026-07-03/how-a-fertilizer-shortage-caused-by-the-iran-war-could-affect-u-s-food-prices>; WAMC Northeast Public Radio, “New York farmers impacted as Iran war hikes gas, fertilizer prices,” Elias Guerra, April 13, 2026, <https://www.wamc.org/news/2026-04-13/new-york-farmers-gas-fertilizer-prices-increase-iran-war>; PBS News, “Higher prices for gas, groceries and flights will outlast Iran war, analysts say,” June 16, 2026, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/economy/higher-prices-for-gas-groceries-and-flights-will-outlast-iran-war-analysts-say>; CBS News, “It’s not just gasoline. U.S.-Iran war could drive prices higher for many products derived from petroleum,” April 22, 2026, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/us-iran-war-prices-products-gasoline-petroleum/>.

⁴ Letter from the Congressional Budget Office to Rep. Brendan Boyle, September 15, 2026, p. 3, <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/62756>; NBC News, “Iran war driving up inflation for Americans, CBO report says,” Courtney Kube, September 15, 2026, <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/national-security/iran-war-driving-inflation-americans-cbo-report-says-rcna597978>.

⁵ Breaking Defense, “Price tag for Iran war ticks up to \$29B, not including base damage,” Valerie Insinna, May 12, 2026, <https://breakingdefense.com/2026/05/price-tag-for-iran-war-ticks-up-to-29b-not-including-base-damage/>.

an estimate.⁶ Last month, DoD's Inspector General (IG) released a report on Operation Epic Fury (OEF) which found that as of June 30, 2026, damage to U.S. embassies, consulates, and other diplomatic facilities had already cost the U.S. approximately \$184 million,⁷ but there still has yet to be any publicly released official estimate of the cost of damage to U.S. military bases and facilities. In its September report, CBO noted that DoD failed to provide an estimate on the cost of the damage to U.S. bases and facilities.⁸

Despite a lack of clarity and candor from DoD, press reports of attacks, video footage, satellite images, and photos leaked to the media by active U.S. service members have painted a dire picture of U.S. bases and facilities damaged and destroyed by Iran.⁹ Within days of the first U.S. strikes on Iran, publicly reported damage to U.S. bases and facilities included strikes on Camp Buehring and Camp Arifjan in Kuwait, a U.S. Navy recreational area in Dubai's Jebel Ali Port, and the headquarters of the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet in Bahrain.¹⁰ In July, reports emerged that Iran had struck Tower 22, a military facility in Jordan used by U.S. service members.¹¹ Iran has also reportedly struck Muwaffaq Salti Air Base in Jordan and Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar.¹² Additional photos provided by U.S. service members provide evidence of trailers, buildings, and vehicles at U.S. bases and facilities that have been severely damaged or destroyed by Iranian attacks during this war.¹³ One deployed U.S. service member characterized the damage as showing that "[w]e're standing there with our eyes closed getting punched in the face."¹⁴ "U.S.

⁶ New York Times, "Pentagon Increases Iran War Cost Estimate to \$29 billion," Cynthia Silva, May 12, 2026, 00:00:58, <https://www.nytimes.com/video/us/politics/100000010899711/pentagon-iran-war-costs.html>.

⁷ U.S. Department of Defense, Office of the Inspector General, "Operation Epic Fury: Lead Inspector General Report to the United States Congress," September 2026, p. 11, https://media.defense.gov/2026/Sep/09/2003993626/-1/-1/1/OEF_Q3_JUN2026_FINAL_508%20SECURE.PDF.

⁸ Letter from the Congressional Budget Office to Rep. Brendan Boyle, September 15, 2026, p. 8, <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/62756>.

⁹ New York Times, "What Visuals Show About Recent Damage to U.S. Military Sites in the Middle East," Aric Toler and Christoph Koettl, July 22, 2026, <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/07/22/world/middleeast/iran-war-us-bases-images.html>; CBS News, "New photos show widespread damage at U.S. positions caused by Iranian missile, drone attacks," Jonah Kaplan, September 15, 2026, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/new-photos-damage-u-s-kuwait-saudi-arabia-iran-drone-missile-attacks/>.

¹⁰ New York Times, "Iran Strikes U.S. Military Facilities Across Gulf Region," Devon Lum and Haley Willis, March 1, 2026, <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/03/01/world/middleeast/iran-strikes-us-military-facilities.html>.

¹¹ New York Times, "What Visuals Show About Recent Damage to U.S. Military Sites in the Middle East," Aric Toler and Christoph Koettl, July 22, 2026, <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/07/22/world/middleeast/iran-war-us-bases-images.html>.

¹² Air & Space Forces Magazine, "Four Americans Killed as Iran Attacks US Troops in Jordan, Iraq," Chris Gordon, July 18, 2026, <https://www.airandspaceforces.com/2-americans-killed-one-missing-as-iran-attacks-u-s-base-in-jordan/>; CBS News, "Multiple U.S. military aircraft damaged in Iranian strikes on military base in Jordan, sources say," James LaPorta and Jennifer Jacobs, September 10, 2026, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/multiple-us-military-aircraft-damaged-iran-strikes-military-base-jordan/>; New York Times, "Iran's Attacks Force U.S. Troops to Work Remotely," Helene Cooper and Eric Schmitt, March 25, 2026, <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/03/25/us/politics/iran-us-bases.html>; Air & Space Forces Magazine, "Iran Severely Damaged US Air Ops Center in Qatar Soon After War Began," Chris Gordon, June 5, 2026, <https://www.airandspaceforces.com/us-air-operations-center-qatar-severely-damaged-iran/>.

¹³ CBS News, "New photos show widespread damage at U.S. positions caused by Iranian missile, drone attacks," Jonah Kaplan, September 15, 2026, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/new-photos-damage-u-s-kuwait-saudi-arabia-iran-drone-missile-attacks/>.

¹⁴ *Id.*

officials and people familiar with the internal cost estimates” reportedly estimate that the cost of rebuilding U.S. bases “could exceed \$30 billion.”¹⁵

This war has caused significant damage to the U.S.’s critical infrastructure in the region. Acting Navy Secretary Hung Cao has acknowledged that Iran “blew the hell out of” the U.S. base in Bahrain, which the DoD IG reported “had been” U.S. Naval Forces Central Command’s (NAVCENT) “main logistics hub” in the region.¹⁶ After those strikes, CENTCOM “shifted naval sustainment resources from Bahrain to alternate hubs.”¹⁷ The Navy’s new primary logistics hub is reportedly the island of Diego Garcia, and the DoD IG’s report indicates that this shift has caused problems, as using the base requires “extended sea transit” to create “14- to 18-day logistics cycles.”¹⁸

Damage to allied bases and facilities has also increased the cost of this war for our regional partners and put U.S. troops at risk. Iran has reportedly struck Saudi Arabia’s Prince Sultan Air Force Base, which has hosted U.S. service members and supported U.S. operations.¹⁹

The administration’s ongoing efforts to hide the true cost of this war are outrageous and unacceptable. DoD has repeatedly tried to cover up the truth about the number of service members hurt and killed since the war began and has not disclosed these deaths and injuries to the public in a timely manner.²⁰

¹⁵ NBC News, “Iran war cost could be as much as \$100 billion,” Gordon Lubold, Mosheh Gains, and Courtney Kube, July 14, 2026, <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/national-security/iran-war-cost-much-100-billion-rcna587362>.

¹⁶ Task & Purpose, “Iran ‘blew the hell out of’ base in Bahrain, acting Navy Secretary admits,” Nicholas Slayton, September 13, 2026, <https://taskandpurpose.com/news/navy-base-bahrain-iran-damage/>; U.S. Department of Defense, Office of the Inspector General, “Operation Epic Fury: Lead Inspector General Report to the United States Congress,” September 2026, p. 14, https://media.defense.gov/2026/Sep/09/2003993626/-1/-1/1/OEF_Q3_JUN2026_FINAL_508%20SECURE.PDF.

¹⁷ U.S. Department of Defense, Office of the Inspector General, “Operation Epic Fury: Lead Inspector General Report to the United States Congress,” September 2026, p. 14, https://media.defense.gov/2026/Sep/09/2003993626/-1/-1/1/OEF_Q3_JUN2026_FINAL_508%20SECURE.PDF.

¹⁸ New York Times, “Navy Carrier’s Problems Are Tied to Attacks on U.S. Base Early in War,” John Ismay, August 14, 2026, <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/08/14/us/politics/uss-abraham-lincoln-trump-supplies-diego-garcia.html>; U.S. Department of Defense, Office of the Inspector General, “Operation Epic Fury: Lead Inspector General Report to the United States Congress,” September 2026, p. 14, https://media.defense.gov/2026/Sep/09/2003993626/-1/-1/1/OEF_Q3_JUN2026_FINAL_508%20SECURE.PDF.

¹⁹ NPR, “Over a dozen U.S. soldiers injured in attack on Saudi base as Iran-backed Houthis enter war,” NPR Staff, March 28, 2026, <https://www.npr.org/2026/03/28/nx-s1-5764720/iran-war-one-month>; Air & Space Forces Magazine, “Key E-3 AWACS Damaged in Iranian Attack on Saudi Air Base,” Chris Gordon and Stephen Losey, March 28, 2026, <https://www.airandspaceforces.com/key-e-3-awacs-aircraft-damaged-iranian-attack-saudi-air-base/>.

²⁰ Washington Post, “More U.S. troops have died amid Iran war than Pentagon has disclosed publicly,” Noah Robertson, Tara Copp, Warren P. Strobel, and Alex Horton, September 18, 2026, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2026/09/18/more-us-troops-have-died-amid-iran-war-than-pentagon-has-disclosed-publicly/>; Guardian, “‘Shameful’: Pentagon accused of cover-up over U.S. military casualties in Iran war,” David Smith, July 25, 2026, <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/ng-interactive/2026/jul/25/pentagon-iran-war-casualties-cover-up>; 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,” October 13, 2026, <https://dcas.dmdc.osd.mil/dcas/conflictCasualties/oo/byCategory>.

During a recent classified briefing, you provided information to the Senate Armed Services Committee on the estimated cost of the damage to U.S. bases and facilities. However, that figure should not be available only to lawmakers – the American people deserve to know the full cost of the Trump administration’s unauthorized war against Iran. Even if DoD has not yet determined which facilities it is planning to rebuild, disclosing these costs represents the bare minimum transparency DoD owes the public. It is vitally important that DoD release the costs resulting from Iranian attacks on U.S. military bases and facilities. There is no rationale for classifying that cost estimate: our allies and our adversaries are, unfortunately, keenly aware of the extraordinary toll that this reckless war has taken on military readiness, and Congress and the public need this information to determine the steps necessary to recover from this debacle. If that cost estimate is classified, the Department should exercise its authority to declassify the costs.²¹

We therefore request answers that are non-classified, and not labeled as Controlled Unclassified, to the following questions by November 2, 2026:

1. What have been the costs of damage done to U.S. bases and facilities throughout the Middle East since February 28, 2026?
2. What is the Plant Replacement Value (PRV), or the cost to replace facilities and supporting infrastructure using today’s construction costs and standards,²² of the damage done to U.S. bases and facilities throughout the Middle East since February 28, 2026?
3. How much has it cost the U.S. to stand up and reconfigure new bases and facilities to accommodate for this damage, including any previously unplanned Military Construction (MILCON), Facilities Sustainment, Restoration and Modernization (FSRM) funding, or Base Operations Support (BOS) expended at overseas bases and facilities for reasons related to the Iran war?
4. Have any repairs to damaged bases or facilities begun?
 - a. If so, how is the U.S. paying for those repairs?
 - b. The DoD IG report notes that the cost of repairs “could change based on ... contract pricing.”²³ Have any contractors been awarded new funds to carry out repairs to damaged bases or facilities?
 - c. Would right to repair reforms make base and facility repairs more efficient?
5. What have been the costs incurred by the United States as a result of DoD shifting operations and logistics hubs, including the costs of any resulting delayed logistics cycles, due to damage done to U.S. bases and facilities in the Middle East since February 28, 2026?
6. What have been the costs of damage done to U.S. allies’ bases and facilities supporting U.S. operations throughout the Middle East since February 28, 2026?

²¹ Executive Order 13526, Classified National Security Information, December 29, 2009, <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2010/01/05/E9-31418/classified-national-security-information>.

²² U.S. Government Accountability Office, “Defense Infrastructure: DOD Should Better Manage Risks Posed by Deferred Facility Maintenance,” January 2022, p. 1, <https://www.gao.gov/assets/720/718803.pdf>.

²³ U.S. Department of Defense, Office of the Inspector General, “Operation Epic Fury: Lead Inspector General Report to the United States Congress,” September 2026, p. 9, https://media.defense.gov/2026/Sep/09/2003993626/-1/-1/1/OEF_Q3_JUN2026_FINAL_508%20SECURE.PDF.

Sincerely,


Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator


Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator


Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator


Tammy Duckworth
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Gary C. Peters
United States Senator