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SIXTH DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

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UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 19, 2020

General James C. McConville
Army Chief of Staff
200 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-0200

Admiral Michael Gilday
Chief of Naval Operations
2000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, DC 20350-2000

General David H. Berger
Commandant of the Marine Corps
3000 Marine Corps, Pentagon
Washington, DC 20350-3000

General David L. Goldfein
Air Force Chief of Staff
1670 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1670

Admiral Karl Schultz
Commandant of the Coast Guard
2703 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE,
Washington, DC 20020

General Joseph L. Lengyel
Chief, National Guard Bureau
1636 Defense Pentagon Ste 1E169
Washington, DC 20301-0001

General McConville, Admiral Gilday, General Lengyel, General Goldfein, General Berger and Admiral Schultz:

As the senior uniformed leaders of the United States Armed Forces, we write to you today with specific questions about how each Uniformed Service is planning to ensure continuity of operations as individual units have COVID-19 cases. Our hope is that these questions are easy to answer because plans are already in place, or that they spur necessary planning as this virus inevitably spreads.

As of today, we know that there are 81 total cases of COVID-19 in the Department of Defense (DoD) alone: 51 servicemembers, 10 dependents, 9 civilians and 11 Defense Department contractors with 17 of those cases hospitalized. We should expect that number to exponentially grow in the coming weeks across all armed services as testing becomes more frequent and available and this highly contagious virus spreads within the tight-knit DoD community.

It is critical, therefore, that we ensure broad dissemination of plans, and effectively supervise decisive action down to the lowest unit level, to not simply curtail the spread of the virus, but

continue operations as infections grow. For example, are subordinate units being kept separate so that infections in one platoon don't take out a company, or infections in one watch don't take out all watch-standers? Are crews being tested before embarkation? Etc.

With this in mind, I request answers to the following questions:

- How are you adjusting operations on the ground and in the fleet today in anticipation of the likely future spread of COVID-19?
- How will units in your Service operate when a servicemember in that unit has a confirmed COVID-19 infection?
- How will DoD or DHS-wide restrictions on travel affect training, readiness, and regular unit rotations?
- Many training units are effectively already isolated, or relatively easy to quarantine for protection until graduation, but how will new classes be constituted in the midst of this pandemic?
- How will the Reserve Components be leveraged to augment Active units, as well as support civilian efforts to combat the virus and supplement civilian hospital staff?

Times like this are when your leadership is needed most--for our men and women in uniform, and as an example for the rest of the country. Thank you for all that you do on our nation's behalf.

Sincerely,



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress

cc: General Milley, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff