

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
COMMERCE
HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

August 5, 2026

Admiral Brad Cooper
Commander
U.S. Central Command
7115 South Boundary Boulevard
MacDill AFB, FL 33621-5101

Dear Admiral Cooper,

I write to you today regarding U.S. Central Command's (CENTCOM) investigation into the March 1, 2026, Iranian drone strike on soldiers at Port Shuaiba, Kuwait. This attack resulted in the deaths of six soldiers from the Army Reserve's 103rd Sustainment Command and injuries to dozens more soldiers, including those from Wisconsin. Public reporting said that U.S. Army Central has conducted an investigation into the attack and has shared those initial findings with the families of the soldiers killed. On July 21 at a Senate Appropriations Committee hearing, I asked Secretary Hegseth to commit to releasing this investigation publicly and he responded that he would coordinate with you to provide additional information to Congress. I now request you release the findings of that investigation publicly and provide Congress with a copy of the full investigation, all underlying documentation, and any additional classified review of the attack.

On March 1, 2026, only the second day of President Trump's war against Iran, an Iranian Shahed drone struck a temporary CENTCOM facility holding U.S. soldiers at Port Shuaiba, Kuwait. Six soldiers were killed in the strike and at least 30 more were injured. Soldiers from the 103rd Sustainment Command said that they had been relocated to Port Shuaiba from the larger and better defended facility at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait only days before the war began as part of a CENTCOM effort to more widely disperse U.S. servicemembers across the region to make them less vulnerable to potential Iranian attacks. Some of these soldiers later told The Washington Post that force protection assessments conducted by the 103rd Sustainment Command before the relocation had determined that the facility at Port Shuaiba was not suitable because it lacked the necessary defenses to protect soldiers from Iranian attacks. Soldiers, nonetheless, were moved to Port Shuaiba.

This initial mistake to move soldiers to Port Shuaiba despite the known deficiencies was further compounded by CENTCOM reportedly not taking adequate steps to increase defenses even after the facility was identified by U.S. intelligence as a likely Iranian target. CBS News reported that the leadership of the 103rd Sustainment Command was made aware of intelligence in the days prior to March 1 showing that Iran would likely strike Port Shuaiba during fighting between the U.S. and Iran. Furthermore, The Washington Post also reported that CENTCOM was unable to provide Port Shuaiba with additional air and drone defense systems, such as the EAGLS counter-drone system, because there were not a sufficient number of systems available. On July 21, I asked Secretary Hegseth about the denial of counter-drone systems to the 103rd Sustainment Command before March 1 and he claimed, "there was not a single drone or defense request denied at any level." This is clearly contradicted by what soldiers from the 103rd told The Washington Post in the July 12 article.

After the attack, soldiers also claimed that there was insufficient medical care available to treat the wounded in Kuwait. Given Port Shuaiba's distance from any U.S. military medical facilities, soldiers were forced to drive to Kuwaiti civilian hospitals to receive medical care immediately after the strike. Soldiers injured in the attack said they believed at least one of those killed could likely have been saved if additional medical care was available. On May 19, 2026, CBS News reported that the 103rd Sustainment Command had requested additional medical supplies for Port Shuaiba prior to March 1, but that those requests were denied.

Congress and the American people deserve clear answers on what happened on March 1 and why the U.S. military was unable to protect or care for our soldiers. Accordingly, I request that, by August 18, you publicly release the findings of the U.S. Army Central investigation into the attack on Port Shuaiba; as well as provide me and the Congressional defense committees with a full, unredacted copy of the investigation, all underlying documents that contributed to the investigation, and a copy of the classified U.S. Army Central investigation of intelligence warnings before the attack and Port Shuaiba's defenses.

Furthermore, I request you provide an explanation on why U.S. military medical care was not immediately available to soldiers on March 1, why any requests for additional medical supplies were denied prior to March 1, and whether access to medical care was considered when soldiers were repositioned to the facility at Port Shuaiba.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tammy Baldwin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator