

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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<https://oversight.house.gov>

August 14, 2026

The Honorable Pete Hegseth
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Hegseth:

We write regarding the conditions aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln, specifically, the living conditions and access to mental health resources for the sailors. Recent reports have revealed disturbing sanitation conditions, food shortages, and deteriorating mental health among those deployed on the aircraft carrier, including multiple suicide attempts, with one sailor jumping overboard.¹ Our sailors deserve better while they serve our country, and these deplorable conditions negatively impact morale and readiness. As Members of Congress, we have a duty to support our troops, and it is clear that additional oversight is needed aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln.

The USS Abraham Lincoln holds more than 5,000 sailors and Marines and departed San Diego last November. Now redirected to the Middle East to support the Iran War in Operation Epic Fury, the carrier has been deployed for over 250 days and has spent a record-setting 200 consecutive days at sea. At a town hall with Acting Navy Secretary Hung Cao, families of those aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln voiced their concerns directly. Among them were food shortages, water contamination, and disruptions in mail.²

As the Ranking Members of the Oversight Committee and the Oversight Committee's Subcommittee on Military and Foreign Affairs, we request a classified briefing on the USS Abraham Lincoln's conditions and answers to the following questions by August 28, 2026:

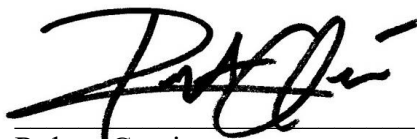
¹ *Sailor Went Overboard from the USS Abraham Lincoln This Month as Conditions on the Ship Prompt Lawmakers' Demand for Answers*, CNN (Aug. 13, 2026) (online at www.cnn.com/2026/08/13/politics/uss-abraham-lincoln-conditions-extended-deployment-hnk).

² *Moldy Showers and No Soap: Military Families Are Outraged by Conditions on USS Lincoln*, MS NOW (Aug. 5, 2026) (online at www.ms.now/news/conditions-safety-uss-lincoln-iran-war); *Sailor Went Overboard from the USS Abraham Lincoln This Month As Conditions On The Ship Prompt Lawmakers' Demand for Answers*, CNN (Aug. 13, 2026) (online at www.cnn.com/2026/08/13/politics/uss-abraham-lincoln-conditions-extended-deployment-hnk); *Democratic Senators Demand Answers About Conditions Aboard USS Abraham Lincoln*, CBS News (Aug. 13, 2026) (online at www.cbsnews.com/news/uss-abraham-lincoln-democratic-senators-inquiry-demand/).

1. What is the current inventory of food aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln?
 - a) Please detail the food supply and delivery schedule over the course of the carrier's deployment.
2. What sanitation issues have been identified aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln, including broken bathroom facilities?
3. What health care, including mental health care, are available to the sailors aboard?
 - a) What behavioral health care professionals are on board and accessible to those seeking help?
 - b) How quickly can someone on board the ship meet with a behavioral health care professional after seeking help?
3. What steps can be taken to mitigate the disruptions to the mail system that sailors have experienced?
4. Acting Navy Secretary Hung Cao reportedly told family members that the USS Theodore Roosevelt is preparing to relieve the USS Abraham Lincoln. Without jeopardizing national security, what details can be shared about the timeline for the ship's relief?

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate "any matter" at "any time" under House Rule X. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Committee Democratic staff at (202) 225-5051. Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Robert Garcia
Ranking Member



Suhas Subramanyam
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Military and
Foreign Affairs

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Chairman

The Honorable William Timmons, Chairman
Subcommittee on Military and Foreign Affairs