



**Congressman Vicente Gonzalez (TX-34) Remarks
House Committee on Armed Services
Member Day Hearing
Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at 10:00AM**

Thank you, Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Smith, for holding today's Member Day hearing.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak before the Committee to discuss several important military installations in South Texas, including Naval Air Station (NAS) Kingsville and Corpus Christi Army Depot (CCAD).

NAS Kingsville has played a critical role in training the next generation of U.S. Navy and Marine Corps aviators since it first opened its doors in 1942.

Today, it is home to Training Air Wing Two and trains nearly half of Navy and Marine Corps' tactical jet pilots each year. NAS Kingsville also employs over 4,000 people and contributed at least \$1 billion to the Texas economy in 2024.

As you can see, NAS Kingsville plays a crucial role in national security and the local economy as well as across the nation. That is why Congress must address several pressing infrastructure needs – a new "Pass & Tag Facility" and "Fire Station Training Facility."

The installation's current pass & tag facility is located 1.3 miles beyond the South Entry Control Point (ECP), requiring gate security personnel to escort visitors and contractors over a mile into the installation before they can obtain credentials.

The level of access before proper vetting poses significant security risks for NAS Kingsville, delays vehicle entry into the base, and places administrative burdens on security personnel.

Another important infrastructure issue we must address is its fire station, which was built in 1956 and is in desperate need of renovation or replacement.

The current facility is too small to accommodate modern firefighting equipment and is plagued by a variety of issues, including a leaking roof, mildew, and ineffective climate control—in case I need to remind anyone here, it gets **incredibly** hot in South Texas.

For years, NAS Kingsville command has requested funding to complete the new “Pass & Tag Facility” and “Fire Station Training Facility.” However, they have been unsuccessful as the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) requires projects to be included in the “Futures Years Defense Program” or “Unfunded Priority List” to be eligible for funding.

I urge you and your colleagues to include language in this year’s NDAA highlighting these two essential projects and include these projects in these lists.

I’d also like to take a moment and highlight another important issue for South Texas – the declining workload at Corpus Christi Army Depot (CCAD).

As you know, CCAD, which currently employs over 2,000 highly skilled workers, is the U.S. Army’s premier facility responsible for the repair, overhaul, and modernization of helicopters and rotary-wing aircraft. As the world’s largest helicopter repair facility, the depot is vitally important for our military readiness.

I recently had the opportunity to visit CCAD on March 6th alongside Under- Secretary Michael A. Obadal to see firsthand the essential work that the depot performs.

Despite the fact that CCAD’s highly skilled workforce is vitally important to American national security, the amount of repair work assigned to the depot and the number of people employed there has dropped dramatically over the past decade.

Allowing depots like CCAD to decline risks permanently degrading an important military capability that gives the Organic Industrial Base (OIB) the surge capacity needed during a time of war or conflict.

As you and your colleagues on the Committee begin the process of crafting the NDAA for Fiscal Year 2027, I urge you to work with me to ensure that economically and strategically essential facilities like NAS Kingsville and CCAD can continue to operate at full capacity.

Thank you, and I yield back the remainder of my time.