

To the Men and Women of the Coast Guard,

As you are aware, much of the government, including the Department of Homeland Security, remains unfunded, and it is not clear when this lapse in appropriations will end. In the coming days, our Service will begin to pass critical military and civilian pay-processing milestones necessary to meet regular pay cycles. Unfortunately, without an appropriation, a continuing resolution, or another legislative measure, the Coast Guard will not be able to meet the next payroll.

Let me assure you your leadership continues to do everything possible, both internal and external to the Service, to ensure we can process your pay as soon as we receive an appropriation; however, I do not know when that will occur. Moreover, many of you may be aware of proposed Congressional legislation that separately provides pay for the Coast Guard. I cannot predict what course that legislation may take.

I know you have many questions during this difficult time. As the Commandant mentioned, please do not hesitate to reach out to your chain of command, the Chiefs Mess, the ombudsmen network, our chaplains, as well as other resources. In addition, I encourage you to visit the Coast Guard's website that has the most up-to-date resource links and frequently asked questions at <https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/budget/>. I encourage you to frequently revisit this website as it will be updated as new information is learned and additional FAQs are developed.

I can announce the CG Mutual Assistance Board just approved an increase to interest free loans with a focus on the junior workforce. Now, E-5 and below, GS-6 and below, and wage grade equivalents are eligible for a loan up to a maximum of \$1,000 for those with dependents and \$750 for those without dependents. Personnel in other paygrades may also qualify if dire circumstances exist. If you require this assistance, please check with your CGMA representative to apply.

Please know that your entire senior leadership team is pursuing every possible avenue to mitigate the effects that this unprecedented event is having on you and your families. In similar fashion, I implore each of you to take an active role in caring for your fellow shipmates and their loved ones. Thank you for your continued dedicated service to our Nation.

Semper Paratus,

Admiral Charles W. Ray
Vice Commandant