

To the men and women of our Coast Guard,

In this period of fiscal uncertainty, our workforce is deployed, standing the watch, and committed to supporting the mission. Despite the current lapse in appropriations, your Devotion to Duty remains steadfast. You have answered a higher calling to protect America, defend our Nation's prosperity and save lives, earning the continued trust and confidence of the Nation. We remain a Ready, Relevant, and Responsive Coast Guard - THANK-YOU!

Your Coast Guard leadership team recognizes the concern and anxiety across our mission ready total workforce. Master Chief Vanderhaden and I, alongside our senior military and civilian leaders, continue to work closely with the Department of Homeland Security, the Administration and Congress to reduce the impacts of this funding lapse on our Coast Guard workforce.

Uncertainty fuels anxiety and requires strong and steady leadership navigating forward. Now is the time to "lead through leaders" and I call on you to be intrusive leaders at your respective units, demonstrating empathy, conveying key information, and identifying and ensuring our most vulnerable shipmates get the assistance they need. There are a number of resources available to our workforce and I encourage each of you to become familiar with those resources. If you require extra assistance, do NOT hesitate to reach out to your Chief, to your chain of command, chaplain, or CG Support.

Admiral Ray, our Vice Commandant, will continue to provide regular updates. We have created and continue to maintain a comprehensive website available to all, including our furloughed civilians. You can access this information at <https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/budget/>.

As I noted in my Guiding Principles published back on June 1st upon assuming my new duties - "our Coast Guard is strong and that is a testament to you." I salute your continued resiliency and that of your families through this particularly challenging period, as well as your commitment to our Core Values and unwavering dedication to the critically important work and services the Coast Guard performs daily. Our Nation values the service and sacrifice of our workforce, and your professionalism and dedication are the backbone or main brace of what defines us as the world's best Coast Guard.

Semper Paratus,

Admiral Karl L. Schultz
Commandant