



DCUC
DEFENSE CREDIT UNION COUNCIL

1627 Eye St, NW
Suite 935
Washington, DC 20006

202.734.5007
www.d cuc.org

Jason Stverak
Chief Advocacy Officer

May 11, 2026

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman
Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
2205 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
2426 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

**Re: Statement for the Record — Budget Hearing on the Department of War Fiscal Year 2027
Budget Request and Military Financial Readiness Priorities**

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum:

On behalf of the Defense Credit Union Council (DCUC) and the more than 200 defense-affiliated credit unions we represent, I respectfully submit this letter for the official record of the Subcommittee's May 12, 2026, hearing on the Department of War's Fiscal Year 2027 budget request. DCUC member credit unions serve more than 40 million members, including active duty servicemembers, Guard and Reserve families, veterans, retirees, and the civilian workforce that supports military readiness. Defense credit unions operate on or near military installations worldwide and, in many communities, are among the only regulated financial institutions with a direct daily presence in the defense community.

DCUC respectfully urges the Subcommittee to continue treating military financial services as a defense-readiness and quality-of-life issue, not as a peripheral banking matter. The Department's own financial-readiness authorities recognize that personal financial readiness affects mission readiness, while DoW's financial-institution policy assigns senior departmental responsibility for on-installation financial institutions because those services affect morale, consumer protection, counseling, and resilience for servicemembers and their families.

As the Subcommittee reviews the budget request and prepares the FY2027 Defense Appropriations Act, DCUC respectfully asks that the Committee include report language directing the Department to provide a briefing and recurring report on an installation-by-installation basis regarding access to full-service financial institutions, the status of overseas military banking operations, and any material changes in on-base banking arrangements affecting servicemembers and military families. The Committee should also direct the Department to identify legal, contractual, or policy barriers that prevent qualified on-base credit unions from participating in financial-readiness education and counseling, and to explain what steps are being taken to remove unnecessary barriers to those no-cost services.

Serving Those Who Serve Our Country

In addition to these appropriations-specific requests, DCUC continues to support several bipartisan FY2027 policy priorities that complement the Subcommittee's quality-of-life and readiness mission: stronger access to capital for veteran entrepreneurs through the Veterans Member Business Loan Act; permanent Central Liquidity Facility enhancements; credit union board modernization; loan-maturity flexibility that supports housing and long-term community investment; continued attention to housing stability and VA home-loan execution for military and veteran households; regulatory parity for credit unions in federal housing and mortgage initiatives; and permanent pay protections for Department of War and Coast Guard personnel, whose financial security should not depend on shutdown timing. Where some of these issues sit outside the Subcommittee's primary jurisdiction, they nevertheless remain part of the broader financial-readiness picture facing military families.

Thank you for your leadership and for your continued attention to readiness, operational accountability, and the quality of life of those who serve. DCUC is ready to provide technical assistance and support if you need it.

We welcome the opportunity to engage with you and your staff to discuss these concerns in greater detail and to work collaboratively on policies that support the financial readiness of America's Armed Forces and their families.

Please contact me at Jason.Stverak@dcuc.org with any questions about DCUC's comments.

Sincerely,



Jason Stverak
Chief Advocacy Officer
DCUC