Your name

1234 Main Street

city, XX XXXXX

Phone or email

Month xx, 2022

The Honorable full name

U.S. House of Representatives

Type in congressional building

Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman/ Congresswoman ????????,

As a constituent in the XX District and a member of the Firewolf Association, whose mission is to preserve maritime rotary wing support for Naval Special Warfare (NSW), I bring to your attention the U.S. Navy’s (USN) ongoing campaign of attrition regarding the Navy reserve force.

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**if sending to a member of House Armed Services Committee (HASC), insert this as opening paragraph instead:**

I am submitting this letter due to your position on the House Armed Services Committee. As a member of the Firewolf Association, whose mission is to preserve maritime rotary wing support for Naval Special Warfare (NSW), I bring to your attention the U.S. Navy’s (USN) ongoing campaign of attrition regarding Navy reserve force.

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**What we are asking**

Prevent the Navy from cutting or reducing any funding or resources for reserve aviation squadrons in the Future Years Defense Program (FYDP), in particular, Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron Eight Five (HSC-85).

In addition, we request that you inquire of the US Navy’s rationale for their continued decimation of Navy Reserve Aviation squadrons and their defiance of previous Congressional intent when it comes to the preservation of HSC-85.

**Summary**

The US Navy has cut reserve manpower by 34% and reserve combat aviation squadrons by 78% (from 23 to 5) since 2001. No other service comes remotely close to the type of cuts the Navy has imposed on its reserve force. Specifically, in FY 2023, the Navy is planning to decommission Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron Eight Five (HSC-85), a squadron currently deployed in support of special operations in the Pacific theater. The world’s largest Navy will be reduced to five combat capable squadrons left in the reserve force.

The Navy’s move to disestablish HSC-85 is in direct violation of congressional intent from the 2016 NDAA and is the Navy’s third attempt in seven years to decommission this forward deployed squadron.

In the FY 2016 NDAA, Congress directed USN to retain HSC-85 and its sister squadron HSC-84. The Navy brokered a deal to retain HSC-85 if allowed to disestablish HSC-84 with promises to increase support to Naval Special Warfare SEALs with active component squadrons, support which has never materialized.

In 2019, Navy Executive Board decided to thwart Congressional intent by unilaterally moving to disestablish HSC-85. As a result of Congressional inquiry into this action, the Office of the Deputy, Secretary of Defense directed USN and Special Operations Command (SOCOM) to reach a cost sharing settlement, which will ends this year, resulting in the Navy targeting HSC-85 for decommission again.

Congress must act to ensure the US Navy retain and support a capable aviation reserve force with combat capability that can provide an operational and/or strategic force to support maritime warfare when directed.

As a member of congress, you are better attuned to the importance of cost savings in this budget cycle and significance of a strong and capable reserve force cannot be overstated.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter. I am very interested in hearing from your office and would certainly be in favor of a follow-on meeting or discussion to perhaps expound on this issue.

Very Respectfully,

Your name