

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 21, 2025

The Admiral Kevin E. Lunday
Acting Commandant
U.S. Coast Guard
2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20593

Dear Admiral Kevin E. Lunday:

As the Co-Chairs and Cofounders of the Senate Bipartisan Taskforce for Combating Antisemitism, we write regarding the U.S. Coast Guard's updated policy, released last night, November 20, 2025, which superseded a problematic policy, published November 15, 2025, that classified swastikas and nooses as merely "potentially divisive" rather than as clear, unambiguous antisemitic and racist hate symbols. After you spoke with both of us last night, we are grateful that the Coast Guard immediately issued the new policy, which clarified that swastikas and nooses are prohibited "divisive or hate" symbols. This is a step in the right direction to affirm the Coast Guard's commitment to maintaining a safe and inclusive environment for all its members.

In order for the Coast Guard to fully protect those who serve, any inquiry regarding conduct involving imagery historically associated with genocide, terror, and racial subjugation must, at a minimum, be full and transparent to ensure the civil rights of those impacted are protected and conducted in a manner in which victims feel safe to report these incidents. Additionally, we would like to better understand the rationale for why the inquiry process was deemed to be preferable to the investigative process in place in the 2023 and 2019 policies, which had successfully ensured that hate incidents would lead to accountability.

We appreciate your willingness to work with our offices to quickly rectify the November 15 policy language reaffirming the Coast Guard's views that swastikas and nooses are hate symbols, but more must be done to ensure the Coast Guard's members know that displays or use of these symbols within its ranks or facilities will be swiftly investigated.

We look forward to your prompt response and stand ready to work with you and your team to ensure Coast Guard members are protected under a policy that confronts these threats with the seriousness they demand.

Sincerely,



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



James Lankford
United States Senator