



TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT  
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April 15, 2021

Chairman Matt Krause  
Texas House General Investigating Committee  
E2.170, P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, Texas 78768

Dear Chairman Krause,

Thank you for the invitation to the Committee's hearing on April 20, 2021, regarding the Texas border. The written answers to your questions are below.

**1. How is the border crisis impacting your agency's personnel and financial resources?**

The Service Members currently responding on the border are on state active duty (SAD), which has a similar pay scale to other active responses under a Title 32 or a Title 10 military paid status. The difference from a personnel pay standpoint is the lack of basic allowance for housing or subsistence (BAH/BAS), which is a substantial amount of tax-free income for Service Members. Service Members also are not afforded the legal protections authorized under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) that protect their jobs and re-employment rights. Additionally, Soldiers that are on SAD orders are not entitled to any death gratuity benefits. The agency is reimbursed by the state for the use of all military equipment, so there is no impact financially for equipment.

**2. What could your agency be doing if it was not having to respond to immigrant surges?**

If the agency was not on the border mission, we would have more Service Members available to conduct their military training and readiness for responses to overseas contingency operations, response to emergencies (storm response, fires, civil disturbance, etc.), and other required training events as part of their military service.

**3. What is the biggest challenge for your agency related to the current border crisis?**

The logistical support for the Soldiers and equipment across the large area of operations is a challenge for the agency. Due to the manpower and equipment assigned to this mission, there is a reduction of available assets for other responses across the

state. An additional challenge is the collective readiness for the units assigned to this crisis, as they are unable to perform the mandatory collective and individual training requirements necessary to build military readiness.

**4. How has this border crisis differed from previous surges?**

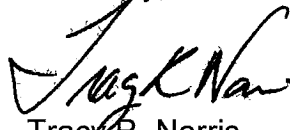
Though this crisis is different from previous surges, the request for support and current mission sets are similar in nature to previous missions and we remain in support of the Texas DPS. The differences between crisis events is more impactful to our law enforcement partners.

**5. How has the federal government helped your agency in responding to this border crisis?**

The federal government has provided no support for this mission, though we are synchronized and share information across federal and state agencies at the operational level.

Thank you again for the invitation. If you have any questions, please reach out to our Government Affairs Office at (512) 782-3806.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tracy R. Norris", written over a horizontal line.

Tracy R. Norris

Major General, Texas Army National Guard  
Adjutant General