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**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 4, 2018 6:23 PM  
**To:** (b)(7)(E) WATCH COMMANDER; (b)(7)(E) SUPERVISORS  
**Cc:** (b)(7)(E)  
**Subject:** FW: CBP statement National Guard Deployment

As always, direct all inquires to Laredo Sector Public Affairs Officer (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) with regards to the National Guard deployment to the border.

Stop by the office or call me if you'd like to further discuss.

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
Acting DPAIC  
Hebbronville Station  
Office  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Gov. iPhone  
Personal Cell

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**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 04, 2018 3:54:13 PM  
**To:** LRT PAO GML; LRT SECTOR STAFF GML; LRT STATION COMMAND GML  
**Subject:** FW: CBP statement National Guard Deployment

Sector leadership Statement below on NG Deployment. If you get any media inquiries send them to me please!

**“U.S. Customs and Border Protection has a decades-long relationship working with the National Guard. The National Guard will greatly help CBP by providing aerial detection, transportation, repairing border wall, and logistical support while CBP focuses on enforcing our immigration laws.”**

*Below is DHS Secretary Nielsen Remarks for your reference only.*

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 4, 2018 3:28 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6) Media Inquiry <MediaInquiry@HQ.DHS.GOV>  
**Subject:** Secretary Nielsen Remarks As Prepared

## **Secretary Nielsen Remarks on National Guard Deployment**

Good afternoon,

I want to start with a simple statement that is the basis for today's announcement –  
**Border Security is National Security.**

The President has reiterated this many times. A sovereign nation that cannot – or worse, chooses not – to defend its borders will soon **cease** to be a sovereign nation.

The threat is real. Despite a number of steps this Administration has taken over the last 15 months – which I will talk about shortly, we continue to see unacceptable levels of illegal drugs, dangerous gang activity, transnational criminal organizations and illegal immigration flow across our southern border. This threatens not only the safety of our communities and children but also our rule of law. It's time to act.

In an effort to prevent such a consequence, the President has directed that the Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security work with our governors to deploy National Guard personnel to our southwest border to assist the Border Patrol.

When the President took office last year, he issued a series of Executive Orders and directives that empowered DHS – for the first time in almost a decade – to **fully enforce our border security and immigration laws**. We saw a **precipitous drop** in unlawful border crossings of 44% in the months following his inauguration. This “Trump Effect” on illicit border activity was undeniable as smugglers and transnational criminal organizations, who are responsible for the bulk of illegal cross border traffic, were forced by our enhanced enforcement efforts to scale back their criminal activity.

In the last 15 months, the administration has taken major steps to methodically strengthen border security:

- We **stepped up the targeting** of dangerous criminal gangs such as MS-13;
- We **removed thousands more** criminal aliens than the year prior;
- We **no longer exempt entire classes of aliens** from the consequences of breaking our immigration laws;
- We began the **first new border wall construction** in close to a decade;
- We modified our asylum processing to **more quickly adjudicate** claims;
- We ended so-called “temporary” immigration programs that were either **constitutionally dubious** or were administered in a manner that was **inconsistent** with the purpose of the law or **contrary to the intent of Congress**

Despite these actions, we have **recently seen** the numbers of illegal border crossings **rise from 40 year lows last April** back to previous levels. Our current immigration laws fail the American people. The system rewards bad behavior. It does not punish law-breakers. It undermines our nation's economic interests.

Interdiction without the ability to promptly remove those without legitimate cause is NOT border security. It is NOT national security.

When the President took office – the traffickers, the smugglers, transnational criminal organizations, and the illegal aliens that serve as their currency, paused to see what our border enforcement efforts would look like.

While we have been apprehending aliens at the border with historic efficiency – these illicit smuggling groups saw that our **ability to actually remove those who come here illegally did not keep pace**. They saw that there were **loopholes they could exploit to avoid detention and removal**. Here are some numbers to put the new environment in context:

- Before 2013, approximately 1 out of every 100 arriving aliens claimed credible fear (asylum). Today, more than 1 out of 10 do so. We are seeing rising levels of fraud plague this system which prevents us from timely helping those who most need our help.
- Before 2011, over 90% of arriving aliens were single adult males. Today 40% are families and children. The traffickers and smugglers know that if you arrive with a family, you have a better chance of being released into the US. We have seen them advertise this as an enticement and we have seen traffickers use children to gain entry into our country.
- Before 2009, 90% of arriving aliens were Mexican nationals. Today nearly 50% are Central Americans. The traffickers and smugglers know that these individuals cannot, by law, be easily removed back to their country of origin.

Each of these reflect the effects of legislative and legal loopholes that have made it more difficult to remove the bulk of those we apprehend who have no legal claim to stay.

Those falsely claiming asylum know that if they use the magic words “credible fear,” because of the low threshold and large backlog, they will be released with work permits into the interior for many years before they see a judge. In 2012 when DACA was offered, families with children understood that deferred action was on the table, and the possibility of further future deferred action caused a migration that continues through today. This is exacerbated because of the deeply flawed Flores Settlement Agreement. And, because of our inability to use Expedited Removal for all unaccompanied alien children, we see many more Central American families with children attempting to enter the country illegally than a decade ago.

Smugglers are gaming the system, taking advantage of loopholes in our laws, to gain the release of illegal aliens into our country, creating a massive magnet for more illegal immigration.

Every day, we rely on a number of partnerships to help us accomplish our mission to secure our borders – state and local officials, interagency federal partners, Congress and international partners.

The Administration has asked Congress for help. Congress makes immigration law. Congress decides which classes of aliens are allowed into the country and which can be deported. We have asked for changes to existing law to close loopholes that feed this problem and result in a de facto court-ordered or resources-resulting catch and release. We asked Congress for additional funds for the Border Wall system, detention beds and personnel as the magnet of lawlessness still draws people by the thousands to our borders. Why not attempt the journey if you believe you can stay without consequence. Unfortunately – time and again – Congress has failed to act. Worse still, some Members of Congress have continually opposed efforts to secure the border.

As a result of this continued Congressional inaction, the Administration has drafted legislation and will be asking Congress – again – to provide the legal authority and resources to address this crisis at our borders. We will not allow previous illegal immigration levels to become the norm. More than a thousand people a day – 300,000 a year – violating our sovereignty will never be acceptable.

Since becoming Secretary, I have spoken with hundreds of Members of Congress on the need for legislation and will continue to talk with anyone who will listen

about the need to end catch and release and close these loopholes. Based on conversations with Congressional leadership, I am optimistic. We are a country based on the rule of law. I ask Congress to pass needed legislation with all urgency. I will work with you. Let's get this done.

In the meantime, the President has directed that National Guard personnel be deployed to the southern border.

The Department of Defense has long supported the efforts of DHS to protect our nation's borders. This includes ongoing counter-narcotic missions, infrastructure construction, persistent surveillance operations, training, and aerial support throughout the Western hemisphere. The Department of Defense is a longtime partner of the Department of Homeland Security. I thank them for their support.

While plans are being finalized, it is our expectation that the National Guard will deploy personnel in support of CBP's border security mission. It will take time for the deployment to occur but we are moving quickly and we are anxious to have the support.

As I said - DHS and DOD are finalizing the deployment plan – the how, who, where, and when. I will not provide the full details today because much of what we are doing must be done in conjunction with the border state governors – they will be our partners.

I called each of the governors and will be continuing these conversations. It is encouraging that some of them have already taken dramatic steps in their own states to confront illegal immigration. These are leaders who understand the importance of immigration enforcement and border security, and how it improves public safety in their states. I look forward to working with each of them.

I have also been in touch with my counterparts in Mexico regarding this action. They understand the administration's desire – much like their own – to control illegal entry into the country. They understand and respect national sovereignty.

I thank them for their recent support in addressing the yearly caravan as well as in signing a number of security related agreements. I value their partnership and do not expect this operation to affect that relationship at all.

I want to close by saying that the problems of catch and release and unsecured borders are solvable problems. Congress has the ability and opportunity to provide this Administration with the tools it needs to be successful. In my conversations with members of Congress, all have said they are for border security and the rule of law. The vulnerabilities we need to address are well known. The legislative fixes have been drafted and debated. The tools are tested and ready. All that is lacking is the will to act. I am hoping that changes.

Until then, the President is committed to using every lever of power at his disposal to support the men and women on the frontlines to defend our nation's sovereignty and to protect the American people. On behalf of the men and women of DHS, I think him for his support and leadership.

Let me be clear. We are a welcoming nation. We welcome tens of millions of legal visitors every year as well as over 1 million legal immigrants. And we will continue to do so. But as I said earlier, border security is national security. It is a foundational element to the security of our citizens and our homeland.

And with that I will take a couple questions.

(b)(6)

Press Secretary

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

(b)(6)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Public Affairs Officer

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**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 4, 2018 3:44 PM  
**To:** CBPPAOSOUTHWEST (b)(7)(E)  
**Cc:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
**Subject:** FW: CBP statement

FYSA, anything beyond this statement needs to come to DC for now.

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

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**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 04, 2018 4:15:21 PM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** CBP statement

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

The below is approved for use, if asked about the National Guard Deployment.

Thanks,

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Statement:

“U.S. Customs and Border Protection has a decades-long relationship working with the National Guard. The National Guard will greatly help CBP by providing aerial detection, transportation, repairing border wall, and logistical support while CBP focuses on enforcing our immigration laws.”