

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 10, 2025

Secretary Pete Hegseth  
The Pentagon  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Hegseth,

As Representatives from Los Angeles County serving on the House Armed Services Committee, we write to express our grave concerns regarding the Department of Defense's recent activation of 4,000 National Guard members and 700 Marines from Twentynine Palms to the Los Angeles metropolitan area—an action taken without proper transparency or communication with Congress or the State of California.

We are particularly troubled by the apparent lack of coordination between the Department of Defense, the Department of Homeland Security, and state and local officials, including elected representatives and law enforcement. On June 7th, the Department of Defense activated these troops under Title 10 U.S.C. § 12406, yet no prior notification or consultation was made with California state leaders or Congressional Representatives. Further, Title 10 U.S.C. § 12406 requires orders to “be issued through the governors of the States” -- and again, the Governor's office had not been notified at that time. Worse yet, during your appearance at the House Appropriations Committee, you stated that the sixty-day mission would cost U.S. taxpayers at least \$134 million, turning this mobilization into an even greater -- and entirely unnecessary -- burden.

This lack of communication represents a serious lapse by the Department. As Members of the House Armed Services Committee, we are charged with conducting oversight of the Department of Defense. Bypassing Congress in the deployment of federal troops—especially against the expressed wishes of state leadership—raises significant constitutional and procedural concerns. This type of unilateral federal activation has not occurred since the 1960s, when President Lyndon B. Johnson federalized the Alabama National Guard to protect civil rights demonstrators.

We also note that Task Force 51, including the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, has reportedly received refresher training in de-escalation, crowd control, and the standing rules for the use of force. While this is important, it raises additional questions about the preparation and intent behind this deployment.

To that end, we request responses to the following questions:

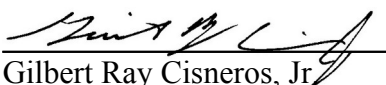
1. Please provide the Department's detailed justification for federalization specific to Title 10 U.S.C. § 12406. The statute states that federalization is permitted when the United States is invaded by a foreign nation; there is a rebellion against the authority of the Government of the United States; or when the President is unable to execute United


States law.<sup>1</sup> We urge a detailed explanation of how these specific criteria apply to the recent activation in the Los Angeles area, specifying the rules of engagement Marines will be following while working jointly with federal and local law enforcement.


2. Was the Department of Defense planning the activation of 4,000 troops and 700 Marines prior to the events of June 6th? Additionally, please specify the reasoning for activating an additional 2,000 troops on June 9<sup>th</sup>.
3. When were the California National Guard and Marine Corps units notified of their potential activation to the Los Angeles area?
4. What specific measures has the Department taken to ensure proper housing, meals, medical care, and rest for the service members deployed to Los Angeles?
5. How often is de-escalation and crowd control training conducted across each service branch under the Department of Defense?
6. At the conclusion of this mission, please provide a full unclassified accounting of the total mission cost of the Los Angeles deployment.

As elected officials representing millions of residents in Los Angeles County and as Members of the committee responsible for military oversight, we demand full transparency regarding this matter. We respectfully request a formal response to this letter no later than **June 30, 2025**.

Sincerely,

  
Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
Derek T. Tran  
Member of Congress

  
George Whitesides  
Member of Congress