

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 13, 2025

The Honorable Pete Hegseth
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Hegseth:

We are concerned about the Department of Defense's (DoD) immigration-related operations at the southern border and at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay — including the implications of these operations for the military's budget, readiness, and morale. DoD's support for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has been expensive for American taxpayers, with some DoD expenses costing over three times more than when DHS performs the same function, while also posing “an unacceptable risk” to units' readiness.¹ DoD's new immigration operations — which the Trump administration is planning at an unprecedented scale — threaten to burden the Department's resources and undermine our national security. To better understand those risks, we write to request additional information about these operations.

On his first day in office, President Trump signed an Executive Order (EO) directing the United States Northern Command (NORTHCOM) to “seal the borders” and “to provide steady-state southern border security.”² Then on January 29, President Trump directed DoD to “expand the Migrant Operations Center at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay to full capacity” of 30,000.³

In response, over the past four weeks, NORTHCOM has deployed roughly 2,000 active-duty troops to the southern border, drawing from numerous Army and Marine Corps units and directing the 10th Mountain Division from Fort Drum, New York to oversee the units.⁴ Those

¹ Los Angeles Times, “Must Reads: Marine Corps commandant says deploying troops to the border poses ‘unacceptable risk,’” Molly O’Toole, March 21, 2019, <https://www.latimes.com/politics/la-na-pol-marine-corps-border-national-emergency-20190321-story.html>; Reuters, “US military deportation flight likely cost more than first class,” Phil Stewart, January 30, 2025, <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/us-military-deportation-flight-likely-cost-more-than-first-class-2025-01-30/>.

² White House, Executive Order, Clarifying The Military's Role In Protecting The Territorial Integrity Of The United States, January 20, 2025, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/clarifying-the-militarys-role-in-protecting-the-territorial-integrity-of-the-united-states>.

³ White House, Executive Order, Expanding Migrant Operations Center at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay to Full Capacity, January 29, 2025, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/expanding-migrant-operations-center-at-naval-station-guantanamo-bay-to-full-capacity>; Reuters, “Trump to prepare facility at Guantanamo for 30,000 migrants,” Jeff Mason, Idrees Ali and Ted Hesson, January 30, 2025, <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/trump-says-he-will-instruct-homeland-security-pentagon-prepare-migrant-facility-2025-01-29/>.

⁴ U.S. Army, “Fort Drum Soldiers deploy to southern border,” press release, February 5, 2025, https://home.army.mil/drum/4017/3878/2079/WB_Press_Release_-_Fort_Drum_Soldiers_deploy_to_southern_boarder.pdf; CNCY Central, “Around 500 soldiers from Fort Drum to

troops supplemented the 2,500 National Guard members already stationed at the border, bringing the total under DoD's command to over 4,000.⁵ DoD leaders have made clear that "there will be very likely additional missions, this is just the start."⁶ In the near term, the Trump administration is reportedly considering deploying up to 10,000 troops to the southern border⁷ — double the scale of DoD's border deployment in 2019 and 2020.⁸ That number could grow; during President Trump's first term, Stephen Miller (now White House Deputy Chief of Staff) allegedly asserted that "[w]e need a quarter-million troops" at the southern border.⁹

Furthermore, DoD has operated over 10 deportation flights — including to Guatemala, Ecuador, India, and Guantanamo¹⁰ — following Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) reversal of its policy against using military aircraft to deport migrants.¹¹ Meanwhile, DoD has supplied facilities to assist DHS immigration enforcement operations.¹² Within the United States, DoD

depart for southern border," Matthew Benninger, February 5, 2025, <https://cnycentral.com/news/local/fort-drum-military.com>, "Here Are All the Units Now Deployed to the Border for Trump's Immigration Crackdown," Steve Beynon, Patricia Kime, and Thomas Novelty, January 27, 2025, <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2025/01/27/here-are-all-units-now-deployed-border-trumps-immigration-crackdown.html>; U.S. Department of Defense, Background Briefing on DOD Actions Responding to President Trump's Executive Order on Securing our Border, January 22, 2025, <https://www.defense.gov/News/Transcripts/Transcript/Article/4038856/background-briefing-on-dod-actions-responding-to-president-trumps-executive-ord>.

⁵ U.S. Northern Command, "USNORTHCOM bolsters security at southern border," press release, January 23, 2025, <https://www.northcom.mil/Newsroom/Press-Releases/Article/4038601/usnorthcom-bolsters-security-at-southern-border>.

⁶ U.S. Department of Defense, "Background Briefing on DOD Actions Responding to President Trump's Executive Order on Securing our Border," transcript, January 22, 2025, <https://www.defense.gov/News/Transcripts/Transcript/Article/4038856/background-briefing-on-dod-actions-responding-to-president-trumps-executive-ord>.

⁷ ABC News, "DHS could request up to 10,000 troops for the border, internal memo shows," Luke Barr and Luis Martinez, January 23, 2025, <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/dhs-request-10000-troops-border-internal-memo-shows/story?id=118045892>; U.S. Department of Defense, "Background Briefing on DOD Actions Responding to President Trump's Executive Order on Securing our Border," transcript, January 22, 2025, <https://www.defense.gov/News/Transcripts/Transcript/Article/4038856/background-briefing-on-dod-actions-responding-to-president-trumps-executive-ord>.

⁸ Center for Strategic & International Studies, "Trump Sends Troops to the Southern Border: A Crisis or a Continuation of U.S. Policy," Mark F. Cancian, January 27, 2025, <https://www.csis.org/analysis/trump-sends-troops-southern-border-crisis-or-continuation-us-policy>.

⁹ CBS News, "Esper: Stephen Miller called for a 'quarter-million troops' to respond to migrant caravan," May 5, 2022, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/mark-esper-stephen-miller-border-troops-migrant-caravan-60-minutes-2022-05-05>.

¹⁰ Air & Space Forces Magazine, "USAF Flies More Detained Migrants to Guantanamo in C-17," Chris Gordon, February 6, 2025, <https://www.airandspaceforces.com/usaf-detained-migrants-guantanamo/>; New York Times, "What to Know About Trump's Military Deportation Flights," Annie Correal, January 31, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/01/31/world/americas/trump-military-deportation-flights.html>; Air & Space Forces Magazine, "Air Force C-17s Conduct First Deportation Flights, Two Not Allowed to Land," Chris Gordon, January 26, 2025, <https://www.airandspaceforces.com/air-force-c-17s-first-deportation-flights-guatemala>.

¹¹ Air Force crew on deportation flights are reportedly removing insignia with their names and unit numbers from their uniforms. See Military.com, "Air Force Has Troops Remove Names, Unit Patches from Uniforms During Deportation Flights," Thomas Novelty, February 7, 2025, <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2025/02/07/air-force-has-troops-remove-names-unit-patches-uniforms-during-deportation-flights.html>; U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, "ICE Air Operations Overview," August 8, 2023, <https://www.ice.gov/factsheets/ice-air-operations>.

¹² CBS News, "Military to provide facilities at Colorado's Buckley Space Force Base to process detained migrants," Anna Alejo, January 28, 2025, <https://www.cbsnews.com/colorado/news/colorado-military-provide-facilities->

agreed to temporarily detain migrants at the Buckley Space Force Base in Colorado on behalf of ICE.¹³ At Guantanamo, SOUTHCOM is in the process of expanding the Migrant Operations Center's (MOC) capacity to 30,000 — up from its current maximum capacity of just 120.¹⁴ Migrants are also being held in Guantanamo's "Camp 6" prison, which previously held War-on-Terror detainees.¹⁵ DHS has not ruled out detaining women and children at Guantanamo.¹⁶ So far, 500 Marines have been ordered to deploy to Guantanamo,¹⁷ with potentially more to come. DoD has been noncommittal about how long they will stay; one spokesperson noted "mass migration is unpredictable, and the extent of U.S. military support will be determined as events unfold."¹⁸

NORTHCOM's and SOUTHCOM's new immigration-related operations place significant — and unnecessary — burdens on DoD resources, personnel, and readiness. DoD has estimated that its southern border operations will cost almost \$1 billion over just *eight months*, through the end of this fiscal year, compared to its estimate of \$1 billion over three years during the first Trump administration.¹⁹ DoD does not yet have a cost estimate for its new Guantanamo operations,²⁰ but a former Pentagon official warned that "[t]he total cost for this [Guantanamo operation] would quickly skyrocket into tens of millions, if not hundreds of millions, of dollars."²¹

process-detained-migrants.

¹³ Reuters, "ICE to use U.S. military base in Colorado to detain migrants," Phil Stewart and Idrees Ali, January 28, 2025, <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/ice-use-us-military-base-colorado-detain-migrants-2025-01-29>; Wall Street Journal, "U.S. Begins Migrant Flights to Guantanamo Bay," Tarini Parti, Nancy A. Youssef, and Michelle Hackman, February 4, 2025, <https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/trump-immigration-policy-guantanamo-bay-migrant-flights-9fec8df3>.

¹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵ New York Times, "U.S. Is Holding Migrants in Cells That Once Held Al Qaeda Suspects," Hamed Aleaziz, Eric Schmitt and Carol Rosenberg, February 5, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/02/05/us/politics/migrants-trump-guantanamo-prison.html>.

¹⁶ NBC News, "Kristi Noem says 'due process will be followed' for migrants at Guantánamo Bay," Alexandra Marquez, February 2, 2025, <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/immigration/homeland-security-noem-due-process-migrants-guantanamo-bay-rcna190330>.

¹⁷ PBS News, "Pentagon sends more troops to U.S.-Mexico border, bringing total to 3,600," February 7, 2025, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/pentagon-sends-more-troops-to-u-s-mexico-border-bringing-total-to-3600>; U.S. Southern Command, U.S. Military Troops Arrive at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay for Illegal Alien Holding Operations, press release, February 3, 2025, <https://www.southcom.mil/News/PressReleases/Article/4050872/us-military-troops-arrive-at-naval-station-guantanamo-bay-for-illegal-alien-hol>.

¹⁸ Military.com, "Marines, Soldiers Set Up Tents and Cots at Guantanamo Bay for Trump's Migrant Deportations," Drew F. Lawrence and Konstantin Toropin, February 3, 2025, <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2025/02/03/over-300-service-members-now-guantanamo-bay-support-detention-of-migrants-us.html>.

¹⁹ U.S. Government Accountability Office, SOUTHWEST BORDER SECURITY Actions Are Needed to Address the Cost and Readiness Implications of Continued DOD Support to U.S. Customs and Border Protection, February 2021, p. 15, <https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-21-356.pdf>.

²⁰ U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services, "Open/Closed: Hearing titleTo receive testimony on the posture of United States Northern Command and United States Southern Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2026 and the Future Years Defense Program," February 13, 2025, 1:40:50-1:40:53, <https://www.armed-services.senate.gov/hearings/to-receive-testimony-on-the-posture-of-united-states-northern-command-and-united-states-southern-command-in-review-of-the-defense-authorization-request-for-fiscal-year-2026-and-the-future-years-defense-program>.

²¹ Politico, "Pentagon shocked by Trump's order to house migrants in Guantanamo Bay," Paul McLeary, Jack Detsch and Myah Ward, January 31, 2025, <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/01/31/trump-guantanamo-bay-migrants-pentagon-00201715>.

Much of this cost is avoidable. For example, DoD is deporting migrants on C-17 military aircraft, which cost far more than the commercial and chartered flights that ICE normally uses for deportations.²² Taxpayers pay over \$28,000 per flight hour for a single deportation on a military C-17 plane, compared to \$8,577 per flight hour on civilian aircraft alternatives that ICE often uses.²³ Similarly, ICE pays contractors over \$272,000 per detention bed to operate Guantanamo’s MOC, compared to an average of around \$57,00 per bed at ICE facilities within the United States.²⁴

Perhaps more concerning, DoD may not have a realistic estimate of how much these new operations will cost. When DoD deployed to the border between FY2018 and FY2020 during President Trump’s first term, the Department estimated that its border operations would total \$1 billion in unreimbursed costs between FY2018 and FY2020.²⁵ The Government Accountability Office (GAO) later found that “DOD did not present reliable cost estimates . . . that would allow the Secretary to gauge how providing support could affect the department’s budget.”²⁶ DoD neglected to include entire categories of expenses in its estimates, such as the cost of DoD installations to support military personnel and National Guard member benefits.²⁷ The Department also failed to accurately report its costs to Congress.²⁸ Since then, DoD has not implemented any of GAO’s recommendations for improving how it estimates the cost of assisting DHS’s immigration operations.²⁹

Beyond budgetary costs, DoD’s growing participation in DHS immigration operations will pose serious costs for units’ readiness. The Defense Secretary discontinued part of DoD’s border operations between 2018 and 2020 after finding that “continued support for the mission would negatively affect military readiness and morale.”³⁰ The Commandant of the Marine Corps had warned that the operation posed an “unacceptable risk to Marine Corps combat readiness and

²² Wall Street Journal, “Analysis Reveals the High Costs of Trump’s Military Deportation Flights,” February 13, 2025, https://www.wsj.com/video/analysis-reveals-the-high-costs-of-trumps-military-deportation-flights/7E1D26C3-16B8-4F5E-9D10-71F8588039D0?mod=business_videos_pos2.

²³ Newsweek, “Trump’s Reliance on Military Planes for Deportations Is Costing Taxpayers,” Jesus Mesa, January 31, 2025, <https://www.newsweek.com/trumps-reliance-military-planes-deportations-costing-taxpayers-2023882>; Reuters, “US military deportation flight likely cost more than first class,” Phil Stewart, January 30, 2025, <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/us-military-deportation-flight-likely-cost-more-than-first-class-2025-01-30>.

²⁴ Immigration Impact, “Sending Migrants to Guantánamo Bay Is a Costly, Abusive Shift in Immigration Detention,” Chris Opila, February 7, 2025, <https://immigrationimpact.com/2025/02/07/sending-migrants-guantanamo-bay-costly-abusive-detention>; NBC News, “Trump’s stepped-up immigration arrests escalate need for more detention space,” Suzanne Gamboa, Julia Ainsley, Gabe Gutierrez and Laura Strickler, January 31, 2025, <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/trumps-stepped-immigration-arrests-escalate-need-detention-space-rcna190217>; Targeted News Service, “AKIMA INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION Wins \$163,445,525 Federal Contract,” September 8, 2024.

²⁵ U.S. Government Accountability Office, SOUTHWEST BORDER SECURITY Actions Are Needed to Address the Cost and Readiness Implications of Continued DOD Support to U.S. Customs and Border Protection, February 2021, p. 15, <https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-21-356.pdf>.

²⁶ *Id.*, p. 15.

²⁷ *Id.*

²⁸ *Id.*, pp. 31-34.

²⁹ *Id.*

³⁰ *Id.*, p. 25.

solvency.”³¹ For example, DoD sent Blackhawk helicopters to the border, “separate[ed] units in order to assign a portion of them to the southwest border mission,” and canceled training exercises — all of which reduced the readiness of the impacted units.³² Again, GAO found that DoD had underestimated these costs, approving border deployments with “limited information about how providing the requested capabilities would affect readiness.”³³ And again, DoD has not implemented any of GAO’s recommendations for improving its assessment of how border operations impact readiness. This track record casts doubt on your prediction that the current border operations will in fact “contribute[] to readiness.”³⁴

Likewise, we are concerned about how these operations may impact servicemembers’ morale. In recent years, DoD personnel who deployed to the border have reported dangerously low morale, driven by an unclear mission, isolation, boredom, poor accommodations, and more.³⁵ Poor morale even contributed to a series of suicides by members of the Texas National Guard who deployed to the southern border after 2020.³⁶ As mentioned above, the Defense Secretary scaled back border operations in 2019 in part because of how the mission was harming troops’ morale.³⁷

In all, the Trump administration is militarizing the country’s immigration enforcement system in an apparent attempt to signal toughness. But this political stunt will come at a high cost; it risks diverting DoD’s resources away from its vital mission in ways that compromise our national security. We request answers to the following questions by February 27, 2025:

U.S.-Mexico Border Operations

1. Please provide a complete list of units deployed to the southern border and the estimated length of deployment for each.
2. How is NORTHCOM tracking border support activity costs and ensuring the accuracy of cost tallies?
3. Describe how DoD is assessing the impact of southern border operations on troops’ readiness.

³¹ LA Times, “Must Reads: Marine Corps commandant says deploying troops to the border poses ‘unacceptable risk,’” Molly O’Toole, March 21, 2019, <https://www.latimes.com/politics/la-na-pol-marine-corps-border-national-emergency-20190321-story.html>.

³² U.S. Government Accountability Office, SOUTHWEST BORDER SECURITY Actions Are Needed to Address the Cost and Readiness Implications of Continued DOD Support to U.S. Customs and Border Protection, February 2021, pp. 24, 26-27, <https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-21-356.pdf>.

³³ *Id.*, p. 27.

³⁴ U.S. Army, “Defense Secretary says enlisted morale is high at Southern Border,” Matthew Olay, February 7, 2025, https://www.army.mil/article/282912/defense_secretary_says_enlisted_morale_is_high_at_southern_border.

³⁵ Army Times, “Death, drugs and a disbanded unit: How the Guard’s Mexico border mission fell apart,” Davis Winkie, December 8, 2021, <https://www.armytimes.com/news/your-army/2021/12/08/death-drugs-and-a-disbanded-unit-how-the-guards-mexico-border-mission-fell-apart>.

³⁶ Texas Standard, “At least 17 Texas National Guardsman have died patrolling the southern border, including several suicides,” Gabriella Alcorta Solorio, December 9, 2024, <https://www.texasstandard.org/stories/texas-national-guard-operation-lone-star-soldier-deaths-suicides>.

³⁷ U.S. Government Accountability Office, “SOUTHWEST BORDER SECURITY Actions Are Needed to Address the Cost and Readiness Implications of Continued DOD Support to U.S. Customs and Border Protection,” February 2021, p. 25, <https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-21-356.pdf>.

- a. Have any training exercises been delayed or canceled due to the recent deployments to the southern border? Please provide the date and type of any affected training exercises and explain which units were impacted.
 - b. Is DoD separating units when sending personnel to the border? If so, please explain the reasoning, given evidence of how doing so between 2018-2020 harmed units' readiness.
4. How, if at all, is NORTHCOM monitoring the impact of the border deployment on troops' morale?
5. Please list all National Guard forces that are currently participating in southern border operations and the authority under which they have deployed.
6. GAO previously found that "DoD has not defined what it considers to be a manageable impact on readiness."³⁸ How is DoD determining when an anticipated impact on readiness is "manageable"?
7. What was the total cost of DoD's border deployment between 2018-2020?
8. What does NORTHCOM project the total cost of border operations will be this calendar year?
 - a. Please explain the assumptions underlying that estimate.
 - b. Provide the total operational costs of DoD's border deployment since January 20, 2025.
 - c. What budgetary account will be used to pay for the operations?
 - d. Which expenses, if any, is DoD paying for on a non-reimbursable basis? If DoD is waiving reimbursement for any expenses under 10 U.S.C. § 277, provide the justification for doing so.
9. Are any noncitizens currently being held at the Buckley Space Force Base in Colorado?
 - a. If so, please describe the authority under which they are being held and the protocol for them to access legal counsel.
10. Is DoD considering using other military bases in the United States for detention operations?
11. Provide a full list of tasks to which active-duty forces will be assigned, along with a summary of functions to date and a summary of upcoming functions DoD troops will engage in.

³⁸ U.S. Government Accountability Office, SOUTHWEST BORDER SECURITY Actions Are Needed to Address the Cost and Readiness Implications of Continued DOD Support to U.S. Customs and Border Protection, February 2021, p. 26, <https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-21-356.pdf>.

12. What are the rules of engagement that govern each unit deployed to the border?
13. Are servicemembers authorized to use force at the border?
 - a. In 2020, the DoD Inspector General found that some troops did not receive Standing Rules for the Use of Force (SRUF) training.³⁹ What percentage of troops currently deployed to the border have completed training on when and how they can use force? Please describe the training they receive on the authorization of military force.
 - b. Are servicemembers under DoD's command authorized to use force against unarmed civilians at the border?
 - c. Under what circumstances, if any, are servicemembers under DoD's command authorized to make arrests at the border?
14. How does DoD handle encounters with citizens at the border?

Guantanamo Operations

1. Please describe SOUTHCOM's precise role(s) in Guantanamo's migrant detention operations.
 - a. How, if at all, are DoD personnel directly involved in the detention of any migrants at Guantanamo.
 - b. Has DoD (or any of its components) signed any memoranda of understanding or similar agreements with DHS regarding the detention of migrants at Guantanamo? Please provide a copy of any agreements if so.
2. Describe DoD's precise role at the MOC and Camp 6 and how this role is currently projected to evolve.
 - a. There are reports that DoD personnel are guarding migrants at Camp 6.⁴⁰ Please explain in detail who is currently guarding Camp 6 and whether there are plans to change the personnel stationed at Camp 6.
 - b. Are migrants at the MOC or Camp 6 free to leave or are they being formally detained? If they are detained, under what legal authority are migrants being detained at Guantanamo's Camp 6?
3. How, if at all, is SOUTHCOM monitoring the impact of the Guantanamo deployment on troops' morale?

³⁹ Department of Defense Office of Inspector General, "Evaluation of the United States Military Support of Department of Homeland Security Southern Border Security Operations Under Title 10 Authority (DODIG-2020-115)," August 14, 2020, <https://www.dodig.mil/reports.html/Article/2316046/evaluation-of-the-united-states-military-support-of-department-of-homeland-secu/>.

⁴⁰ New York Times, "Some Migrants Sent by Trump to Guantánamo Are Being Held by Military Guards," Carol Rosenberg and Charlie Savage, February 12, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/02/12/us/gitmo-migrants-trump.html?smid=nytcore-ios-share&referringSource=articleShare>.


4. Describe how DoD is assessing the impact of Guantanamo MOC operations on troops' readiness.
5. Has DHS informed DoD of whether Guantanamo's MOC will be used to hold any migrants who have not received final orders of removal?
 - a. Have any migrants currently at the MOC not received final removal orders?
6. What does SOUTHCOM project the total cost of Guantanamo's MOC operations will be this fiscal year? If no single cost estimate is available, please provide a series of cost estimates based on the different scenarios for which DoD is planning.
7. GAO has found that DHS has detained U.S. citizens after mistaking them for foreign nationals.⁴¹ What steps, if any, does DoD take to confirm the identity of an individual before taking them into custody at a military facility or on a military aircraft?
8. What is DoD's timeline for constructing permanent structures at the MOC and how long do you anticipate migrants will be held in soft-sided facilities?
9. What term is being used to describe noncitizens deported from United States to Guantanamo?
10. What is DoD's plan for migrants held at Guantanamo whose home country will not accept their repatriation?
11. What is DoD's plan for evacuating the MOC during extreme weather events?
12. Please provide a summary of the age and gender of migrants currently being held at Guantanamo's MOC.
 - a. Has DoD been informed of any plan to detain women or children at Guantanamo?
13. What government entities, if any, will conduct on-site inspections of Guantanamo's MOC and Camp 6, and at what frequency? Will they publicly report on findings?
14. Has DoD received requests for access to the MOC or Camp 6 by legal service providers, humanitarian organizations, press, or other members of the public? How have requests been handled?
 - a. Describe DoD's plans for facilitating migrants' access to counsel.
 - b. Has DHS requested that SOUTHCOM facilitate confidential legal phone calls or legal visits?

⁴¹ U.S. Government Accountability Office, Immigration Enforcement: Actions Needed to Better Track Cases Involving U.S. Citizenship Investigations, July 20, 2021, <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-21-487>.

15. What steps is DoD taking to make the MOC and Camp 6 facilities habitable for the number of migrants expected to be held at Guantanamo.
- Any migrants currently housed in spaced with black mold, leaks, electrical fires, other issues?
16. As of the date of your response, what is the current capacity of the MOC at Guantanamo?
- How long does SOUTHCOM anticipate it will take DoD to complete the first phase of the MOC expansion to 2,000 migrants?⁴²
 - What is the maximum number of migrants for whom Guantanamo's MOC currently has the capacity and resources to provide sanitary facilities, medical care, food, and potable water?
17. Please explain the standards of care that DoD personnel are bound to provide at Guantanamo and provide a copy of DoD's protocol, if any, on standards of care.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,


Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator


Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

CC: Admiral Alvin Holsey, Commander, United States Southern Command; General Gregory M. Guillot, Commander, United States Northern Command and North American Aerospace Defense Command

⁴² U.S. Navy, USS St. Louis (LCS-19) Supports Operation Southern Guard at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, February 4, 2025, <https://www.navy.mil/Press-Office/News-Stories/Article/4053757/uss-st-louis-lcs-19-supports-operation-southern-guard-at-naval-station-guantana>.