

From: Williams, Jared [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=D0BB9655F0014263860E424B2507EF07-WILLIAMS, J]
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2024 5:22 PM
To: Mark Thieme [mark.thieme@floridastateguard.fl.gov]
CC: James Arnold [jay.arnold@floridastateguard.fl.gov]
Subject: Activation Letter
Attachments: SGS_BIZHUB24013117180.pdf

Please see attached letter activating the Florida State Guard to assist Texas.

Jared Williams
Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff
Executive Office of Governor Ron DeSantis



RON DeSANTIS
GOVERNOR

January 31, 2024

Director Mark Thieme
Florida State Guard
2601 North Blairstone Road
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Re: Activation of Florida State Guard

Dear Director Thieme:

Pursuant to Section 251.001(8)(a), Florida Statutes, I hereby order the activation of the Florida State Guard to provide support to the state of Texas under the Emergency Management Assistance Compact in its response to the invasion at our nation's border. I further direct you to mobilize whatever number of Florida State Guard members deemed necessary and appropriate, in consultation with the Executive Director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management, to assist in the response to the emergency.

In accordance with Section 251.001(8)(b), Florida Statutes, the Florida State Guard shall remain activated until such other Order is issued by me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. DeSantis", written over a horizontal line.

Ron DeSantis
Governor

From: Sierra Dean [sierra.dean@floridastateguard.fl.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 2:31 PM
To: Booker, Sydney [Sydney.Booker@eog.myflorida.com]
CC: James Arnold [jay.arnold@floridastateguard.fl.gov]
Subject: REVIEW REQUESTED
Attachments: Review Requested - Copy.docx



Sierra Dean

External Affairs Director
Florida State Guard
Phone: (904)- 495-1108

sierra.dean@floridastateguard.fl.gov
2601 S Blair Stone Rd.
Tallahassee, FL 32301



MEDIA INQUIRIES:

INQUIRY 1: Follow-Up from previous inquiry listed below

Date: 2/7/24

First name: Ana

Last name: Ceballos

Email: aceballos@miamiherald.com

Phone: N/A

Company: Miami Herald

Position: Investigative Reporter

Deadline: None given

Your message:

Sierra,

To clarify, can you tell me how many of the 170 members have completed the training and would be ready for deployment to Texas if needed?

Can you also tell me when the Texas meeting is this week and who Director Thieme is expected to meet? If it has happened already, can you tell me what Texas has asked Florida to send over to the border?

And lastly, can you tell me whether Florida State Guard members have been contacted about their possible deployment? DeSantis said two weeks ago they would be sent "shortly," are they ready to go?

Thank you,

DRAFT RESPONSE:

Good Afternoon,

170 members have completed initial and ongoing training to maintain eligibility and readiness for activation. The Florida State Guard (FSG) continues to coordinate mission logistics with the Texas Department of Public Safety through and alongside Florida's statewide tasking agency, the Florida Division of Emergency Management. We remain postured to activate the appropriate lines of communication with our volunteer members to deliver rapid response to our Florida and Texas state partners.

PREVIOUS INQUIRY

Hi Sierra,

I need comment on the following:

1. What equipment is needed for the Texas deployment?
2. How many people are we talking about when he says the state guard is prepared to send a platoon? Is that 20? 40?
3. Has the state guard signed an EMAC with Texas yet?
4. Will the specialized unit be deployed to Texas? Or only the general State Guard members?
4. Who is Director Thieme meeting with in Texas next week?
5. How many individuals have been trained and officially designated as State Guard volunteers as of today? How many of those are in the specialized unit?
6. Who are the vendors that are being vetted to train state guard members? Is stronghold SOF solutions one of them?
7. Can I request an interview with director Thieme?

Because we were unable to ask these questions in person, our deadline will be fairly quickly. So as soon as you can respond to these it would be appreciated.

Thank you

PREVIOUS RESPONSE:

Good Afternoon, Ana,

Thank you for reaching out regarding the Florida State Guard's (FSG) direct support and assistance in addressing the Texas border crisis. This historic mission marks the FSG's first out-of-state deployment through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), as authorized by Florida law.

FSG is working with the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) who is coordinating with the Texas Department of Public Safety to identify areas where they will need additional manpower. FDEM is actively coordinating with Texas DPS to identify where the state guard can best fill needs. For questions regarding the EMAC process, please contact the statewide coordinating agency, FDEM.

Regarding the FSG personnel size, we have appx. 170 total active volunteers continuing initial and ongoing training and selection, including 60 volunteers who have completed the initial phase of training for the specialized missions unit. Training for FSG members is done in conjunction with the Florida National Guard and there are no other solicitations at this time. The initial phase of Special Missions Unit training was conducted by Stronghold Solutions.

With our upcoming Initial Entry Training, upcoming missions, and legislative session, we will not be able to accommodate your interview request at this time.

From: Sierra Dean [sierra.dean@floridastateguard.fl.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 9:58 AM
To: Booker, Sydney [Sydney.Booker@eog.myflorida.com]
CC: James Arnold [jay.arnold@floridastateguard.fl.gov]
Subject: Requested deadline 2/8
Attachments: Review Requested - Copy.docx



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2601 S Blair Stone Rd.
Tallahassee, FL 32301



MEDIA INQUIRIES:

INQUIRY 1

Date: 2/7/24

First name: Ana

Last name: Ceballos

Email: aceballos@miamiherald.com

Phone: N/A

Company: Miami Herald

Position: Investigative Reporter

Deadline: 2/8/24

Your message:

Hi Sierra,

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Thank you

RESPONSE:

Thank you for reaching out regarding the Florida State Guard's (FSG) direct support and assistance in addressing the Texas border crisis. This historic mission marks the FSG's first out-of-state deployment through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), as authorized by Florida law.

Alongside our state agency partners, we are coordinating with the Texas Department of Public Safety to identify critical areas of support, equipment, and personnel needed. We are actively working with the statewide coordinating agency, Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) to identify areas of public safety and support primarily through Emergency Support Functions 13 and 16. We are prepared to offer a timely response with an estimated 20-person platoon-sized Incident Management Team (IMT) consisting of highly qualified and capable personnel with the skillsets necessary for each mission, as they are assigned by FDEM. For questions regarding the status of the EMAC process, please contact the statewide coordinating agency, FDEM.

Regarding the FSG personnel size, we have appx. 170 total active volunteers continuing initial and ongoing training and selection. Currently, the FSG has no active solicitations for training.

With our upcoming Initial Entry Training, upcoming missions, and legislative session, all media and press requests should be directed to me at this time.

From: Sierra Dean [sierra.dean@floridastateguard.fl.gov]
Sent: Friday, February 2, 2024 12:17 PM
To: Booker, Sydney [Sydney.Booker@eog.myflorida.com]
Subject: RE: Please see attached
Attachments: Review Requested - Copy.docx

Here you go, thank you!

From: Sierra Dean
Sent: Friday, February 2, 2024 11:59 AM
To: 'Booker, Sydney' <Sydney.Booker@eog.myflorida.com>
Cc: James Arnold <jay.arnold@floridastateguard.fl.gov>
Subject: RE: Please see attached

Updates attached.

From: Sierra Dean
Sent: Thursday, February 1, 2024 4:51 PM
To: Booker, Sydney <Sydney.Booker@eog.myflorida.com>
Cc: James Arnold <jay.arnold@floridastateguard.fl.gov>
Subject: Please see attached



Sierra Dean

External Affairs Director
Florida State Guard
Phone: (904)- 495-1108

sierra.dean@floridastateguard.fl.gov

2601 S Blair Stone Rd.
Tallahassee, FL 32301



MEDIA INQUIRIES:

INQUIRY 1

Date: 2/1/24

First name: Parisa

Last name: Akbarpour

Email: pakbarpour@10tampabay.com

Phone: 8137740345

Company: WTSP 10 Tampa Bay

Position: Producer

Good morning, I am reaching out regarding the announcement from Governor Ron DeSantis that volunteers of Florida's State Guard will be deployed to the U.S.-Mexico border in Texas. Has the State Guard already been deployed to Texas? If not, when will members be deployed to Texas? Thank you.

INQUIRY 2

Date: 2/1/24

First name: Dan

Last name: Shepherd

Email: daniel.shepherd@cbs.com

Phone: 786-365-8270

Company: CBS News

Position: Producer

Hello, we're just trying to get guidance on WHEN will the Florida State Guard head to the Texas border and with WHAT assets, ie, how many soldiers, what type of equipment and their specific mission. And is there a specific timeline on how long their mission is, or will it be open-ended in support of the Texas Military Department?

INQUIRY 3

Date: 2/2/24

First Name: Forrest

Last Name: Saunders

Email: Forrest.Saunders@scripps.com

Phone: 319-432-9722

Company: Scripps Media Group

Sierra — thanks for the chat and orientation.

Simple questions.

- Any idea the size of the FSG deployment and in general what might members be doing?

Let me know if you can help. Thanks again for the connect.

-Forrest

DRAFT RESPONSE FOR ALL:

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for reaching out regarding the Florida State Guard's direct support and assistance in addressing the Texas border crisis. This historic mission marks the Florida State Guard's first out-of-state deployment through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, as authorized by Florida law.

Alongside our state agency partners, we continue to coordinate with the Texas Department of Public Safety to identify critical areas of support, equipment, and personnel needed. We are prepared to deliver rapid emergency response and public safety operations assistance throughout the duration of our official activation orders.

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Updates attached.

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Subject: Please see attached



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Last name: Akbarpour

Email: pakbarpour@10tampabay.com

Phone: 8137740345

Company: WTSP 10 Tampa Bay

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Date: 2/1/24

First name: Dan

Last name: Shepherd

Email: daniel.shepherd@cbs.com

Phone: 786-365-8270

Company: CBS News

Position: Producer

Topic of your message:: Member of the press

Your message: Hello, we're just trying to get guidance on WHEN will the Florida State Guard head to the Texas border and with WHAT assets, ie, how many soldiers, what type of equipment and their specific mission. And is there a specific timeline on how long their mission is, or will it be open-ended in support of the Texas Military Department?

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Date: 2/2/24

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Last Name: Saunders

Email: Forrest.Saunders@scripps.com

Phone: 319-432-9722

Company: Scripps Media Group

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CC: James Arnold [jay.arnold@floridastateguard.fl.gov]
Subject: Please see attached
Attachments: Review Requested.docx



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DRAFT RESPONSE:

Good Afternoon Parisa,

Thank you for reaching out regarding the Florida State Guard's direct support for the fortification and protection of the Texas border. This historic mission marks the Florida State Guard's first out-of-state deployment through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, as authorized by Florida law.

Alongside our state agency partners, we continue to coordinate with our Texas counterparts to identify critical areas of support, equipment, and personnel needed. We are prepared to deliver rapid emergency response, public safety operations, and humanitarian assistance throughout the duration of our official activation orders.

INQUIRY 2**Date:** 2/1/24**First name:** Dan**Last name:** Shepherd**Email:** daniel.shepherd@cbs.com**Phone:** 786-365-8270**Company:** CBS News**Position:** Producer**Topic of your message::** Member of the press

Your message: Hello, we're just trying to get guidance on WHEN will the Florida State Guard head to the Texas border and with WHAT assets, ie, how many soldiers, what type of equipment and their specific mission. And is there a specific timeline on how long their mission is, or will it be open-ended in support of the Texas Military Department?

DRAFT RESPONSE:

Good Afternoon Dan,

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Alongside our state agency partners, we continue to coordinate with our Texas counterparts to identify critical areas of support, equipment, and personnel needed. We are prepared to deliver rapid emergency response, public safety operations, and humanitarian assistance throughout the duration of our official activation orders.

From: Mark Thieme [mark.thieme@floridastateguard.fl.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2024 6:32 PM
To: Williams, Jared [Jared.Williams@eog.myflorida.com]
CC: James Arnold [jay.arnold@floridastateguard.fl.gov]
Subject: Re: Activation Letter

Jared, received, thank you.

Sincerely,

Mark

Mark A. Thieme
Executive Director
Florida State Guard
Phone: (904) 484-8289

mark.thieme@floridastateguard.fl.gov

From: Williams, Jared <Jared.Williams@eog.myflorida.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2024 5:21:54 PM
To: Mark Thieme <mark.thieme@floridastateguard.fl.gov>
Cc: James Arnold <jay.arnold@floridastateguard.fl.gov>
Subject: Activation Letter

Please see attached letter activating the Florida State Guard to assist Texas.

Jared Williams
Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff
Executive Office of Governor Ron DeSantis

Please note that under Florida law correspondence sent to the Governor's Office, which is not confidential or exempt pursuant to chapter 119 of the Florida Statutes, is a public record made available upon request.

From: Sierra Dean [sierra.dean@floridastateguard.fl.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2024 4:30 PM
To: Booker, Sydney [Sydney.Booker@eog.myflorida.com]
Subject: RE: 2/1 Dir. Thieme's Remarks

Quote:

The Florida State Guard is prepared to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with state agency partners in direct support of our brothers and sisters in Texas grappling with an unprecedented surge of illegal immigration along their border. The Florida State Guard is postured to deliver rapid emergency response, public safety operations, and humanitarian assistance—wherever the need arises.

From: Booker, Sydney <Sydney.Booker@eog.myflorida.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2024 3:30 PM
To: Sierra Dean <sierra.dean@floridastateguard.fl.gov>
Subject: RE: 2/1 Dir. Thieme's Remarks

See attached!

From: Sierra Dean <sierra.dean@floridastateguard.fl.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2024 12:06 PM
To: Booker, Sydney <Sydney.Booker@eog.myflorida.com>
Subject: 2/1 Dir. Thieme's Remarks

Good Afternoon, Sydney,
Below includes Director Thieme's remarks. Would you kindly review and advise? I will print the final version for him before his EOD departure. See you shortly!

Remarks:

Thank you, Governor DeSantis, for your unflinching leadership and the opportunity to help mitigate this overwhelming threat to public safety. At the Florida State Guard, we are prepared to stand shoulder to shoulder with our teammates in the Florida National Guard and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, in direct support of our brothers and sisters in Texas grappling with an unprecedented surge of illegal immigration along their borders and within their interior.

During Idalia and other severe weather events this season, our soldiers demonstrated our rapid response emergency capabilities as reliable, capable, and competent partners responding to all threats to public safety. Since the reactivation of the Florida State Guard, we've trained and credentialed our force to support emergency response, public safety, and humanitarian assistance operations.

The Florida State Guard's response to our Governor's call to action in support of Texas is deeply rooted in our unwavering commitment to the protection and preservation of life and property. The dangers of this unconscionable threat are apathetic to state lines, with a consequence of magnitude far too great for any one state to ignore or overcome. The Florida State Guard is

postured to deliver rapid to response to any and all threats to public safety—wherever the need arises.



Sierra Dean

External Affairs Director
Florida State Guard
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Updated and included in his brief, thank you ma'am!

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