

RUBEN GALLEGO

3RD DISTRICT, ARIZONA

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# Congress of the United States

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Major General Kerry Muehlenbeck  
National Guard Association of Arizona  
5640 E. McDowell Rd  
Phoenix, Arizona 85008

December 14, 2023

Dear General Muehlenbeck,

I am writing to inquire about the possibility of using National Guard facilities in Douglas, Arizona to house migrants.

As you might know, Douglas is part of the Tucson Sector of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) operations, which is currently the busiest sector along the southwest border. As of last week, the Tucson sector was at 190% capacity as sustained high levels of arrivals have persisted in recent months. Although CBP has adjusted operations to respond to this increase, they – alongside local governments and nonprofits – have been asked to stretch their resources to their limits. Should this situation persist, there will be an increased risk of street releases of migrants from CBP custody and a ballooning population of unsheltered migrants in Douglas that would undermine public safety.

As I understand it, the Arizona National Guard in Douglas operates an armory that could serve as a location to temporarily house migrants during this surge. I request that you give full and fair consideration to determine whether this action is legally viable and, if so, take that step.

I am also interested in your responses to the following questions:

1. What overall actions is the Arizona National Guard taking to ease this surge of migrants?
2. What additional steps, if legally viable, can the Arizona National Guard take to provide support during this surge?
3. If legally viable, what would be the cost to deploy the Arizona National Guard to this facility in Douglas and who would bear it?
4. What new federal authorities, guidance, or additional resources are needed to provide further support?

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ruben Gallego". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and "G".

Ruben Gallego  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS