

Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs and Border Security



Report and Recommendations to the

86th Texas Legislature

September 2018



Senator Dawn Buckingham
Senator Robert Hall
Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr.
Senator José Rodríguez



Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs and Border Security

Senator Donna Campbell, M.P., Chair
Senator Don Huffines, Vice-Chair

The Honorable Dan Patrick
Lieutenant Governor of Texas
P.O. Box 12068
Austin, TX 78711

Dear Lieutenant Governor Patrick:

The Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs and Border Security hereby submits our interim report, including recommendations to the 86th Texas Legislature.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature of Donna Campbell in cursive.

Senator Donna Campbell, Chair

Handwritten signature of Don Huffines in cursive.

Senator Don Huffines, Vice Chair

Handwritten signature of Eddie Lucio, Jr. in cursive.

Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr.

Handwritten signature of José Rodríguez in cursive.

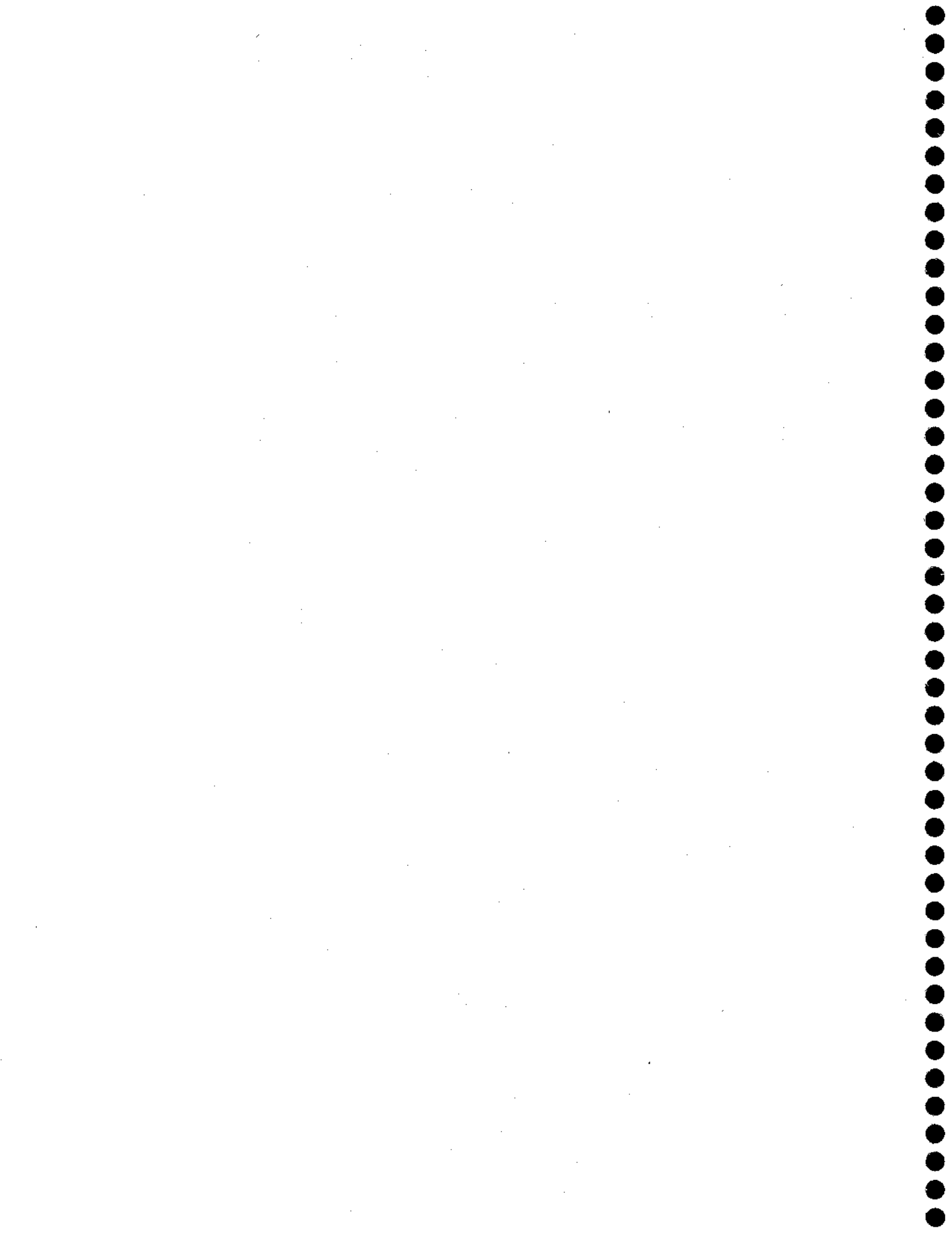
Senator Jose Rodriguez

Handwritten signature of Bob Hall in cursive.

Senator Bob Hall

Handwritten signature of Dawn Buckingham in cursive.

Senator Dawn Buckingham





DON HUFFINES
STATE SENATOR • DISTRICT 16

November 28, 2018

The Honorable Donna Campbell
Chair, Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs & Border Security
P.O. Box 12068
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Chairman Campbell,

Thanks to your leadership and the diligent work of the members of the Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs and Border Security during the interim, the 86th Legislature will be well informed and ready to take action on many key issues. As Vice Chair of the Committee, I find this report to be an exceptional testament to your leadership and the outstanding work of our dedicated committee staff. While I am supportive of the report as a whole and proud to lend my signature, I find it necessary to add these additional comments.

First, I write to express concern on the committee's recommendation to "allow U.S. Border Patrol agents in Texas to become certified state peace officers in desolate areas." While I strongly support the 287(g) program that trains and deputizes state law enforcement to provide limited enforcement of certain federal immigration laws, I do not support ceding additional state authority to federal agents to act on Texas soil. In a time when state sovereignty remains a concern, and when we are still trying to recover from the Tenth Amendment abuses of the previous Presidential administration, we must be mindful of the proper relationship between the state and federal government, and we must move to limit federal authority over Texas citizens, not increase it.

Second, as either a formal recommendation, a committee rule, or a recurring tradition, I hope that this committee will request that the federal government provide an annual or biannual testimony detailing the status of the Texas border, border security efforts, illegal immigration, border crime, and the trafficking of narcotics and people.

Third, the report's recommendations regarding invasive plant species in Charge 2 should be strengthened to mitigate any impact on border security. It is my hope that rather than simply explore funding efficiencies, recommendations would instead strongly encourage options to control this issue along our border and allocate funding that was needed to ensure success upon passage of Senate Bill 1734 (84R).

Finally, I also find it necessary to draw attention to the report's recommendation regarding increasing an already unnecessary state mandate on public schools as seen in Charge 6:

Increase the physical activity requirement from 50% to 75% for all public physical education courses.

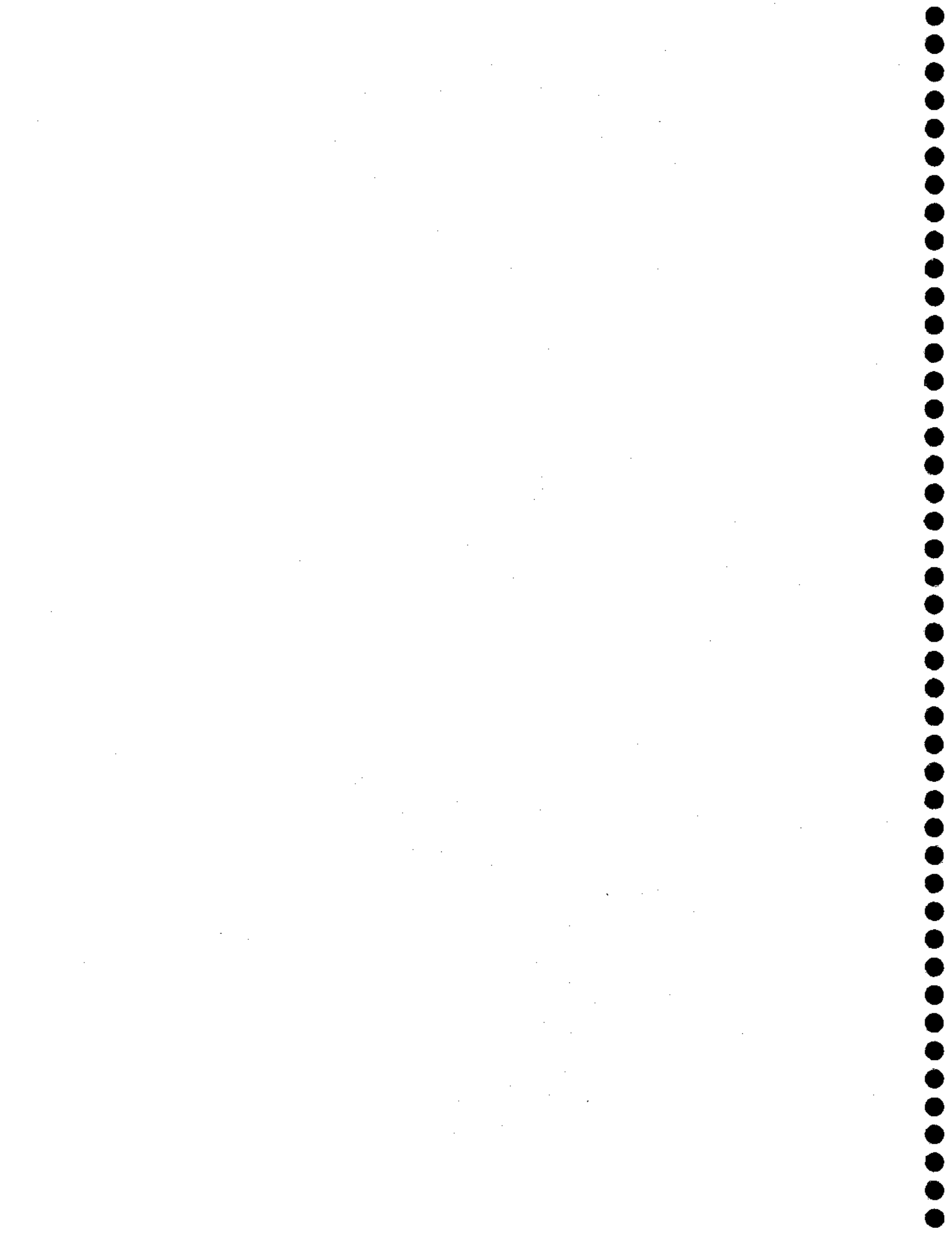
While assuredly done with the best intentions, mandates such as this need to be eliminated and certainly not expanded. State government should not in the business of telling local school districts what is best for its students. Instead, we should give superintendents – who answer to elected school trustees – the

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DON HUFFINES
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opportunity to innovate and develop local solutions. Athletics and outdoor time are incredibly important for our youth; we certainly need more physical fitness in Texas – not less. I look forward to achieving that goal through other, more innovative means than exacerbating an existing state mandate on public schools.

I deeply appreciate your leadership of the Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs and Border Security. You and the committee staff have done outstanding work in running an organized and efficient committee. Notwithstanding the above discussions on several recommendations, I am pleased to sign my name to this report. It has been an honor to serve with you in the Texas Senate. Together, we can achieve great things to the state of Texas and the millions of taxpayers who call our great state home.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Don Huffines".

Don Huffines
Senate District 16 - Dallas

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SENATOR
EDDIE LUCIO, JR.

November 27, 2018

The Honorable Donna Campbell
Chairwoman, Senate Committee on VABS
Sam Houston Building 345

Dear Madam Chair Campbell:

Thank you for your leadership as Chair of the Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs and Border Security (VABS). As a son of a veteran, I take to heart issues impacting all veterans throughout our state, and nothing is more important than improving the services they receive in order to increase their quality of life.

After thoroughly reviewing the proposed Interim Report, I agree that it is necessary to raise awareness of critical services offered to Texas veterans. Additionally, I agree that we should encourage public-private partnerships relating to our aerospace industry, as well as any partnerships to build on local resources in order to assist veterans afflicted by mental health issues.

Concerning Charge 1 of the Interim Report, specifically Recommendation 2, I cannot in good conscience support any recommendation calling for legislation to be filed which would create programs in Texas like those in New Hampshire, a non-predominantly Hispanic border state, where federal agents (whose primary duty is to prevent persons from entering or leaving this country without federal permission) are certified as state peace officers. Because of the unintended consequences that such a far-reaching proposal may have in Texas' predominantly Hispanic Border communities that I represent, please note my strong reservations against such a recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eddie Lucio, Jr.".

Eddie Lucio, Jr.
State Senator

ELJ/ejg







JOSÉ RODRÍGUEZ

STATE SENATOR

SENATE DISTRICT 29

EL PASO, CULBERSON, HUDSPETH, PRESIDIO & JEFF DAVIS COUNTIES

November 28, 2018

The Honorable Donna Campbell, M.D.
Chair, Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs and Border Security
P.O. Box 12068
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Chair Campbell:

Thank you for your leadership as Chair of the Senate Veteran Affairs and Border Security Committee, and to the staff for their hard work on the interim charges during this past year. On interim charge seven related to the monitoring of Senate Bill 389 (84R), I offer these additional comments.

State law currently sets a veteran employment goal of 20 percent for state agencies. Notably, for many years, only about five percent of state employees were veterans. In 2015, when we passed S.B. 389, our intent was to increase veteran employment at state agencies by making it easier for veterans to match their experience and skills obtained while on active-duty to current state agency job postings.

Based on testimony provided by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), the State Auditor's Office (SAO) worked with the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) to identify Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) codes that correspond to each job classification series in the State's Position Classification Plan, and subsequently created the Military Crosswalk guide for state agencies. TWC has provided additional resources on WorkinTexas.com for employers, and all TWC job postings include a link to the Crosswalk for applicants.

However, neither TWC nor any other relevant agency collects data from state agencies to determine the effectiveness of including MOS codes in job postings. Basic questions remain unanswered, including whether all state agencies are in compliance and including the MOS codes in their respective job postings; how many job classifications actually correspond to a relevant MOS code, and relatedly, which jobs or types of jobs do not; and how many veterans have been hired as a result.

It is essential that we are able to collect and track this data to ensure that these types of efforts are in fact helping veterans find employment or if we need to make improvements. I urge the committee to continue its work on this issue, and if necessary, consider and pass relevant legislation to enable state agencies to meet their statutory goal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "José Rodríguez".

José Rodríguez

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November 28, 2018

The Honorable Donna Campbell, Chair
Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs and Border Security
201 E 14th St, Room 345
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Chairman Campbell,

Thank you and your staff for your hard work over the interim to study the charges the Lt. Governor gave to the Committee on Veteran Affairs and Border Security. I heartily agree with the majority of the recommendations and will be placing my signature on the report.

However, I do want to take a moment to express some reservation regarding Interim Charge One, Recommendation 2 that calls for the introduction of legislation to certify U.S. Border Patrol agents in desolate areas of Texas as state peace officers. While this may help law enforcement in some rural areas, it has the potential of endangering the sovereignty of the state of Texas when it comes to enforcing our own laws. In effect, if this recommendation were carried into law it would create a federal police force in the state of Texas that could enforce Texas law but which is not ultimately accountable to the state of Texas.

I look forward to working with you and the rest of the committee on these issues further during the upcoming session.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob Hall".

Senator Bob Hall



Senate Committees:

Veteran Affairs & Military Installations - Subcommittee on Border Security Vice-Chair, Agriculture, Water & Rural Affairs
Natural Resources & Economic Development, Transportation, Veteran Affairs & Military Installations



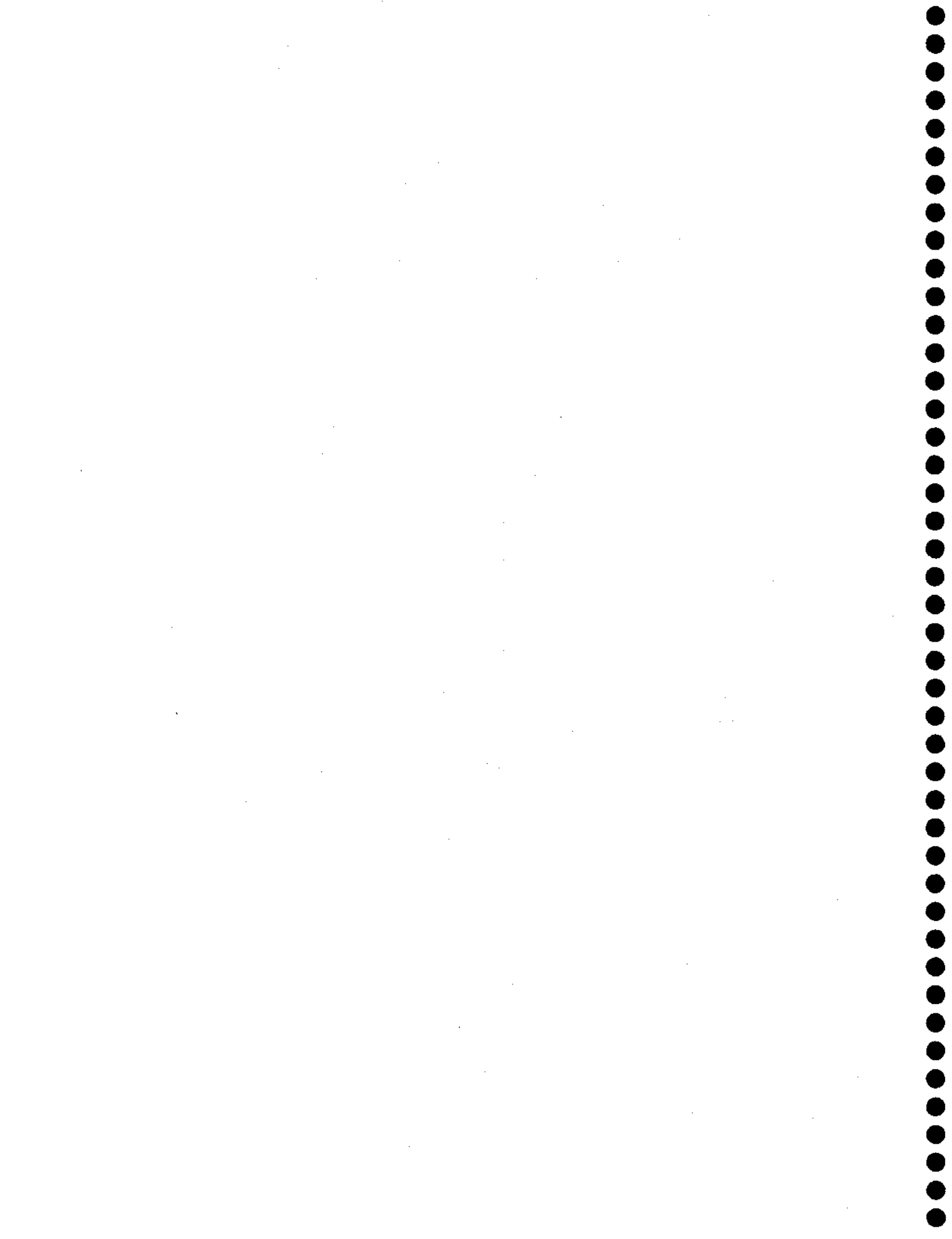


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Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs & Border Security

85th Legislature, Interim Charges

1. **Border Security - Law Enforcement:** Study and make recommendations on opportunities to create public safety partnerships. Consider the federal 287(g) program and any needs of a state or local jurisdiction when entering in a Memorandum of Agreement for receiving delegated federal authority. Review cross training programs offered in other states that allow U.S. Border Patrol agents to be certified as state peace officers, and determine if Texas could create such a program.
2. **Border - Invasive Species:** Study and make recommendations on the impact to border security caused by invasive plant species, such as Carrizo cane and salt cedar. Review proposals for eradication of invasive plant species that provide a natural shelter for human trafficking and/or smuggling arms and illicit substances.
3. **Veterans Health:** Study the effectiveness of veterans' health and mental health initiatives in Texas and recommend ways to improve access and delivery. Explore the state of the federal VA Choice Program, including potential expiration, continuation, or expansion of the program. Consider the impact of the VA Choice Program on improving the delivery of health care, and determine ways to raise awareness and increase participation among Texas veterans. Consider the potential connection between chronic pain and mental health and identify strategies to improve the prevention of veteran suicide.
4. **State-Delivered Federal Services:** Review the veteran services offered by the United States Department of Veteran Affairs and Veteran Benefits Administration. Study those services which are being delivered by the Texas Veterans Commission, including but not limited to the state strike force teams and health care advocacy program. Consider ways to increase utilization of automated services, such as the Texas Veterans App, to reduce the need for additional staff time and to create a resource for veterans to access services at all times of the day.
5. **Military Installation:** Identify opportunities to promote the strategic importance of military installations in Texas. Study the impact of the Aviation, Aerospace & Defense manufacturing industry on the economic vitality of military installations and communities. Identify potential strategic partnerships between this industry and military communities which would enhance key strategic assets.
6. **Military Youth Readiness:** Evaluate the current readiness and fitness of Texas youth for entering military service over the next 5-10 years. Identify any additional economic impact to the state should youth not meet physical requirements or required academic performance.

7. **Monitoring:** Monitor the implementation and impact of legislation passed by the Texas Legislature. Make recommendations for any needed improvements or steps to ensure completion.

- SB 27 by Campbell 85(R), relating to the mental health program for veterans;
- SB 277 by Campbell 85(R), relating to ad valorem tax incentives for wind-powered energy devices near military aviation facilities; and
- SB 389 by Rodriguez 84(R), relating to the addition of military occupational specialty codes on state agency employment listings.

HEARING DATES AND LOCATIONS

February 7, 2018 - Port San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas

Invited and public testimony on Interim Charges Five and Six

May 22, 2018 - Texas Capitol, Austin, Texas

Invited and public testimony on Interim Charges Three and Four

August 29, 2018 - Texas Capitol, Austin, Texas

Invited and public testimony on Interim Charges One, Two, and Seven

INTERIM CHARGE ONE

Border Security - Law Enforcement: Study and make recommendations on opportunities to create public safety partnerships. Consider the federal 287(g) program and any needs of a state or local jurisdiction when entering in a Memorandum of Agreement for receiving delegated federal authority. Review cross training programs offered in other states that allow U.S. Border Patrol agents to be certified as state peace officers, and determine if Texas could create such a program.

BACKGROUND:

The federal 287(g) program was created in section 133 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigration Responsibility Act of 1996. It allows the Department of Homeland Security to enter into memorandums of understanding with local law enforcement agencies for the purpose of deputizing certain law enforcement officials to enforce immigration laws. The program requires authorized local law enforcement officers to receive training and certification in order to identify, process, and detain immigration offenders. There are currently 76 jurisdictions throughout 20 states which currently have 287(g) agreements in place. Texas leads the nation with 25.

Once a Memorandum of Agreement is in place, participating law enforcement officers receive training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) ICE Academy in Charleston, South Carolina. Those selected must be U.S. citizens, have experience in their current position, have no depending disciplinary actions, and have completed a current background investigation. Upon graduation, officers are required to attend a week-long refresher training program every two years, also held at the FLETC in Charleston, South Carolina. Lost manpower and cost of replacing officers who are away for training presents a challenge for most law enforcement agencies which participate in the program.

Regarding the 287(g) program, supporters such as the National Sheriff's Association have stated, "It is critical that local law enforcement maintain and build upon the partnerships with federal law enforcement to ensure that collectively we can promote, protect, and preserve the public safety and homeland security." However, opponents such as the American Civil Liberties Union have criticized 287(g) as eroding trust and cooperation between law enforcement and immigrant communities. On January 25, 2017 President Trump issued an executive order, entitled Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvements, calling for an expansion of the program.

All current 287(g) agreements in Texas apply solely to the administration of detained immigrants. This is known as the jail enforcement model. The jail enforcement model allows deputized law enforcement officers to question those who have been arrested on state or local charges and to place detainers on those who may face deportation. The other 287(g) model is known as the task force model, of which there are none in operation in Texas. The task force model allows deputized law enforcement officers to question and arrest those whom they have probable cause to believe are in the nation illegally.

Separate from the 287(g) are those programs which allow U.S. Border Patrol agent to be certified as state peace officers. Examples primarily include those areas which are remote and not easily accessible by local law enforcement, but in which the U.S. Border Patrol has a strong presence. In 2016 the state of New Hampshire passed House Bill 1298 to authorize U.S. Border Patrol agents in Coos County to have state police authority. Coos County is in a remote and sparsely populated region of northern New Hampshire and shares a 58 mile long border with Canada. This helps provide quicker emergency response times in communities which lack a municipal police force. New Hampshire's bipartisan bill was signed by Governor Maggie Hassan, now a Democratic member of the U.S. Senate, and allows U.S. Border Patrol agents in Coos County to make arrests while providing them with the same immunity from liability as that of a state or municipal law enforcement officer.

Remote regions of Texas along the U.S. and Mexico border share similarities to Coos County, New Hampshire in terms of law enforcement response times and a strong U.S. Border Patrol presence. Mr. Chris Cabrera, the vice president of Local 3307 of the National Border Patrol Council, spoke in favor of allowing U.S. Border Patrol agents to be certified as state police officers. Among his arguments in favor of such a program are his concerns that agents are unable to arrest those endangering others such as an intoxicated driver. In many rural areas of the border the response times are slow and often only one deputy can respond to a call. He stated that such a status would be highly beneficial not only to Border Patrol agents, but also to rural Texas communities. The Texas Municipal Police Association and the director of the Texas Department of Public Safety, Colonel Steve McCraw, each testified on this issue and raised no objections.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Supplement resources for communities and departments which temporarily lose local law enforcement manpower due to 287(g) training requirements.
2. Introduce legislation to create a program similar to New Hampshire's whereby U.S. Border Patrol agents in Texas may be certified as state peace officers in desolate areas.

INTERIM CHARGE TWO

Border - Invasive Species: Study and make recommendations on the impact to border security caused by invasive plant species, such as Carrizo cane and salt cedar. Review proposals for eradication of invasive plant species that provide a natural shelter for human trafficking and/or smuggling arms and illicit substances.

BACKGROUND:

According to the Texas Invasive Species Institute, salt cedar (*Tamarix ramosissima*) was introduced to Texas in the 1800s for landscaping, but quickly escaped cultivation and became an invasive species. It spreads rapidly, consuming large amounts of water and taking resources from the local environment.

Similarly, Carrizo cane (*Arundo donax*) is an invasive species in the Rio Grande Valley that absorbs vast amounts of water along river banks. It has taken over much of the local ecosystem, affecting the Rio Grande.

Both plants hinder the efforts of law enforcement in the region. Salt cedar and Carrizo cane are known to grow upwards of 15-20 feet tall, and their thick brushes prevent law enforcement from pursuing suspects entering it. Smugglers are well aware of this, and use it to their advantage.

While experts have emphasized that Carrizo cane and salt cedar cannot be eradicated, there are a few approaches to maintaining their growth and expansion. Some private landowners and organizations have attempted to cut down these plants, though experts have testified this approach is ineffective as the plants will return.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has begun introducing the arundo gall wasp to the Rio Grande Valley to control Carrizo cane. This wasp is harmless to humans, but deposits eggs onto the main stem of the Carrizo cane's reed, suppressing the growth of the plant. The USDA has claimed that this effort has shown early success.

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) has begun using a low-toxic herbicide, Imazapyr, which is sprayed on top of the Carrizo cane and salt cedar canopies to kill the plants. This approach has shown success in lowering the height of the species and preventing overgrowth. It is a slow-acting herbicide that is reapplied once every 1-3 years with a 95-97% rate of control.

During the 84th Legislature, Senate Bill 1734 by Senator Uresti, created a program under the TSSWCB aimed at eradicating cane along the Rio Grande. The Rio Grande Carrizo Cane Eradication Program was developed with the following goals:

- Reduce arundo canopy, density, and biomass.
- Improve border access for law enforcement officers.
- Improve visibility to allow better detection of illegal activities.
- Restore ecological function, degraded riparian habitats, and biodiversity.
- Improve river function, decrease sedimentation, and reduce potential for flooding.
- Enhance water savings by conserving water lost to evapotranspiration by arundo.

While SB 1734 passed and the program was implemented, the TSSWCB never received the funding necessary to achieve its goals. The TSSWCB used some funds to spray a few areas along the Rio Grande, but their funds ran out within months.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Continue to monitor and review potential solutions to salt cedar and Carrizo cane maintenance efforts along the border, including those from the TSSWCB and USDA, and find avenues to coordinate state and federal efforts to control the invasive species.
2. Amend previous legislation to clarify the goals of controlling these invasive species and minimize their impacts on the environment and law enforcement rather than attempting to fund total eradication.
3. Explore budget efficiencies and increasing resources to ensure that the TSSWCB can properly implement the policies passed in the 84th Legislative Session.

INTERIM CHARGE THREE

Veterans Health: Study the effectiveness of veterans' health and mental health initiatives in Texas and recommend ways to improve access and delivery. Explore the state of the federal VA Choice Program, including potential expiration, continuation, or expansion of the program. Consider the impact of the VA Choice Program on improving the delivery of health care, and determine ways to raise awareness and increase participation among Texas veterans. Consider the potential connection between chronic pain and mental health and identify strategies to improve the prevention of veteran suicide.

BACKGROUND:

In 2014 President Obama signed into law the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act. This was largely a result of the scandals uncovered in long wait times for care within the VA system, which in some cases resulted in the death of veterans. Because the Choice program proved popular and utilized dollars more quickly than projected, Congress passed an additional two billion dollars of funding in December 2017.

The VA currently has 1,233 health-care facilities, including 168 VA Medical Centers, which serve 8.9 million veterans per year. At present the VA pays for 30% of veterans care to be performed by practitioners outside of the VA system. Those seeking expansion of the VA Choice Act want dollars to follow the veteran in the same manner as a veteran using their GI Bill benefits, which allow them to attend either a public or private institution of higher learning.

In order to be a part of the Choice Program, a veteran must have been enrolled in VA health care on or before August 1, 2014, or be eligible as a recently discharged combat veteran within five years of separation. The veteran must also meet at least one of the following criteria.

- The veteran is told by his or her VA medical facility that he or she will need to wait more than 30 days to visit a physician.
- The veteran's current residence is more than 40 miles from the nearest VA health care facility.
- The veteran resides in a location other than Guam, American Samoa, or the Republic of the Philippines and needs to travel by plane or boat to the nearest VA medical facility.

- The veteran faces a geographic challenge, such as extensive distances around water or other geologic formations, that presents a significant travel hardship.

Proponents of the VA Choice Act point to freedom of choice as a means to empower veterans that will result in drastically shorter wait times and better health care outcomes. In fact, veterans in Alaska have consistently opposed the creation of a VA hospital in their state because they enjoy the freedom of choosing the doctors and hospitals they want to use.

Traditional veterans organizations take a skeptical view towards the VA Choice program as the VA is the federal government's most visible expression of caring for the service and sacrifice of veterans. Some officials are leery of any changes which could lessen that role. Rep. Mark Takano of California argued on the House floor in 2017, "It's a mistaken belief that the private sector is better equipped to care for our nation's veterans than specialized VA doctors."

However, new veteran organizations like Concerned Veterans for America openly support the VA Choice Program and advocate for its expansion. These groups claim that innovations in technology and medical care offer better responsiveness than existed in the bureaucracy of previous decades. Rebecca Burgess of the American Enterprise Institute and Jeff Cleland, a Marine veteran, responded by writing, "A veteran's heart functions no differently because of his service, nor do veterans suffer from special veteran strains of the flu unknown to civilians. Such assumptions only further segregate the veteran from the civilian population - harming veteran integration back into society."

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Texas Legislature should support the development of a public service announcement (PSA) campaign in collaboration with the VA in order to raise awareness of the Choice Program in Texas and to persuade more civilian doctors and networks to participate.
2. Marketing outreach efforts to veterans and military families throughout the state about the benefits the Texas Veterans Commission should be explored.
3. The Texas Legislature can introduce a non-binding resolution urging Congress and the VA to be fully transparent with veterans about the health care options provided to them and to expand freedom of choice for veterans.

INTERIM CHARGE FOUR

State-Delivered Federal Services: Review the veteran services offered by the United States Department of Veteran Affairs and Veteran Benefits Administration. Study those services which are being delivered by the Texas Veterans Commission, including but not limited to the state strike force teams and health care advocacy program. Consider ways to increase utilization of automated services, such as the Texas Veterans App, to reduce the need for additional staff time and to create a resource for veterans to access services at all times of the day.

BACKGROUND:

The State of Texas and the Veterans Administration have a close working relationship as it pertains to the health of Texas veterans. The Texas Veterans Commission was created in 1927. As part of their mission to provide direct services to veterans, the TVC has counselors throughout the state dedicated to claims representation and counseling. In addition to a toll-free call center in Austin, the TVC has a trained counselor located within each VA facility in Texas. These counselors are provided with free office space by the VA with the sole task of assisting the Texas veteran and dependents as they navigate the byzantine bureaucracy of claims.

The TVC provides services within three distinct categories:

- Provides direct services to veterans such as claims representation and counseling, veterans employment services, veterans education programs, and the Health Care Advocacy Program.
- Awards grants to organizations that assist veterans through the Fund for Veterans' Assistance.
- Connects veterans to services through programs such as Communications and Veterans Outreach, Women Veterans Program, Veteran Entrepreneur Program, and the Veterans Mental Health Program.

In the 82nd Legislature the TVC was authorized to establish State Strike Force teams to reduce the backlog for VA claims. Teams consist of experienced counselors in the Waco and Houston VA regional offices. These teams help to reduce the backlog of disability claims by assisting veterans in filing fully developed claims and moving claims to the VA "express lane" for faster rating decisions.

In September 2012, there were 68,249 backlogged pending claims and appeals (pending for over 125 days) for Texas veterans. As of February 2018 that number had fallen to 2,632. In 2017, the State Strike Force was responsible for 60,097 cases reviewed, 21,942 claims submitted, and 5,753 appeals cases reviewed. By partnering with the VA, the TVC State Strike Force teams are using new initiatives such as the Rapid Appeals Modernization Program (RAMP), Rules Based Process Program (RBP), Decision Ready Claim Program (DRC), and the Pre-hearing Conference Pilot Program. The TVC is the national leader in claims filed through RAMP, DRC, and RBP.

With passage of House Bill 19 in 2013, the TVC and Health and Human Services Commission began coordinating to administer the Veterans Mental Health Program (VMHP). The mission of this program is to train and provide technical assistance to service members, veterans, military families, licensed mental health providers and mental health organizations, community and faith-based organizations, and state agencies on the effects of military-related trauma.

The VMHP concentrates its efforts of training and technical assistance to Local Mental Health Authority (LMHA) based Military Veterans Peer Network Service Coordinators. In 2017, the VMHP conducted 140 technical assistance visits and 55 trainings for 37 MVPN Peer Service Coordinators, which in turn provided more than 133,056 direct peer services for veterans and the completion of 18,155 peer engagements with veterans in the legal system. As a result, there are 280 licensed mental health professionals in Texas trained to provide Military Informed Care.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Continue current levels of funding to the State Strike Force teams to further lower the backlog on VA claims.
2. Task the Health and Human Services Commission with compiling metrics which indicate what features of the Texas Veterans App are doing well and which need to be improved.
3. Give support to organizations such as Combined Arms to allow them to further serve Texas veterans by utilizing technology to link veterans with non-profits and other service providers.

INTERIM CHARGE FIVE

Military Installation: Identify opportunities to promote the strategic importance of military installations in Texas. Study the impact of the Aviation, Aerospace & Defense manufacturing industry on the economic vitality of military installations and communities. Identify potential strategic partnerships between this industry and military communities which would enhance key strategic assets.

BACKGROUND:

Texas is a leader in defense manufacturing, especially in the realm of global aerospace and aviation industries. The state plays host to 15 active duty military installations with over 250,000 personnel, two international airlines, two of the world's busiest airports, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Johnson Space Center. Major corporations such as Bell, Boeing, General Dynamics and Lockheed-Martin have a strong presence within the state. According to the Office of the Governor, the aerospace and aviation industry in Texas directly employ over 184,000 Texas workers at over 1,350 firms.

The average annual income for these workers is \$84,300. The fact that Texas is home to six of the 50 busiest airports in the nation adds to the desire for aerospace and aviation firms to be active within the state. According to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, state expenditures for research and development at universities now exceed \$3.7 billion with such programs as Rice University's Department of Mechanical Engineering, The University of Texas at Austin's Department of Aerospace Engineering, and Texas A&M University's Department of Aerospace Engineering.

The U.S. Air Force stations 60% more personnel in Texas than any other state, and Texas has created several funds and initiatives in order to further the growth of the aviation and aerospace industries. These include, but are not limited to, the Spaceport Trust Fund, the Texas Enterprise Fund, the Texas Enterprise Zone Program, the Governor's University Research Initiative, the Skills Development Fund, and Defense Economic Assistance Adjustment Grants. Texas has also utilized state sales and use tax exemptions for tangible property, natural gas, and electricity, as well as promoting public-private partnerships.

One example of a public-private partnership which has benefited Texas is that of Port San Antonio. Located on the site of the former Kelly Air Force Base, Port San Antonio was created

in 1995. It is now one of two intermodal logistics facilities in Texas and has added value to the state and local economies by serving as an important logistical hub with access to runways, highways, and railways.

According to the Comptroller's office, Port San Antonio creates more than 27,000 direct and indirect jobs and contributes \$3 billion annually to the gross domestic product. This unique entity allowed for the redevelopment and successful use of a defunct air force base which might otherwise have sat dormant or underutilized as has occurred in other regions of the United States.

Texas' strong technology industry and military presence led to Austin being awarded the U.S. Army's new Futures Command earlier this year. Many communities across the nation sought to serve as the site of the facility, and Austin's selection is a testament to the strategic importance the state holds for the nation at large.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Continue to encourage public-private partnerships which allow for the development of underutilized facilities and enhance the growth of the Texas aerospace industry.
2. Support a favorable regulatory climate and workforce which encourages aerospace and defense manufacturers to locate more of their businesses in Texas.

INTERIM CHARGE SIX

Military Youth Readiness: Evaluate the current readiness and fitness of Texas youth for entering military service over the next 5-10 years. Identify any additional economic impact to the state should youth not meet physical requirements or required academic performance.

BACKGROUND:

According to the Department of Defense, 71% of young Americans ages 17 to 24 are currently unable to enlist in the U.S. Armed Forces due to being overweight, uneducated, or having a criminal or drug abuse record. The percentage of youths who are now classified as overweight or obese has drastically increased in the last twenty years and now poses as a threat to military recruiting and ultimately to national security. The national-security organization Mission: Readiness, comprised of retired admirals and generals, has highlighted the need to address this growing problem.

Research shows that this issue also affects the active duty forces as the military discharges more than 2,600 service members for being overweight or out of shape each year. Recruiting and training replacements costs \$50,000 to \$150,000 per person, totaling \$500 million annually. The Department of Defense additionally spends an estimated \$1.1 billion per year on obesity-related medical expenses for active-duty service members, their dependents, and for veterans.

The State of Texas currently requires public school children to receive physical education in a course in which at least 50% is actual student physical activity at a moderate or vigorous level, while meeting the needs of students of all ability levels, including students with a mental disability. Districts must establish goals that include class-size ratios small enough to ensure student safety.

State law also requires all students enrolled in full-day pre-K, kindergarten or grades 1-5 in an elementary school setting to participate in physical activity for a minimum of 30 minutes daily or 135 minutes weekly in a TEKS-based PE class or a TEKS-based structured activity, including structured recess. Students must participate in moderate or vigorous activity at least 30 minutes per day for at least four semesters during grades 6-8. Exemptions are allowed for students who participate in an extracurricular activity that includes vigorous exercise. Districts with block scheduling are permitted to require moderate or vigorous physical activity for at least 225 minutes during a two-week period. School districts are required to conduct physical assessments for students in grade 3 or higher who are enrolled in a PE course.

Proponents of increased physical activity in grades kindergarten through 12th grade recommend an increase in physical education minutes per week and a requirement for PE throughout high school. Current state law does not require physical education after 9th grade. They further advocate for an increase of in-class physical activity breaks and a requirement that all physical education teachers be certified. There are no known opponents Texas youth being in better physical condition, though some caution that public schools face many requirements and goals and that there may not be enough time in the school day to add additional time for physical education.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Expand support for physical education in Texas public schools.
2. Increase the physical activity requirement from 50% to 75% for all public physical education courses.

INTERIM CHARGE SEVEN

Monitoring: Monitor the implementation and impact of legislation passed by the Texas Legislature. Make recommendations for any needed improvements or steps to ensure completion.

- SB 27 by Campbell 85(R), relating to the mental health program for veterans;
- SB 277 by Campbell 85(R), relating to ad valorem tax incentives for wind-powered energy devices near military aviation facilities; and
- SB 389 by Rodriguez 84(R), relating to the addition of military occupational specialty codes on state agency employment listings.

BACKGROUND:

Senate Bill 27 (85R) by Senator Campbell attempts to address the shortage of licensed mental health professionals in the Veterans Mental Health Program in the Health and Human Services Commission. SB 27 allows for additional licensed mental health professionals at the Local Mental Health Authorities (LMHAs) in order to increase access to mental health services. The Veterans Mental Health Program is administered in coordination between the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC).

Senate Bill 277 (85R) ensures the missions of our military bases are not hindered with the encroachment of wind turbines, which impact flight paths and pilot safety. SB 277 prohibits certain abatements for the installation of wind turbines within 25 nautical miles of military aviation facilities in order to protect the military mission of these bases and insulate Texas installations from another BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure).

Senate Bill 389 (84R) by Senator Rodríguez requires state agencies to include the related military occupation specialty code on job information for state agency employment openings. This bill aims to help veterans utilize their military experience in the workforce after their military service and to increase the number of veterans working for public entities.

CONCLUSIONS:

- SB 27 (85R): the HHSC has reported that the TVC has used previous funding to contract with local field clinicians. These field clinicians are typically unable to meet all the requirements placed on them, especially in rural areas. Funds were redirected from these field clinician programs to create a pilot program for FY2019 that will "increase access to clinical treatment for service members, veterans, and their families residing in rural areas through veteran counselors." These counselors will receive military-specific training through the TVC and will work with service coordinators to ensure that veterans and their families have access to military trauma related mental health care. This program will use existing resources from LMHAs and connect veterans with available community and Department of Veterans Affairs resources for long-term care. With this program, LMHAs will decide whether to use the funding provided by SB 27 to hire new clinicians or to use the funding to train existing staff on military-specific training. The pilot program became effective on September 1, 2018. HHSC says they will be monitoring the results of this pilot program for the next year. The state should monitor this pilot program with a defined timetable and follow-up with results at a designated time.
- SB 277 (85R): the Comptroller's Office has reported that no permits for wind turbines within 25 nautical miles of military bases have been approved by their office since the implementation of SB 277. Further monitoring is needed to determine whether wind farms choose to install turbines within these zones without the abatements.
- SB 389 (84R): the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) has reported that state agencies were directed to provide military occupational specialty code information on all their job listings as prescribed by TWC. Additionally, the TWC has worked with the Texas Veterans Commission to educate state agencies on the new posting requirements. At this time, there is no data on what effect this legislation has had on veteran hiring in the state. The state should continue to monitor veteran employment efforts at the state level.



Appendix A

Texas Military Installations

courtesy of the Texas Military Preparedness Commission



Texas Military Preparedness Commission Office of the Governor Corpus Christi Army Depot - Corpus Christi, TX



MISSION: Corpus Christi Army Depot (CCAD) is the industry leader in repair and overhaul for helicopters, engines, and components for Army aviation assets. They return rotary wing aircraft and components to government organizations in top quality with the lowest cost and shortest return time possible. CCAD is the largest rotary wing repair facility in the world and supports multiple government agencies in addition to the Department of Defense.

TENANT COMMANDS

As an Army Depot, CCAD is government-operated but funded by revenue obtained by competing for business. Competition includes projects and programs from the private and government sectors. The CCAD team cost-conscious at all levels as they innovate ways to increase efficiency and process improvement. CCAD is able to operate on helicopters for all branches of the Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security - Customs and Border Patrol, and foreign nations. In addition to repair, the civilian workforce at CCAD can take aging or damaged aircraft and transform them into new, fully-modernized versions with the newest capabilities and technologies to handle any obstacle on the battlefield. Every aircraft and component must pass rigorous standards to be released.

OUTLOOK:

CCAD delivered over 60 aircraft in FY15 including 41 UH-60 Black Hawks, 12 OH-58 Kiowa Warriors, and 7 HH-60 Pavehawks. The total orders resulted in more than \$360 million in revenue. CCAD continues to make advances in building expansion as a bulk of the facilities date back to the 1940s. CCAD also has a footprint reduction initiative that saved over \$500,000 this fiscal year. CCAD continues to hold contracts with Boeing Company, General Electric Aircraft Engines, Honeywell International Corporation, and Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation.

Variable	Total Impact
Total Employment (indirect included)	18,083
Output to the Texas Economy (in billions)	\$2.5
GDP (in billions)	\$1.6
Disposable Personal Income (in billions)	\$1.0

Source: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, 2015

PARTNERSHIPS:

CCAD has a strong relationship with Corpus Christi as one of the largest industrial employers in the area. CCAD employees participate in a number of outreach programs and campaigns throughout the year to give back to a number of communities and organizations including the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots. CCAD has an excellent partnership with the local universities and institutes to enhance professional development including on-site workforce training. CCAD's environmental programs and compliance division continuously develop and improve regulatory programs by finding new ways to decrease environmental impacts, reduce waste, and increase cost efficiencies. In turn, this saves costs for the customer and taxpayer dollars for the community. In addition, CCAD's air quality program has successfully reduced ozone emissions.

Item	Personnel
Active Duty Military	8
Government Civilians	3,262
Contractors	827
National Guard & Reserve	0
Total	4,097

Source: Corpus Christi Army Depot, 2015





Texas Military Preparedness Commission

Office of the Governor

Dyess Air Force Base - Abilene, TX



MISSION: Dyess AFB hosts the 7th Bomb Wing, which operates 33 B-1B Lancer bombers and is comprised of many units working to support logistics, operations, medical, and additional support functions. The mission of the 7th Bomb Wing is to provide dominant air power and combat support to combatant and joint force commanders. It is charged with producing combat ready air crews in the Air Force's only B-1B training unit.

TENANT COMMANDS

Groups assigned to the wing include:

317th Airlift Group - The largest C-130J Group in Air Mobility Command. The unit transports troops, supplies, and equipment around the world and routinely supports humanitarian disaster relief.

7th Operations Group - This group is responsible for executing global conventional bombing and provide firepower worldwide at any time.

7th Maintenance Group - This groups provides support to the bomb wing, deployed units, and associate units.

7th Mission Support Group - This group maintains the base by ensuring administrative, educational, and communications requirements for the wing.

7th Medical Group - provides healthcare for all personnel and families.

Other commands include the **489th Bomb Group** (US Air Force Reserve), **1 Motor Transport Maintenance Company** (US Marine Corps Reserve), **413th Civil Affairs Battalion** (US Army Reserve), **111th Engineer Battalion** (Texas Army National Guard).

OUTLOOK:

Dyess is located on 5,303 acres and holds an additional 1,017 acres in easements. The base has 17 hangars and 13,500 foot runway to accomodate the B-1 mission. Recent upgrades include two renovated dormitories, water main repair, an improved small arms firing range, and a successful partnership program.

Variable	Total Impact
Total Employment (indirect included)	20,208
Output to the Texas Economy (in billions)	\$3.7
GDP (in billions)	\$2.1
Disposable Personal Income (in billions)	\$1.2

Source: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, 2015

PARTNERSHIPS:

Dyess AFB has a strong relationship with the Abilene, founding the city's Military Affairs Committee (MAC) in 1956. The community support helps Dyess AFB provide a solid foundation for power projection. The Chamber of Commerce houses MAC, which oversees various programs and events like the "World's Largest Barbecue", quarterly luncheons featuring the top Team Dyess performers, and social and working events to foster the relationships between military and civilian leaders. The relationship between Dyess AFB and Abilene is considered a benchmark for base-city relationships, which is illustrated by the "Abilene Trophy" which was renamed after the community won the award enough times to forfeit future eligibility. The award is now sponsored by the Abilene Chamber of Commerce.

Item	Personnel
Active Duty Military	4,794
Government Civilians	601
Contractors	192
National Guard & Reserve	357
Total	5,944

Source: Dyess Air Force Base, 2015





Texas Military Preparedness Commission Office of the Governor Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base - Houston, TX



MISSION: Ellington Airport is a joint use civil and military airport that supports multiple tenants including the Texas Air and Army National Guard, hence the name Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base (EF JRB). The major units at Ellington are tasked with reconnaissance and Air Sovereignty alert missions and providing support for natural disasters among many other missions supporting Texas.

TENANT COMMANDS

The **147th Reconnaissance Wing** (147th RW) is under the Texas Air National Guard. The 147th RW provides a trained MQ-1 Predator Reconnaissance Squadron and other functions for worldwide combat and peacetime tasks that support the community, the state of Texas, and national interests. They conduct persistent unmanned intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, and light strike missions. The 147th RW also conducts constant protection of Houston and the Port of Houston, the nation's only manned spaceflight mission control facility. The **1-149th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion** is under the Texas Army National Guard. The 1-149th equips and trains for combat with AH-64 Apache helicopters and has deployed to multiple countries and natural disasters. The 75th Training Command (U.S. Army Reserve) provides training to Army Reserve, Active Army, and National Guard soldiers. The 75th also oversees Medical Readiness Training Command.

Additional units at EF JRB include the **United States Coast Guard Houston, Naval Operations Support Center Houston**, and the **1st Battalion, 23rd Marines**.

OUTLOOK:

The Office of the Governor has recently awarded \$3.1 million to the City of Houston support Ellington Field JRB by constructing a new air traffic control tower. The current tower was damaged by Hurricane Ike.

Variable	Total Impact
Total Employment (indirect included)	4,155
Output to the Texas Economy (in millions)	\$777.3
GDP (in millions)	\$452
Disposable Personal Income (in millions)	\$260

Source: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, 2015

PARTNERSHIPS:

EF JRB has a unique combination of units. EF JRB is supported by the Ellington Field Task Force which was established by the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership. The Houston Military Affairs Committee (HMAC) supports military and veteran activities in the Houston area. HMAC also has a strong working relationship with local active, reserve, and national guard units. The Houston area supports over 20,800 retirees, survivors, and family members.

Item	Personnel
Active Duty Military	1,462
Government Civilians	4,164
Contractors	1,795
National Guard & Reserve	502
Total	7,923

Source: Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base, 2015





Texas Military Preparedness Commission

Office of the Governor

Fort Bliss - El Paso, TX



MISSION:
 Fort Bliss sustains, trains, mobilizes, and deploys military and civilian unified action partners to conduct unified land operations. Fort Bliss develops leaders, supports Army capabilities integration, and provides for soldiers, airmen, DoD civilians, and other federal employees, families, and veterans in partnership with El Paso and the surrounding communities.

TENANT COMMANDS

1st Armored Division (within U.S. Army Forces Command) serves as a United States Central Command in support of security cooperation. They provide trained and ready forces, support the Army's Network Integration Exercise, prepare to serve as a Joint-Task Force Headquarters and conduct decisive action operations.

Joint Task Force North is a joint command within the DoD to support federal law enforcement agencies in operations concerning transnational criminal organization activities.

Brigade Modernization Command conducts physical integration and evaluations of the network.

Other units include the **32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command, United States Army Sergeant Major Academy, and the William Beaumont Army Medical Center.**

OUTLOOK:

Fort Bliss executes over 1,400 contracts including military construction. The City of El Paso was recently awarded a grant to add infrastructure to the Kay Bailey Hutchinson Desalination Plant, which supports Fort Bliss and El Paso. Fort Bliss has 82 ranges including a digital air-ground integration range, which is the only one of its type in the Army. Fort Bliss also has 5 major training facilities including the Mission Training Complex which provides training using live, virtual and constructive methods for Army Battle Command Systems.

Variable	Total Impact
Total Employment (indirect included)	135,610
Output to the Texas Economy (in billions)	\$24.1
GDP (in billions)	\$14.2
Disposable Personal Income (in billions)	\$8.2

Source: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, 2015

PARTNERSHIPS:

Fort Bliss has over 200 memorandums of understanding (MOUs) and memorandums of agreement (MOAs) with the local community. Some of those include El Paso Water Utilities where wastewater pretreatment is controlled at the service of the Public Service Board. BioWater, another agreement with the State of Texas and other entities, outlines the organization arrangements, responsibilities, and procedures for early detection, identification, and confirmation of biological agents as a result of bioterrorism. The local independent school districts and Fort Bliss have a written agreement in place to utilize school buses in the case of a declaration of war, among many other agreements.

Item	Personnel
Active Duty Military	32,111
Government Civilians	8,911
Contractors	3,340
National Guard & Reserve	2,954
Total	47,316

Source: Fort Bliss, 2015





Texas Military Preparedness Commission Office of the Governor Fort Hood - Killeen, TX



MISSION:

Fort Hood provides integrated installation support services to enable commanders to train and deploy their units while taking care of soldiers and their families. Fort Hood supports the III Corps which projects trained and ready forces to conduct the full range of military operations. Fort Hood supports the largest concentration of armored military capabilities.

TENANT COMMANDS

III Corps is headquartered at Fort Hood and is a major unit of U.S. Army Forces Command. III Corps includes the 1st Cavalry Division, 13th Sustainment Command Expeditionary, 3d Cavalry Regiment, 1st Medical Brigade, 36th Engineer Brigade, 89th MP Brigade, 504th Military Intelligence Brigade, 11th Signal Brigade, 3d Air Support Operations Group, 11th Military Police Battalion, 15th Military Intelligence Battalion, 79th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Battalion, 7-158th Aviation Battalion, 1st Army - Division West Headquarters, 120th Infantry Support Brigade, and Operational Test Command. Other units include the Army Medical and Dental Activity, 407th Army Field Support Brigade, 418th Contracting Support Brigade, 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, 48th Chemical Brigade, 85th Civil Affairs Brigade, and the Network Enterprise Center.

OUTLOOK: The City of Killeen was a recent recipient of a grant from the Office of the Governor to rebuild the Army Radar Approach Control Facility at Robert Gray Army Airfield. Fort Hood supports the largest concentration of armored military capabilities through Mission Training Complexes (MTC) which is a constructive integrated environment for training. Fort Hood also provides combat aviation training of more than 15,900 square miles.

Variable	Total Impact
Total Employment (indirect included)	201,538
Output to the Texas Economy (in billions)	\$35.4
GDP (in billions)	\$21
Disposable Personal Income (in billions)	\$12.2

Source: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, 2015

PARTNERSHIPS:

Fort Hood has a comprehensive relationships with its 27 surrounding communities and various government agencies and businesses. Fort Hood participates in a multitude of community activities including the Army Family Action Plan, Friendship for Freedom, Good Neighbor Program, Military Impacted Schools Association, Nature in Lights, Make a Difference Day, and more. Fort Hood also has agreements with seven industries to provide training to soldiers and a unique academic partnership with Central Texas College and Texas A&M University - Central Texas. These academic partnerships provide continuing, quality education through the nationally recognized Texas A&M System.

Item	Personnel
Active Duty Military	38,938
Government Civilians	7,484
Contractors	13,737
National Guard & Reserve	0
Total	60,159

Source: Fort Hood, 2015





Texas Military Preparedness Commission Office of the Governor Goodfellow Air Force Base - San Angelo, TX



MISSION: Goodfellow Air Force Base (AFB) is home to the 17th Training Wing (17th TW), one of the original 13 wings in the U.S Air Force. The 17th TW is tasked with training intelligence specialists in intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR). The other mission at Goodfellow AFB is to train firefighters for the Department of Defense. Goodfellow AFB also supports the 517th Training Group, which is located at the Presidio of Monterey in Monterey, California.

TENANT COMMANDS

The **17th Training Wing** is composed of the 17th Training Group, 517th Training Group, 17th Medical Group, and 17th Mission Support Group. Goodfellow AFB trains airmen, soldiers, marines, sailors, coast guardsmen, and students from various government agencies and allied nations.

The **344th Military Intelligence Battalion** is the base's largest tenant and is comprised of 200 instructors and support staff that help train students in intelligence.

The **Marine Corps Detachment** trains and supports the 1,200 Marines that undergo firefighter and intelligence training.

The **Navy Center for Information Dominance Detachment** trains and supports the 400 Sailors that undergo firefighter and intelligence training.

The **U.S. Coast Guard** trains and supports about 12 Coast Guardsmen that undergo firefighting and intelligence training.

OUTLOOK:

Tom Green County was recently awarded a grant for \$2.04 million to fund the expansion of the international intelligence training mission at Goodfellow AFB. Since receiving this award, the Department of Defense has planned to move an additional intelligence mission to Goodfellow AFB. Goodfellow AFB has an average daily population of almost 2,500 students and graduates 13,000 students annually.

Variable	Total Impact
Total Employment (indirect included)	16,605
Output to the Texas Economy (in billions)	\$3.0
GDP (in billions)	\$1.75
Disposable Personal Income (in millions)	\$976

Source: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, 2015

PARTNERSHIPS:

Goodfellow AFB has over 21 local Memorandums of Understanding with the community. Those include shared emergency medical assistance, mutual aid for fire and HAZMAT response, and educational youth programs. In 2011, Goodfellow firefighters assisted with a local fire that burned over 166,000 acres. Goodfellow AFB has a close relationship with Angelo State University which can provide additional opportunities for students at Goodfellow to take courses towards their bachelor's or master's degree. In other educational program, the Concho Valley Workforce Development Board and Goodfellow AFB partner to develop youth programs.

Item	Personnel
Active Duty Military	3,642
Government Civilians	924
Contractors	429
National Guard & Reserve	447
Total	5,442

Source: Goodfellow Air Force Base, 2015





Texas Military Preparedness Commission Office of the Governor Joint Base San Antonio - San Antonio, TX

MISSION: Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA) aims to provide unrivaled installation support and service to enable mission partner success. JBSA is comprised of four primary locations: Randolph AFB, Fort Sam Houston, Camp Bullis, and Lackland AFB. JBSA expands across 11 geographically separated parcels of land and over 46,539 acres in support of 266 military service mission partners. JBSA is home to more DoD students, more active runways, the largest hospital and level one trauma center in the DoD. JBSA supports over 250,000 personnel with an annual budget of \$550 million.

TENANT COMMANDS:

Fort Sam Houston is the home of Army medicine. Mission partners include **US Army North, Installation Management Command Headquarters, US Army Medical Command, US Army South** and others.

Lackland Air Force Base is the only entry processing station for enlisted basic training. Mission partners include **24th Air Force, 25th Air Force, 59th Medical Wing, Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center, 67th Cyberspace Wing** and others.

Randolph Air Force Base is a flight training facility for advanced pilot training. Randolph AFB is the headquarters of **Air Education and Training Command**. Other mission partners include the **Air Force Personnel Center, 19th Air Force and the Air Force Recruiting Service**.

OUTLOOK:

The San Antonio community has received two grants from the Office of the Governor. The first to the Alamo Area Council of Governments to support additional water infrastructure to JBSA. The second to Bexar County to purchase land that will prevent encroachment of housing developments near hazard areas of the landing zones at Randolph AFB. JBSA continues to grow and gain more missions with the support of the surrounding communities.

Variable	Total Impact
Total Employment (indirect included)	282,995
Output to the Texas Economy (in billions)	\$48.7
GDP (in billions)	\$28.8
Disposable Personal Income (in billions)	\$17

Source: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, 2015

PARTNERSHIPS:

The Air Force Community Partnership Program has provided ample opportunities for JBSA including animal control, parks and recreation, support for transitioning military members, mass transportation, and joint training opportunities. Other initiatives include workforce development, maintenance for golf courses and libraries, joint use security and law enforcement training programs, joint use airfield agreements, efficiency models for storm water, traffic, bulk materials, and grounds maintenance. San Antonio is called 'Military City' for a reason. The support that San Antonio provides to JBSA is a large scale effort that shouldn't be overlooked.

Item	Personnel
Active Duty Military	47,411
Government Civilians	22,465
Contractors	9,159
National Guard & Reserve	9,725
Total	88,760

Source: Joint Base San Antonio, 2015





Texas Military Preparedness Commission Office of the Governor Laughlin Air Force Base - Del Rio, TX



MISSION:

Laughlin AFB is home to the 47th Flying Training Wing and pilots earn their silver wings flying the T-6A Texan II, T-38 Talon, and T-1A Jayhawk. Laughlin's mission is the graduate the world's best military pilots, deploy mission-ready warriors, and develop professional, resilient, and innovative airmen.

TENANT COMMANDS

Laughlin Air Force Base (AFB) is the largest pilot training base in the U.S. Air Force.

The **47th Flying Training Wing** conducts specialized undergraduate pilot training for the U.S. Air Force, Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard, and allied nation air forces.

The **47th Mission Support Group** oversees base activities including personnel management, administrative services, security, and resource protection, disaster preparedness, recreational activities, family and transient housing, airmen dormitories and dining facilities. Other responsibilities include the upkeep of base buildings, facilities, and infrastructures, environmental protection, energy conservation, and base communications.

The **47th Medical Group** promotes and ensures wellness, optimal healthcare, and readiness.

The **47th Operations Group** is responsible for training pilots by providing management, control, standardization and evaluation.

OUTLOOK:

The City of Del Rio and Val Verde County have both been recipients of grants from the Office of the Governor for security projects and aircraft protection shades. A previous grant from the Office of the Governor included creating a "Grow-your-own" program at Southwest Texas Junior College which helps to train and fill the gap of maintainers needed for aircraft and mission-dependent equipment.

Variable	Total Impact
Total Employment (indirect included)	7,835
Output to the Texas Economy (in billions)	\$1.4
GDP (in millions)	\$800
Disposable Personal Income (in millions)	\$458

Source: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, 2015

PARTNERSHIPS:

In addition to the "Grow-Your-Own" program at Southwest Texas Junior College, there is strong civic and community support for multiple projects. Val Verde County Sheriff's Office shares a small arms firing range with the base, joint training with the Texas Department of Public Service, and the Val Verde Regional Medical Center partnership. Val Verde Regional Medical Center (VVRMC) and the Laughlin AFB clinic have worked to implement pediatric-focused clinical protocols including Newborn Nursery Discharge, Hypoglycemia Protocol, and Photo-therapy protocol. Other initiatives include a clinical lecture series and clinical rotation for Laughlin nurses and medics.

Item	Personnel
Active Duty Military	1,283
Government Civilians	875
Contractors	196
National Guard & Reserve	78
Total	2,432

Source: Laughlin Air Force Base, 2015

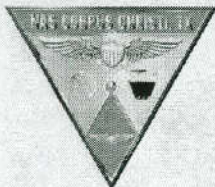




Texas Military Preparedness Commission

Office of the Governor

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi - Corpus Christi, TX



MISSION: Naval Air Station Corpus Christi (NASCC) is primarily focused on pilot training. Training Air Wing Four is comprised of four individual units: two primary training squadrons and two squadrons that provide advanced multi-engine training. Training Air Wing Four provides over 600 new, highly qualified aviators every year. The Chief of Naval Air Training (CNATRA) is headquartered at NASCC and oversees all aviation training for the U.S. Navy.

TENANT COMMANDS

Corpus Christi Army Depot (CCAD) is the largest tenant command at NASCC.

Chief of Naval Air Training (CNATRA) works to safely train and produce the world's finest combat quality Naval Aviators and Naval Flight Officers.

Maine Aviation Training Support Group (MATSG-22) enables Marine aviation training through service advocacy and administrative support.

U.S. Coast Guard - Sector Corpus Christi (USCG) performs all coast guard missions with the exception of ice-breaking. USCG conducted hundreds of search and rescue cases among other safety and law enforcement cases. Additional missions at NASCC include **U.S. Customs and Border Protection (USCBP)**, the **Defense Logistics Agency, Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi (NHCCC)**, and the **Armed Forces Reserve Support Center (NOSC)**.

OUTLOOK:

NASCC operates pilot training on Truax Field and three outlying airfields: Navy Outlying Landing Field (NOLF) Waldron, NOLF Cabaniss, NOLF Goliad with landing rights at Aransas County Airport and Corpus Christi International Airport. NASCC operates the following aircraft: T-6 Texan, T-44 Pegasus, TC-12 Huron, HH-65 Dolphin, HC-144 Ocean Sentry, P-3 Orion, MQ-9 Reaper.

Variable	Total Impact
Total Employment (indirect included)	12,949
Output to the Texas Economy (in billions)	\$2.1
GDP (in billions)	\$1.28
Disposable Personal Income (in millions)	\$798

Source: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, 2015

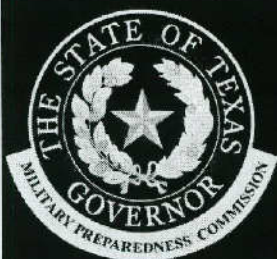
PARTNERSHIPS:

NASCC, like CCAD, is highly involved in the Corpus Christi community. NASCC supports events such as the Beach-to-Bay Marathon, recognition ceremonies for Veterans' Day and Memorial Day, and parades. NASCC holds several memorandums of understanding with local entities including the City of Corpus Christi, the Corpus Christi Fire Department, the Nueces County Emergency Operations Department, and the Coast Bend Council of Governments. Outreach efforts are also supported by the NASCC Chief Petty Officers Association, the NAS 1st Class Petty Officers Association, the Junior Enlisted Association, and tenant command activities. The U.S. Coast Guard - Sector Corpus Christi assists in local cases involving people in distress, pollution, law enforcement, marine safety, and security.

Item	Personnel
Active Duty Military	1,462
Government Civilians	4,164
Contractors	1,795
National Guard & Reserve	502
Total	7,923

Source: Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, 2015





Texas Military Preparedness Commission Office of the Governor

Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, TX



MISSION: Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base (NAS FW JRB) is the first and largest Joint Reserve Base in the United States. NAS FW JRB is responsible for training and equipping aviation units and ground support personnel for deployment in preparation for world-wide mobilization. NAS FW JRB seeks to provide joint training capabilities and resources to enable war fighter readiness while sustaining personnel and families' needs and future compatibility.

TENANT COMMANDS

Navy - **Information Dominance Corps Reserve Command, Navy Region Southeast Reserve Component Command Fort Worth, Navy Operational Support Center Fort Worth, Fleet Logistic Support Squadron 59 (VR-59)**

Air Force - **10th Air Force Headquarters, 301st Fighter Wing (Reserve), 136th Airlift Wing (Texas Air National Guard)**

Army - **Baker Company 90th Aviation Support Battalion**

Marine Corps - **Marine Aircraft Group 41 (MAG-41), 14th Marine Regiment**

OUTLOOK:

NAS FW JRB missions require hangars, aprons, runways, airspace, maintenance, training, and administrative space to optimize military value. While many of these requirements are sufficient for current and future mission capacity, upgrades are being completed on any additional necessities. With the presence of nearby Military Operation Areas (MOAs), Military Training Routes (MTRs), and Lockheed Martin, NAS FW JRB is an excellent site for additional squadrons and training centers. Fort Worth is host to 4 C-40s, 12 F-18s, 5 KC-130Js, 3 C-12s, 1 UC-35, 24 F-16s, and 8 C-130s.

Variable	Total Impact
Total Employment (indirect included)	45,839
Output to the Texas Economy (in billions)	\$6.6
GDP (in billions)	\$4.1
Disposable Personal Income (in billions)	\$2.6

Source: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, 2015

PARTNERSHIPS:

NAS FW JRB is a historical asset to the local community and has excellent community support. Annual community engagements include base tours, speaking engagements at local schools, Air Power Demonstrations, and youth drug education programs. NAS FW JRB has completed a Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) and, as a result, formed the Regional Coordination Committee (RCC) to enhance and maintain intergovernmental cooperation. The RCC at NAS FW JRB is a nationally recognized model for intergovernmental cooperation. A regional JLUS will begin in 2016 to further promote compatible development and coordination.

Item	Personnel
Active Duty Military	2,065
Government Civilians	1,880
Contractors	13,700
National Guard & Reserve	5,957
Total	23,602

Source: Naval Air Station Fort Worth JRB, 2015





Texas Military Preparedness Commission Office of the Governor Naval Air Station Kingsville - Kingsville, TX



MISSION: The primary mission of NAS Kingsville is to provide facilities and support for Training Air Wing Two in training undergraduate jet/strike pilots for the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps. Pilot production is the responsibility of Training Air Wing Two and its two training squadrons, VT-21 and VT-22 which utilize the Boeing T-45 Goshawk aircraft. NAS Kingsville trains 50% of the Navy and Marine Corps' jet/strike pilots each year.

TENANT COMMANDS

Training Air Wing Two is comprised of Training Squadron Twenty One (VT-21) and Training Squadron Twenty Two (VT-22) where 200 students report for advanced and undergraduate jet/strike training. The training takes between 11-13 months where students will earn the designation of "Naval Aviators". At any given time, there are the 200 students, 75 instructor pilots, and more than 500 civilians and contractors.

U.S. Army Reserve Component - made of F Company and the 370th Transportation Company.

Other tenants include **Branch Health Clinic Kingsville, L-3 Communications Vertex Aerospace, Fidelity Technologies, Inc., Rolls Royce, Inc., and CNATRA Contract Maintenance Detachment.** For more on CNATRA, please see our page on Naval Air Station Corpus Christi.

OUTLOOK:

NAS Kingsville operates 105 T-45 Goshawk aircraft. NAS Kingsville is a highly ranked aviation facility due to a large volume of unencumbered air space (36,000 cubic miles), the availability of landing fields, availability of life-cycle maintenance of the T-45 training system, and excellent weather. NAS Kingsville has adequate hangar space capacity to meet current and projected future requirements.

Variable	Total Impact
Total Employment (indirect included)	4,545
Output to the Texas Economy (in millions)	\$712.1
GDP (in millions)	\$435
Disposable Personal Income (in millions)	\$288.7

Source: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, 2015

PARTNERSHIPS:

NAS Kingsville has a healthy relationship with the City of Kingsville and coordinate a series of events throughout the year. One of the most popular events is the Wings Over South Texas Airshow, featuring the U.S. Navy Blue Angels. The base participates in a variety of school programs and provide honor guard support. Other community events such as the King Ranch "Ranch Hand" Breakfast and Pilot/Skipper for a Day. Local higher education provides additional opportunities: Texas A&M University - Kingsville and Coastal Bend College. NAS Kingsville supports over 29,000 military veterans and their families within a 100 mile radius.

Item	Personnel
Active Duty Military	482
Government Civilians	324
Contractors	514
National Guard & Reserve	182
Total	1,502

Source: Naval Air Station Kingsville, 2015





Texas Military Preparedness Commission Office of the Governor Red River Army Depot - Texarkana, TX



MISSION: The mission of Red River Army Depot (RRAD) is to sustain the joint warfighter's combat power by providing ground combat and tactical systems sustainment maintenance operations. RRAD is a registered industrial complex that provides responsive and innovative solutions for the Department of Defense in repair, overhaul, recapitalization, re-manufacture, and conversion of combat systems and tactical vehicles.

TENANT COMMANDS

RRAD is recognized as the Center of Industrial and Technical Excellence for the Bradley Fighting Vehicle System, Multiple Launch Rocket System carriers, Tactical Wheeled Vehicles, the Small Emplacement Excavator and Rubber Products. RRAD is the sole Department of Defense facility capable of rebuilding armored vehicle track and road wheels. RRAD hosts sixteen major tenants include the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), Disposition Services. DLA-Red River receives, stores, packages, assembles, and ships supplies and equipment for the U.S. Army, Texas Army National Guard and U.S. Army Reserves.

OUTLOOK:

RRAD has recently opened their multi-phase military construction project called the Manuever Systems Sustainment Center (MSSC). The new facility allows tactical wheeled vehicle production to operate as a separate entity from other RRAD projects. RRAD also has an integral environmental policy that focuses on pollution prevention, compliance, restoration, and conservation. In addition to their environmental policy, RRAD maintains an integrated cultural resources, natural resources, and fisheries management plan since the installation requires access to potable water for mission success.

Variable	Total Impact
Total Employment (indirect included)	16,936
Output to the Texas Economy (in billions)	\$2.1
GDP (in billions)	\$1.3
Disposable Personal Income (in millions)	\$898

Source: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, 2015

PARTNERSHIPS:

RRAD and the Texarkana Community Military Affairs Committee host functions to sustain a successful relationship between the installation and the community. Since available water is critical to the RRAD missions, the City of Texarkana and Texas Water Utilities provide potable water access to the installation. RRAD maintains mutual air agreements with the surrounding cities and municipalities to provide assistance with emergency services and other activities. Several joint-use projects have been completed including a new highway exchange at RRAD's main gate, upgraded rail spur supporting RRAD and TexAmericas, and connecting U.S. Highway 67 and U.S. Highway 82.

Item	Personnel
Active Duty Military	10
Government Civilians	2,611
Contractors	2,773
National Guard & Reserve	0
Total	5,394

Source: Red River Army Depot, 2015





Texas Military Preparedness Commission Office of the Governor Sheppard Air Force Base - Wichita Falls, TX



MISSION: Sheppard Air Force Base (AFB) hosts the 82nd Training Wing which provides technical training to over 65,000 Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, and international students. Sheppard AFB is the largest, most diverse training base in Air Education and Training Command (AETC). It is the only Air Force base that is home to technical and specialized flight training.

TENANT COMMANDS

The **82nd Training Wing** is responsible for aircraft maintenance, armament, and munitions training including nuclear munitions. The range of training satisfies multiple requirements for the U.S. Air Force including officer and enlisted skills, advanced and supplemental courses, maintenance courses, and the Mission Generation Road Course. More than 1,000 courses are taught at Sheppard AFB and at an additional 61 locations around the world.

The **80th Flying Training Wing** has thirteen NATO nations participating. This wing provides combat air power for NATO by producing top quality pilots. The program, the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training (ENJ-JPT), provides training to over 200 pilots a year.

OUTLOOK:

Sheppard AFB has hosted the ENJPT program since 1981 with strong success. In 2014, Sheppard AFB provided over 930 courses, 12,200 classes, and 1.71 million instructional hours to their pilots. In fiscal year 2016, the Office of the Governor awarded \$1.75 million to the City of Wichita Falls to support a security project on the installation. Sheppard AFB is one of the busiest airfields in the Air Force and is the largest economic driver and employer in a 50-mile radius including Wichita, Archer, and Clay Counties. Additionally, Sheppard AFB supports 3,700 retirees in the area.

Variable	Total Impact
Total Employment (indirect included)	36,970
Output to the Texas Economy (in billions)	\$5.6
GDP (in billions)	\$3.4
Disposable Personal Income (in billions)	\$2.0

Source: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, 2015

PARTNERSHIPS:

The ENJPT programs partners with Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, and the United Kingdom for training. Each country sends students and an officer to represent their country during training. In North Texas, Sheppard AFB is supported by community leaders and citizens, ensuring the success of Sheppard's missions. In 2012, Wichita Falls was awarded the Air Education and Training Command (AETC) Altus Trophy for outstanding community support. Sheppard AFB personnel provide hours of community service in support of programs like Hope for the Homeless, Falls Fest, and the Texas-Oklahoma State Fair.

Item	Personnel
Active Duty Military	5,291
Government Civilians	1,696
Contractors	1,465
National Guard & Reserve	72
Total	8,524

Source: Sheppard Air Force Base, 2015





Appendix B

Military Contribution to Texas Economy

courtesy of the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

TEXAS

MILITARY SNAPSHOT / 2017

Texas has long been committed to the U.S. military and its personnel who call the Lone Star State home. That's why we're often recognized for our military friendliness. From training troops and maintaining equipment to caring for our wounded and overseeing defense contracts, installations provide both economic and intangible benefits.

As the state's chief financial officer, I appreciate the military's contribution to our economy: more than 224,000 direct jobs and \$62.3 billion to our gross domestic product annually. U.S. military installations support more than 624,000 Texan workers in some capacity, contributing at least \$39.8 billion in disposable personal income for our citizens.

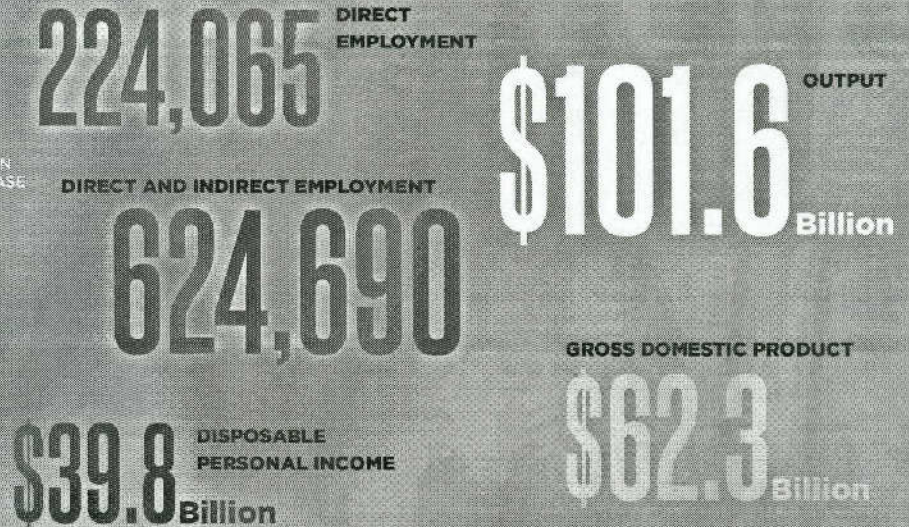
But as with other sectors of the Texas economy, these bases do experience change and uncertainty. By detailing the economic impact of the 13 U.S. military installations in Texas, we hope to emphasize their importance to strong, diverse and growing regional economies.



Glenn Hegar
Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts



2017 ESTIMATED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE TEXAS ECONOMY



EMPLOYMENT, OUTPUT AND DISPOSABLE PERSONAL INCOME

	DIRECT EMPLOYMENT	TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	OUTPUT (IN BILLIONS)	GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (IN BILLIONS)	DISPOSABLE PERSONAL INCOME (IN BILLIONS)
FORT BLISS	48,298	136,395	\$23.1	\$14.15	\$8.68
CORPUS CHRISTI ARMY DEPOT	3,269	8,438	\$1.1	\$0.70	\$0.54
NAS CORPUS CHRISTI	9,773	24,350	\$3.6	\$2.24	\$1.47
DYESS AFB	5,185	15,119	\$2.6	\$1.61	\$0.97
ELLINGTON FIELD JRB	1,473	7,878	\$1.2	\$0.72	\$0.63
NAS FORT WORTH JRB	9,955	26,206	\$3.9	\$2.38	\$1.63
GOODFELLOW AFB	7,021	19,258	\$3.4	\$2.06	\$1.20
FORT HOOD	55,261	150,155	\$24.6	\$15.07	\$9.36
JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO	64,967	187,174	\$30.4	\$18.66	\$12.20
NAS KINGSVILLE	1,367	4,492	\$0.7	\$0.42	\$0.29
LAUGHLIN AFB	3,482	9,276	\$1.5	\$0.92	\$0.58
RED RIVER ARMY DEPOT	4,814	11,926	\$1.6	\$0.97	\$0.74
SHEPPARD AFB	9,000	24,026	\$4.0	\$2.42	\$1.49

CONCLUSION

Military bases make significant contributions to our state. They generate at least **\$101.6 BILLION** in economic activity each year and support and strengthen communities throughout Texas.

To see more detailed information on each of these installations, visit:

COMPTROLLER.TEXAS.GOV/ECONOMY/ECONOMIC-DATA/MILITARY/

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Sources: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, Texas Military Preparedness Commission (TMPC), Regional Economic Models, Inc. (REMI)



