

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 12, 2026

The Honorable Daniel P. Driscoll
Secretary of the Army
U.S. Department of the Army
Washington, DC 20310

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Driscoll and Secretary Noem,

We write to request detailed information regarding reported Department of Homeland Security (DHS) activities occurring on or near Fort Hunter Liggett (FHL), and any current or contemplated coordination between DHS and the Department of Defense (DoD) related to the use of FHL facilities, personnel, or surrounding infrastructure. The protection of our civilian and military communities is of utmost importance, and we request your assistance with providing answers to the questions outlined below, no later than February 27, 2026.

It is our understanding that, as of February 6, 2026, no formal memorandum of agreement or interagency support arrangement has been executed authorizing DHS to utilize Fort Hunter Liggett. However, we have received multiple, consistent reports indicating that FHL police have conducted roadside stops along Jolon Road and coordinated with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in a manner suggesting racial profiling. According to these reports, when a nonresident driver's license is presented during such stops, ICE appears and drivers are detained. These stops appear to have exceeded routine traffic or public safety enforcement and instead served immigration enforcement purposes. Local officials in Monterey County report they were not notified in advance of these operations.

The proximity of these activities to a major U.S. Army installation raises serious questions regarding jurisdiction, interagency coordination, statutory authority, and the protection of civil liberties, particularly given the surrounding rural communities with significant immigrant populations. These concerns are further heightened by the unique legal constraints governing domestic use of military installations, including the Posse Comitatus Act, Title 10 and Title 32 authorities, and long-standing DoD policy limiting military involvement in civilian law enforcement absent explicit congressional authorization. Given this, we request answers to the following series of questions:

1. Although as of February 6, 2026, there is no formal agreement between DHS and FHL, are there plans or intentions for DHS to utilize FHL facilities in the future? If so—

- a. What statutory authorities would DHS rely on to conduct operations at Fort Hunter Liggett, and has the Pentagon formally determined those activities comply with the Posse Comitatus Act and other legal limitations?
 - b. Would individuals be detained or processed at Fort Hunter Liggett, and what protections exist to ensure civil liberties, access to medical care, legal counsel, and independent oversight?
 - c. What command and accountability structure would govern DHS activities on the installation, and what is the defined exit strategy and restoration plan for returning the installation to full military use?
2. Are any police officers patrolling the Jolan Road, either civilian or military, operating in an immigration enforcement capacity? If yes—
- a. What agency or agencies are involved?
 - b. What is their mission objective?
 - c. Under what legal authorities were immigration stops or detentions conducted?
 - d. Were DoD personnel, resources, or intelligence involved in any capacity, direct or indirect?

We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter and your partnership to ensure our communities remain safe and federal operations are lawful, transparent, and respectful of both national security imperatives and civil liberties. As Members of Congress, we stand ready to engage constructively and provide any necessary resources to support compliance with applicable law and oversight obligations. Thank you, and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Zoe Lofgren



Member of Congress

Jimmy Panetta



Member of Congress