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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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MODERNIZATION & INNOVATION, RANKING MEMBER

July 11, 2025

Mr. Steven A. Stebbins
Acting Inspector General
Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1400

Dear Mr. Stebbins:

I write to express my concern regarding reports of inadequate logistical support during the deployment of Marines and National Guard personnel to California in June, which is impacting the health and safety of our service members. I have received reports alleging, detailed in the attached Annex, that service members lacked sufficient access to food, water, and appropriate hygiene and medical facilities. As a Representative from California and the mother of an Air Force veteran, I am deeply invested in the wellbeing of our service members, both at home and overseas, wherever their deployments take them. I urge you to review the allegations and the deployment to ensure the Department of Defense has adequately provided resources for servicemembers and that the mission meets all legal requirements.

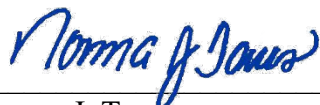
While I strongly oppose the unnecessary federalization of National Guard and the deployment of U.S. Marines to the streets of Los Angeles in order to suppress peaceful protests and allow Immigration and Customs Enforcement to more easily continue a campaign of terror in Latino communities, all servicemen and women who serve our country deserve access to basic supplies and resources as well as safe housing conditions. The reported difficulties in securing adequate provisions within California raise serious questions about our military's operational readiness for deployments worldwide.

The alleged failure of logistical preparedness and operational planning for domestic deployment raises broader concerns about the military's overall state of readiness for engagement overseas. If our service members cannot be properly supported within the continental U.S.—where supply lines are shorter and conditions are more controlled—it casts serious doubt on the military's ability to sustain and protect them abroad, where logistics are far more complex. This is not just a failure of planning, it is a failure to meet our responsibilities to those who serve. If we expect our troops to carry out their duties effectively and safely, we must ensure that the systems meant to provide for them are functional and reliable. Anything less undermines morale, mission success, and ultimately, national security.

Although I disagree with President Trump's reasoning for sending the Marines and National Guard to California, I urge you to carefully review the alarming allegations I have provided in Annex I and work to provide appropriate oversight of this mission.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your service to this country. I look forward to your response. Should you need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact my office at (202) 225-6161.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Norma J. Torres". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress