



One Hundred Eighteenth Congress
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

May 23, 2024

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

The Honorable Lloyd Austin
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, D.C. 20301

The Honorable Christopher Wray
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas, Secretary Austin, and Director Wray:

The Committee on Homeland Security (Committee) is investigating the attempted breach of Marine Corps Base Quantico (MCB Quantico) by two individuals on May 3, 2024. According to public reports, two men drove a truck to the main gate of MCB Quantico, where guards attempted to redirect the truck after the two men could not provide access credentials.¹ The driver ignored the guards' orders, and moved the truck forward until officers stopped the truck by deploying vehicle denial barriers.² The two individuals were subsequently detained and turned over to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).³ Reporting suggests that one occupant of the truck is a Jordanian foreign national who recently crossed the U.S. Southwest border and one occupant is on a federal terrorist watchlist.⁴ It is unclear if the descriptions apply to the same occupant.

The Committee is concerned about the Department of Homeland Security's pattern of releasing suspected terrorists at the U.S. Southwest border and the resulting national security risks, including threats to U.S. military installations and critical infrastructure. Since President Biden took office, U.S. Border Patrol has encountered at least 351 illegal aliens on the Terrorist Screening Dataset, entering the United States between ports of entry.⁵ Of those encounters,

¹ See, Kelly Sienkowski, *Exclusive: Driver's Attempt at Breaching Quantico Gate Echoes Deadly Incidents at White House, U.S. Military Bases*, POTOMAC LOCAL, May 10, 2024, <https://www.potomaclocal.com/2024/05/10/exclusive-drivers-attempt-at-breaching-quantico-gate-echoes-deadly-incident-at-white-house-u-s-military-bases/>.

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *CBP Enforcement Statistics*, U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION, <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/cbp-enforcement-statistics> (last visited May 22, 2024).

Secretary Mayorkas
Secretary Austin
Director Wray
May 23, 2024
Page 2

public reporting indicates at least eight individuals were “accidentally” released from Customs and Border Protection or ICE custody, some of whom went on to commit heinous crimes against U.S. citizens.⁶ At least one of the individuals who attempted to force his way onto MCB Quantico on May 3, 2024, seemingly reflects another case of these accidental releases.

The Committee previously expressed concern to you about hostile foreign nationals released into the United States in a September 19, 2023, letter,⁷ requesting information about possible breaches of U.S. military installations and critical infrastructure. The Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Bureau of Investigation failed to provide any substantive response. The Committee’s letter highlighted its concern regarding Chinese nationals attempting to access U.S. sensitive sites, a concern now heightened by historically high numbers of Chinese nationals attempting to illegally cross the U.S. Southwest border in the past year.⁸ On March 27, 2024, a Chinese national who was illegally present in the United States, entered Marine Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms without authorization or valid identification, drawing parallels to the May 3, 2024 incident at MCB Quantico.⁹

The attempted breach at MCB Quantico, however, reflects a possibly more dire reality for the state of U.S. national security. As Director Wray stated in a recent Senate hearing, “a wide array of very dangerous threats . . . emanate from the border,” requiring “much greater vigilance” to protect the country.¹⁰ The Committee fears that the Department of Homeland Security’s relaxed vetting standards,¹¹ which complement President Biden’s avowed desire to “surge the border” with inadmissible migrants,¹² have created an environment ripe for exploitation by individuals aiming to undermine the United States at its most critical points. If individuals on the terrorist watchlist are so emboldened to attempt to breach a Marine Corps base, the Department of Homeland Security and the entire executive branch must act swiftly to identify, apprehend, and detain such hostile actors on American soil.

⁶ Todd Bensman, *Terrorists Welcome*, THE AMERICAN MIND, Apr. 22, 2024, <https://americanmind.org/salvo/terrorists-welcome/>.

⁷ Letter from Rep. Mark E. Green, Chairman, H. Comm. on Homeland Sec. & Rep. August Pfluger, Chairman, Subcomm. on Counterterrorism, Law Enf’t, and Intelligence, H. Comm. on Homeland Sec., to Alejandro Mayorkas, Sec’y of Homeland Sec. et al. (Sep. 19, 2023) (on file with author).

⁸ *Nationwide Encounters*, U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION, available at <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/nationwide-encounters> (last visited May 22, 2024).

⁹ Gary Warner, *Chinese National Forces Way onto Marines’ Top Combat Training Base in California*, STARS AND STRIPES (Apr. 2, 2024) available at https://www.stripes.com/branches/marine_corps/2024-04-02/chinese-national-forces-his-way-onto-marines-top-combat-training-base-in-california-13475824.html.

¹⁰ *Worldwide Threats: Hearing Before the S. Select Comm. on Intelligence*, 118th Cong. (Mar. 11, 2024) (statement of Hon. Christopher Wray, Dir., Federal Bureau of Intelligence).

¹¹ Philip Lenczycki, *EXCLUSIVE: Biden Admin Watered Down Vetting Process for Chinese Illegal Immigrants, Email Shows*, THE DAILY CALLER, Jan. 2, 2024, <https://dailycaller.com/2024/01/02/biden-admin-cbp-chinese-illegal-migrants/>.

¹² Speaker Kevin McCarthy, Candidate Biden Calls on Illegal Immigrants to Surge the Border, YouTube (Mar. 19, 2021), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rYwLYMPLYbo>.

Secretary Mayorkas
Secretary Austin
Director Wray
May 23, 2024
Page 3

To aid the Committee with its investigation into threats posed by foreign nationals to U.S. military bases and other critical infrastructure, please produce documents and information to satisfy the outstanding requests in the Committee's September 19, 2023 letter. In addition, please provide the following documents and information as soon as possible, but no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 6, 2024:

1. All documents and communications, including but not limited to, e-mails, text messages, internal memoranda, and guidance, between or among all or some officials from the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Defense, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation referring or relating to the May 3, 2024 incident at Marine Corps Base Quantico, from May 3, 2024, to the present;
2. Documents sufficient to identify the names and countries of origin of the occupants of the truck used in the attempt to breach Marine Corps Base Quantico on May 3, 2024;
3. Copies of the complete and most current copy of the alien file, including Form I-213, Record of Deportable/Inadmissible Alien, for all individuals who attempted to breach Marine Corps Base Quantico on May 3, 2024;
4. A document sufficient to show all derogatory information in the Terrorist Screening Data Set associated with any individual who attempted to breach Marine Corps Base Quantico on May 3, 2024; and
5. Any and all documents, including ICE officer and prosecutor notes contained in Enforcement Removal Operations' Eagle Database, referring or relating to any individual who attempted to breach Marine Corps Base Quantico on May 3, 2024.

An attachment contains instructions for responding to this request. Please contact the Committee on Homeland Security Majority staff at (202) 226-8417 with any questions about this request.

Per Rule X of the U.S House of Representatives, the Committee on Homeland Security is the principal committee of jurisdiction for overall homeland security policy, and has special oversight functions of "all Government activities relating to homeland security, including the interaction of all departments and agencies with the Department of Homeland Security."

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Secretary Mayorkas
Secretary Austin
Director Wray
May 23, 2024
Page 4

Sincerely,



MARK E. GREEN, M.D.
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security



DAN BISHOP
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight,
Investigations, and Accountability



AUGUST PFLUGER
Chairman
Subcommittee on Counterterrorism,
Law Enforcement, and Intelligence



CLAY HIGGINS
Chairman
Subcommittee on Border Security
and Enforcement

Encl.

cc: The Honorable Bennie Thompson, Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Glenn Ivey, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Accountability

The Honorable Seth Magaziner, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Counterterrorism, Law Enforcement, and Intelligence

The Honorable Lou Correa, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Border Security and Enforcement