



AIR MARSHAL NATIONAL COUNCIL

Integrity — Loyalty — Strength

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*******South West Border Deployments*******

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Honorable David Palmer
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Executive Administrator/Director for Federal Air Marshal Service
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On behalf of our affected members, we are writing to you today about our concerns involving the Federal Air Marshal Services (FAMS) ordering Federal Air Marshals (FAMs) to go to the southwest border to assist Customs and Border Protection (CBP). In the past, these assignments have been strictly voluntary and have worked to improve morale for those FAMs that wanted to help their country and do something different. However, the current situation is far different. Forcing 175 FAMs and 7 Supervisors, who by the nature of their jobs are constantly away from their families and have the highest divorce rate amongst our law enforcement peers, to leave their families again, after being deployed during the entire pandemic to fend for themselves for twenty-one (21) days is simply unacceptable.

President Biden has not declared a national emergency on the border, nor has he issued an emergency order for response to the border. Secretary Mayorkas refuses to say the border is even a crisis. As I write this today, the Department of Homeland Security Inspector General (DHS OIG) is conducting an ongoing investigation into these very questionable FAMS deployments. .

In an agency that has struggled to maintain any quality of life for its employees, this new policy will serve to further divide an already divided workforce. Moreover, it is perilous to say the least, to force FAMs from their Congressionally mandated duties of protecting America's transportation

systems, to assist with mainly non- law enforcement duties at the SWB. FAMs barley cover 1% of flights as it stands today, and the current workforce is depleted with no clear path on hiring additional resources. Additionally, as you are aware the terrorist group Al Qaida has recently threatened to attack our homeland with new “tactics” and possibly our aviation domain. This is happening as we approach the extremely busy summer season.

This is also concerning because apparently the SACs are allowed to determine which critical missions can be broken down, a job typically only the Mission Operations Center can do to avoid the breaking down of high-risk flights. It’s also unclear how much weight is given to each category which opens the door to different SACs making up their own rules when it comes to selecting FAMs to force to take this assignment. By not having a nationwide agency policy the agency is creating the environment that SACs will be able to determine which missions get broken down and where each office is allowed to make up their own rules instead of having a unified policy governing this dubious process.

The ordering of FAMs to the SWB is concerning and will only serve to further deteriorate the morale of the workforce and make our homeland security even more vulnerable to attack. Last year, FAMs were deployed to the border during peak travel seasons. We witnessed on a national platform, aircraft crew members being attacked and stabbed, attempted breaches to the cockpit, a passenger holding another passenger hostage with a razor blade to their throat in mid-air. "Both al-Qaida and the Islamic State as well as their affiliates "intend to carry out or inspire large-scale attacks in the United States," FBI Director Christopher Wray said during testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

We would respectfully request these deployments be stopped immediately as our chances of thwarting another 9/11 are being destroyed right in front of our eyes.

Respectfully,

David Londo

David Londo
President
Air Marshal National Council

Sonya Hightower-LaBosco

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