

FROM THE COVER

TROOPS

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gang members,” unidentified Middle Easterners and “some very tough fighters,” and has suggested they would try to storm the border by force.

Several former military and intelligence leaders scoffed at the purported threat.

The troops being deployed have no military objective, said Michael Hayden, a retired Air Force general who was CIA director under President George W. Bush.

“This represents security theater and is not based upon any concrete request made by anyone,” said Hayden, who also led the National Security Agency and once commanded the Air Intelligence Agency here. “The caravan is 900 miles away and frankly not an unprecedented event. ... (It) has never required this kind of response in the past.”

The caravan started in Honduras. It and two other convoys loosely organized behind it are weeks away – if they arrive at all. Previous such efforts have disintegrated before reaching the border, with some of the travelers joining an ongoing drama of individuals and families seeking asylum at U.S. ports of entry or surrendering to border agents after crossing without papers.

The Central Americans typically cite threats to their lives from gangs, other criminals and their own governments. So far, they haven’t been dissuaded by a week of promises by Trump to prevent their entry to the U.S. by force if necessary.

Rules of engagement

As with the multistate National Guard border operation that Trump ordered last spring, the deployment is designed to support U.S. Customs and Border Protection operations. The troops are not allowed to act in a law enforcement capacity and can’t detain or arrest immigrants.

They work under rules of engagement designed to minimize the chance of incidents like the 1997 fatal shooting of Esequiel Hernandez, 18, by a four-man Marine unit outside the West Texas town of Redford.

Hernandez was herding his family’s goats; his death abruptly ended training exercises of armed military personnel on the border.

A Pentagon spokesman, Navy Capt. William Speaks, declined to discuss “hypothetical situations or specific measures within our rules on the use of force, but our forces are trained professionals who always have the inherent right of defense.”

The military’s use of force rules allow unit commanders and their troops to exercise self-defense “to a hostile act or demonstrated hostile intent.”

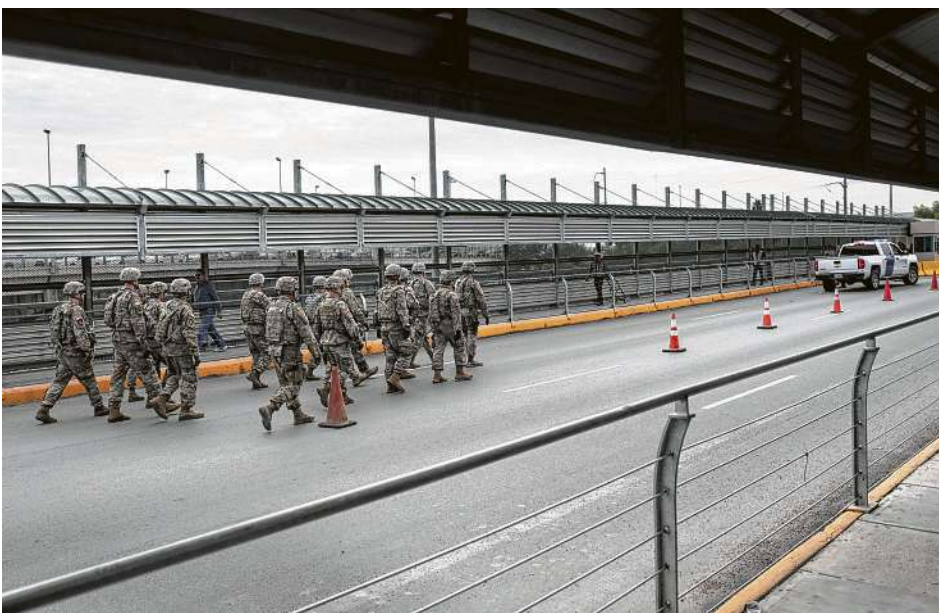
Trump suggested Thursday that the troops were allowed to shoot at anyone who throws rocks at them, saying: “I will tell you this: Anybody throwing stones, rocks like they did to Mexico ... we will consider that a firearm.”

That’s not how the armed forces long have interpreted rules of engagement in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Trump invoked a “national emergency” at the southern border to justify blocking immigrants from requesting asylum, based on a section of the Immigration and Nationality Act under which the president can suspend or restrict entry of certain migrants he deems “detrimental to the interests of the United States.”

The announcement was the president’s most controversial in a week in which he sought to make immigration the defining issue for voters in Tuesday’s elections.

Before Trump walked back his comments Friday, saying rock-throwers would be subject to arrest, the re-



Photos by John Moore / Getty Images

U.S. Army soldiers arrive Friday at the international bridge with Mexico in Hidalgo to support Customs and Border Protection operations.



A Customs and Border Protection officer speaks with a Cuban asylum seeker as newly arrived U.S. Army troops observe at the bridge with Mexico.

action on Twitter from reining military brass was biting.

“A wasteful deployment of over-stretched soldiers and Marines would be made much worse if they use force disproportional to the threat they face. They won’t,” wrote retired Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, a former Joint Chiefs chairman.

The border deployments of Guard and active-duty troops could cost \$200 million by the end of 2018, according to analyst and Pentagon figures compiled by the Washington Post.

Retired Army Gen. Mark Hertling, who commanded U.S. Army Europe, said “there is no leader in the military – officer or NCO – who would allow a soldier to shoot at an individual throwing a rock.”

Two military justice scholars, Geoffrey Corn of South Texas College of Law and St. Mary’s University School of Law professor Jeff Addicott, said the rules don’t change even when a president declares a national emergency or airs his opinion on what the rules should be.

Troops can fire their weapons only when confronting a threat of death or great bodily harm to themselves, others in their unit or a federal agent, Corn said.

Addicott, who calls himself a constitutional conservative agreed, saying: “A rock-thrower does not represent deadly force.”

‘Purely political’

Criticism of the border operation has come from lawmakers, former soldiers and defense scholars who questioned the rationale or the appropriateness of the policy.

“Sending troops to the border is a Band-Aid that does not address systemic CBP personnel shortages or stop the flow of migration from Central America,” said U.S. Rep. Will Hurd, R-San Antonio.

It’s highly unlikely that active-duty troops are needed to provide capabilities the National Guard doesn’t have, said retired Marine Lt. Gen. Paul Van Riper, a former commanding general of the 2nd Marine Division at Camp Lejeune, N.C., who’s known for being a mentor to Defense Secretary James Mattis.

“It’s purely political, it’s all for show,” Van Riper said.

Jacqueline Hazelton, who teaches counterinsurgency and counterterrorism at the U.S. Naval War College, agreed the National Guard would be more effective at supporting border security based on its traditional role helping state and local authorities in times of crisis.

“In addition to there being no need for the skills of active-duty forces – they are specialists in the uses of violence – there are legal complications to trying to use them,” Hazelton said.

There’s no indication that unarmed people who have the right to ask for entry “would be able to bum rush a Border Patrol checkpoint, even if they wanted to,” she added.

The National Guard operation Trump ordered last spring still was at 50 percent of its planned strength when he directed the Defense Department to dramatically enlarge the border military footprint with soldiers and airmen from around the country.

Some wondered why he didn’t ask governors from the four states that border Mexico for more part-time troops. Democrats and cynics had an answer – Election Day.

Asked how long the mission might last, U.S. Rep. Joaquin Castro, D-San Antonio, said: “Probably until the day after the election.”

The president’s border rhetoric came amid a political landscape that could result with Democrats retaking the U.S. House and Republicans holding, and perhaps expanding, their Senate majority.

Trump appears to be try-

ing to pull undecided voters toward Republican candidates and, more importantly, mobilize voters to go to the polls, Rice University political scientist Mark Jones said.

Southern Methodist University political science professor Cal Jillson called the strategy a full-court press designed to bring immigration, border security, law and order and the nature of American citizenship into play.

By threatening Tuesday to use an executive order to end birthright citizenship, Trump is questioning the legitimacy of ethnic groups, he said.

“There are certain people who simply are not easily Americanized, not welcomed into American community and pose a danger. This is a very old American story and we just haven’t seen it this explicitly in recent times.”

U.S. Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo, initially said the military “partnership” with Customs and Border Protection would enhance the capabilities of federal agents, but he also has called the deployment “neither sensible nor responsible.”

Cuellar noted that Trump had attacked Mexicans early in his presidential campaign.

“That’s his basic ammo,” Cuellar said. “If he’s going to go after somebody, he legitimizes that person or that group and that’s what he’s doing, saying immigrants shouldn’t even be here because they’re not U.S. citizens, and they shouldn’t count.”

Politicizing the military

Some worry that Trump’s repeated invoking of the need for troops will have an unintended consequence – tainting public perception of the military by leaving a partisan smell

on a deliberately apolitical institution.

“I feel bad for everyone from Secretary Mattis ... down to the fine young men and women who’ve volunteered to serve our country that they’re being used for this political stunt,” conservative commentator Bill Kristol tweeted. “But I’m sure they’ll handle this with their usual competence and professionalism.”

Mattis rejected the notion that troops were being used to improve Republican election chances, telling reporters: “We don’t do stunts in this department, thank you.”

Retired Army Gen. Barry McCaffrey said he didn’t fear a loss of support for the armed forces.

“We don’t want to hear one word of the Joint Chiefs pushing back in public on the president of the United States unless they receive an illegal order,” he said. “The Congress, the media, the court system, the voters

can push back.”

Hayden, who served 41 years in the Air Force, said he understands Mattis and other leaders must follow lawful orders, noting that he and other retired military officers are speaking up because “people in government can’t.”

“What I’m concerned about is the whole dilemma now being placed on senior officers to faithfully carry out the orders of the president ... in a highly political context,” Hayden said.

“This is usually about senior officials, not battalion commanders or anything like that, but I often (ask) at what point do you cease being a guardrail and you become an enabler or a legitimizer for actions we should not be taking,” he said. “This may not be sufficient for many people, and I have no right to judge, but I do understand that there may come such a moment.”

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BIDS & PROPOSALS

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The Houston Housing Authority (HHA), is soliciting sealed responses with the intent to establish a contract for Architectural and Engineering Firm(s) for projects/services relating to new construction, reconstruction, and major rehabilitation

Interested parties who wish to respond to this solicitation must submit the required documents in a sealed envelope by 4 P.M. CDT, November 12, 2018 to Houston Housing Authority (HHA) Attn: Orfelita Altuna, Subject: QBS 18-29 Architectural and Engineering Firm(s) for projects/services relating to new construction, reconstruction, and major rehabilitation DO NOT OPEN 2640 Fountain View Drive Houston, Texas 77057.

QBS 18-29 can be obtained by going to the doing business with HHA section of HHA’s website at www.housingforhouston.com, or by sending an e-mail to HHA’s Procurement Dept. at Purchasing@housingforhouston.com with QBS 18-29 in the subject line.

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS
The Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas (METRO) is planning to issue the procurement documents listed in this advertisement.
RFP No. 4019000013: Disparity Study. Solicitation will be available on or about 10/29/2018.
RFP No. 4019000008: SAP HANA Implementation . Solicitation will be available on or about 10/31/2018.
IFB No. 4018000236: Moody Park Driveway Project . Solicitation will be available on or about 10/29/2018.
Prospective bidders/proposers can view and download these solicitations by visiting METRO’s website at <https://www.ridemetroapp.org/procurement/>. If you are unable to download the documents or having difficulty, please contact METRO Plan and Bid Room at (713) 739-4881.

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BIDS & PROPOSALS

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Proposal Notice

2018 LABAY MIDDLE SCHOOL RENOVATIONS
CFISD Project No. 18-02-5421R-RFP

CYPRESS-FAIRBANKS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District will accept Competitive Sealed Proposals from qualified contractors until 2:00 PM on Thursday, **December 13, 2018** for Base Proposals, and 3:00 P.M. for Alternates Proposals at the Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District Purchasing Office, Windfern Administrative Annex, 12510 Windfern Road, Houston, Texas 77064 for 2018 Labay Middle School Renovations. A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held Wednesday, **November 14, 2018** at 10:00 A.M. at the Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District Purchasing Office, Windfern Administrative Annex. Proposal Evaluation Criteria are published in the “Instructions to Proposers” section of the proposal documents.

Plans and specifications will be available on/after October 31, 2018 and can be obtained from the following address for a refundable deposit of **\$300.00 per set**. Make checks payable to Texas-IBI Group Inc.

Texas-IBI Group, Inc.
455 E. Medical Center Blvd., Suite 500
Webster, Texas 77598
(281) 286-6605

The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities and to reject any or all proposals.

BIDS & PROPOSALS

Invitation for Bids IFB #18-01 Apartment Furniture
The Harris County Housing Authority is accepting competitive sealed bids from furniture suppliers/ companies to supply apartment furniture assembly of delivery, inclusive and installation for the Villas at Eastwood a 200 unit multi-family development located at 1933 Hussion Street, Houston, TX 77003. **Bid Due:** November 26, 2018, at 4:00 PM. **Bid Submission - Sealed bids shall be submitted to:** Harris County Housing Authority, 8933 Limerick Drive, Houston, TX 77054. Attn: Apartment Furniture – Samson Babalola. IFB #18-01 will be posted on and can be downloaded from HCHA’s website www.hchataxas.org.

Sealed Proposal Solicitation #PE05-19 Houston-Galveston Area Council Cooperative Purchasing Program Traffic Control, Enforcement & Signal Preemption Equipment
Pre-Proposal Conference: 11/15/18 @ 9am
Response Deadline: 01/17/19 @ 1pm
Public Opening: 01/17/19 @ 2pm
3555 Timmons Lane, Houston, TX.
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832-681-2514 or www.hgacbuy.org for info.

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Reverse symptoms of mild to moderate-severe ED in as little as 6 weeks* without pills, needles or pumps

If you can't stand the side effects of popular ED medications, or you don't want to take drugs to be able to enjoy intimacy, onset erectile dysfunction is like being issued a sexual death sentence.

Over the last 15 years, hundreds of thousands of men in Europe credit Acoustic Wave Treatment as 'the treatment' that reversed the symptoms of erectile dysfunction and helped them reclaim their manhood.

Since being available in the U.S., positive results are pouring in. For example, John R. reports, "I'm 74 years old and had tried everything to get an erection. Nothing worked. I didn't think anything could help me, until I tried this. Now I have the ability and the confidence to satisfy my wife in the bedroom. Thank you for giving me my sex life back!"

If you suffer with ED, you may have gotten your hopes up only to be disappointed when what you tried didn't work. Perhaps popular ED drugs failed you all together, or produced side effects you couldn't tolerate. Sadly, this is all too common, and that's why it's important for you to know why the Acoustic Wave Treatment is so different.

Damage Caused By ED is Real

As plaque builds up in veins and arteries supplying blood to the penis, blood flow is restricted and you begin to lose your ability to get and maintain an erection.

Left unattended, the vascular infrastructure of your penis begins to collapse. Tissues, veins and nerves shrivel up. Your penis shrinks, and part of what makes you a man fades away.

How Acoustic Wave Treatment Works & Why It Works So Well...

Like Lithotripsy, which uses sound waves to dissolve kidney stones, Acoustic Wave Treatment is a precise science.

When you come to the clinic, a doctor performs a painless Doppler Ultrasound test. This determines whether there is a blockage in the veins or arteries supplying blood to the penis, and to what extent the blockage is restricting blood flow. If a blockage is present and the doctor clears you for treatment, the technician uses a handheld device to focus the acoustic waves on the veins and arteries with obstructed blood flow. The Acoustic Wave Treatment prompts your body to rebuild the vascular infrastructure in your penis and restore blood flow and nerve response. Veins regenerate. Nerves grow. Narrow, shriveled-up blood vessels become big and plump again. Girth increases.* Sensitivity increases.* Orgasms feel better than ever.* The non-invasive treatment, which takes about twenty-minutes, has no known side effects and requires no recovery time.

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"When my prostate was removed, I thought my sex life was over. I am 70 and have not been able to get and maintain an erection for 12 years. I was skeptical, but the treatment worked! My wife and I hadn't had sex for ages. Now we can. Thank you!" Gerald F. Age 70

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