



ALEX DOMINGUEZ



TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DISTRICT 37

January 12, 2022

Major General Tracy Norris
The Adjutant General – Texas National Guard
Camp Mabry
Austin, TX 78703

Dear Major General Norris:

I write this letter out of grave concern for our service members currently deployed through Operation Lone Star. The tragic suicides of four of our Texas National Guard service members recently raise questions of the mission and treatment of soldiers activated at the border. There is a crisis of morale for our Texas National Guardsmen at the border that is costing lives. Reports have revealed that soldiers are experiencing pay delays and inconsistencies, reduced tuition assistance benefits, and cramped living quarters with no indication of when the mission will end. This is a failure in leadership, not in our service members.

This is unacceptable, and immediate action is needed. The suicide rate for veterans is already higher than the general non-veteran population with an average of 16 veterans dying by suicide each day. I am urging you to take swift action to prevent further tragedy for our service members and their families. The Texas National Guard should, at the very least, provide the basic aspects of timely payment and access to mental health resources. Anything less devalues their service and puts unnecessary stress on them and their families.

I am calling on you to investigate Operation Lone Star and provide recommendations to the Legislature for how we can address this crisis. We cannot continue to turn a blind eye to our suffering service members.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Dominguez".

Alex Dominguez
State Representative
District 37





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Texas House of Representatives



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