

Nos. 19-17501, 19-17502, 20-15044

**In the United States Court of Appeals
for the Ninth Circuit**

SIERRA CLUB; SOUTHERN BORDER COMMUNITIES COALITION,
Plaintiffs-Appellees,

v.

DONALD J. TRUMP, President of the United States,
in his official capacity, et al.;
Defendants-Appellants.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, et al.,
Plaintiffs-Appellees-Cross-Appellants,

v.

DONALD J. TRUMP, President of the United States,
in his official capacity, et al.;
Defendants-Appellants-Cross-Appellees.

APPELLEES' SUPPLEMENTAL EXCERPTS OF RECORD

VOLUME 2 of 2, pp. 217–316

On Appeal from the United States District Court
for the Northern District of California

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Exhibit 9



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

January 6, 2019

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The President continues to stress the need to pass legislation that will both reopen the Federal Government and address the security and humanitarian crisis at our Nation's Southwest border. The Administration has previously transmitted budget proposals that would support his ongoing commitment to dramatically reduce the entry of illegal immigrants, criminals, and drugs; keep out terrorists, public safety threats, and those otherwise inadmissible under U.S. law; and ensure that those who do enter without legal permission can be promptly and safely returned home.

Appropriations bills for fiscal year (FY) 2019 that have already been considered by the current and previous Congresses are inadequate to fully address these critical issues. Any agreement for the current year should satisfy the following priorities:

- *Border Wall, Customs and Border Protection (CBP)*: The President requests \$5.7 billion for construction of a steel barrier for the Southwest border. Central to any strategy to achieve operational control along the southern border is physical infrastructure to provide requisite impedance and denial. In short, a physical barrier—wall—creates an enduring capability that helps field personnel stop, slow down and/or contain illegal entries. In concert with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, CBP has increased its capacity to execute these funds. The Administration's full request would fund construction of a total of approximately 234 miles of new physical barrier and fully fund the top 10 priorities in CBP's Border Security Improvement Plan. **This would require an increase of \$4.1 billion over the FY 2019 funding level in the Senate version of the bill.**
- *Immigration Judge Teams – Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR)*: The President requests at least \$563 million for 75 additional Immigration Judges and support staff to reduce the backlog of pending immigration cases. The Administration appreciates that the Senate's FY 2019 bill provides this level of funding, and looks forward to working with the Congress on further increases in this area to facilitate an expansion of in-country processing of asylum claims.
- *Law Enforcement Personnel, Border Patrol Agent Hiring, CBP*: The President requests \$211 million to hire 750 additional Border Patrol Agents in support of his promise to keep our borders safe and secure. While the Senate's FY 2019 bill supports some Border

Patrol Agent hiring, fulfilling this request **requires an increase of \$100 million over the FY 2019 funding level in the Senate version of the bill.**

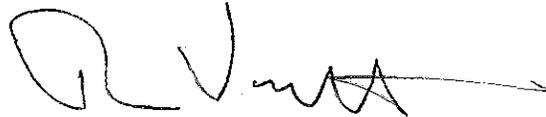
- *Law Enforcement Personnel, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE):* The President requests \$571 million for 2,000 additional law enforcement personnel, as well as support staff, who enforce our U.S. immigration laws and help address gang violence, smuggling and trafficking, and the spread of drugs in our communities. **This would require an increase of \$571 million over the FY 2019 funding level in the Senate version of the bill.**
- *Detention Beds, ICE:* The President requests \$4.2 billion to support 52,000 detention beds. Given that in recent months, the number of people attempting to cross the border illegally has risen to 2,000 per day, providing additional resources for detention and transportation is essential. **This would require an increase of \$798 million over the FY 2019 funding level in the Senate version of the bill.**
- *Humanitarian Needs:* **The President requests an additional \$800 million to address urgent humanitarian needs.** This includes additional funding for enhanced medical support, transportation, consumable supplies appropriate for the population, and additional temporary facilities for processing and short-term custody of this vulnerable population, which are necessary to ensure the well-being of those taken into custody.
- *Counter-narcotics/weapons Technology:* Beyond these specific budgetary requests, the Administration looks forward to working with Congress to provide resources in other areas to address the unprecedented challenges we face along the Southwest border. Specifically, \$675 million would provide Non-Intrusive Inspection (NII) technology at inbound lanes at U.S. Southwest Border Land Ports of Entry (LPOE) would allow CBP to deter and detect more contraband, including narcotics, weapons, and other materials that pose nuclear and radiological threats. **This would require an increase of \$631 million over the FY 2019 funding level in the Senate version of the bill.**

In addition, to address the humanitarian crisis of unaccompanied alien children (UACs), Democrats have proposed in-country asylum processing for Central American Minors. This would require a statutory change, along with reallocation of State Department funds to establish in-country processing capacities at Northern Triangle consulates and embassies. Furthermore, for the new procedure to achieve the desired humanitarian result, a further corresponding statutory change would be required to ensure that those who circumvent the process and come to the United States without authorization can be promptly returned home. Without the latter change, in-country processing will not reduce the unauthorized flow or successfully mitigate the humanitarian crisis.”

These upfront investments in physical barriers and technology, as well as legislation to close loopholes in our immigration system, will reduce illegal immigration, the flow of illicit drugs entering our country and reduce the long term costs for border and immigration enforcement activities.

The Administration looks forward to advancing these critical priorities as part of legislation to reopen the Government.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Vought", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Russell T. Vought
Acting Director

Identical Letter Sent to:

The Honorable Richard Shelby
The Honorable Patrick Leahy
The Honorable Nita Lowey
The Honorable Kay Granger

Exhibit 11

**REMARKS**

Remarks by President Trump in Cabinet Meeting

Issued on: **February 12, 2019**



Cabinet Room

11:54 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Hello, everybody. Thank you. Hi, Steve. So, maybe we can begin. I'll ask Secretary Wilkie to say grace, please.

SECRETARY WILKIE: (Gives a prayer.)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Secretary. Beautiful.

Thank you all for being here. Before we begin, we're thinking about certain things that we're just starting to look at. David Bernhardt is, as you know, going through the process — becoming Secretary of Interior, from Acting. He's done a fantastic job. And I think it will continue, and we look forward to that.

We're thinking about doing, on the 4th of July or thereabouts, a parade. A "Salute to America" parade. It will be a — really, a gathering, as opposed to a parade, I'd guess you'd have to say. Perhaps at the Lincoln Memorial. We're looking at sites. But we're thinking about doing something, which would become, perhaps, a tradition. "Salute to America" on July 4th or July 4th weekend. Somewhere around that area.

SER223

And, David, you're taking charge of that and you'll see how it works out with schedules and everything else. And I think it could be a very exciting day. And the fireworks is there anyway, so we just saved on fireworks. We get free fireworks because it's already being done. (Laughter.) So, that's very good.

So, good morning and welcome to our Cabinet meeting. As I said in my State of the Union Address, I'm eager to work with both parties to deliver for all Americans. That's what we have to start doing. There's tremendous and quite unusual attitude on the other side. There's a lot of anger. And they're slipping extremely far left. And we don't want that to happen to our country. So we're working very hard with the other side, and hopefully positive things can take place.

Since the election, we've created 5.3 million jobs, including more than 300,000 last month alone. Blue-collar jobs have grown at their fastest pace in more than 30 years. And we've added half a million manufacturing jobs. That number is going to very soon be 600,009 because of certain things that are happening. And economic growth has nearly doubled since I took office.

We have a big team over in China right now, and they're working very hard, dealing with the Chinese. We want very much to make a deal. We'll see what happens. But the tariffs are bringing a tremendous amount of money to our Treasury. And as you read, of the 21 points — and actually, the number would be 25 now, on the areas that are taxed at 25. China is paying for 21, and we're paying for 4. So that's pretty good.

But we're bringing billions and billions of dollars into our Treasury right now. We'll see what happens, but they very much want to make a deal. Their economy has been hurt by the tariffs. And our economy is thriving like, really, never before. I mean, we're doing incredibly well.

We have a lot of companies going to be announcing. They've already announced, in some cases — and in many cases, they have announced — they're moving back into the country. They want to be a part of the United States. It's like a miracle in the United States, what's happening. But we have a lot of companies that have left. In many cases, they left our country and they're moving back. And that means a lot of jobs.

Speaking of jobs, we have to have more people coming into our country because our real number is about 3.6, 3.7. It took a little blip up during the shutdown and went up to 4. And 4 — any country would take a 4. But we're about 3.7; probably going lower. We need people. So we want to have

people come into our country, but we want to have them come in through a merit system, and we want to have them come in legally. And that's going to be happening. We're doing very well in that regard.

But we have tremendous numbers of companies. And you've been reporting on them. A lot of car companies are coming back to the United States.

We want to keep the job boom going strong, and we must protect our economy. And we have to protect it from any attempts to impose socialism. Socialism does not work too well. And we don't want that as part of our country and as part of our heritage. We just can't have it. Everything would come to an end — and rapidly. And then, all of a sudden, you'd see things happening and you'd say, "What's going on? Whatever happened?"

But we're at a high point today, and we're going to go a lot higher. We have a long way to go, frankly, as far as I'm concerned — especially where we make the good trade deals and make the good military deals.

As an example, as you know, South Korea — we defend them and lose a tremendous amount of money. Billions of dollars a year defending them. They agreed, at my request. And working with Secretary Pompeo and John Bolton, they agreed to pay, yesterday, \$500 million more toward their defense. Five-hundred million, with a couple of phone calls. I said, "Why didn't you do this before?" They said, "Nobody asked." So — it's got to go up. It's got to go up.

Right now, it costs us \$5 billion a year to defend. As an example, South Korea — we have a great relationship, and with President Moon. And we're doing great things. And North Korea is coming along. South Korea is just an example. But South Korea is costing us \$5 billion a year. And they pay — they were paying about \$500 million for \$5 billion worth of protection. And we have to do better than that. So they've agreed to pay \$500 million more. And over the years, it will start going up, and they will be terrific. And they've been very good.

We've had a really strong — we made a new trade deal with South Korea. And the same thing will go with Japan. And the same thing will go with Saudi Arabia and many others. I mean, we protect Saudi Arabia. They've got nothing but cash. And we protect them with great subsidy. We give Saudi Arabia subsidy. Should be the other way around, as far as I'm concerned, right?

So a lot of things are happening. And all of this endures to the strength of our country and to our economy. And so we're looking forward to seeing that.

The Mexico deal — as you know, Mexico/Canada trade deal, the USMCA is a tremendous deal. But one of the things — because NAFTA was one of the worst deals in the history of this country ever signed. It cleaned out our jobs and our company. It was just a terrible, terrible thing that we signed NAFTA.

So this is the NAFTA replacement. It has nothing to do with NAFTA. And one of the things that make it very hard — it's very hard for a company, financially, to leave our country, under the USMCA. Very, very prohibitive to leave. And that was the thing I wanted more than any other element. I said, "I don't want these companies going and leaving, and going to Mexico and Canada." They've got their own companies. I don't want to do that. We lost tremendous — we lost 25 percent of our automobile industry to Mexico. We lost 30 percent to a combination of both Canada and Mexico.

So that's wielding its way through, and I guess it's hitting Congress very shortly, and we'll see how that does. But that's a great deal. And it's a very labor-friendly deal. It's a deal that the workers of our country will love.

One in three women, as you know, are sexually assaulted on the long journey north. We want to stop that. We want to stop those journeys. The way you do that is with barrier security, a wall. And we're making a lot of progress. In fact, I noticed yesterday, when I got to El Paso, they had signs, "Finish the Wall," instead of "Build the Wall." Because we're doing a lot of wall right now. Just started a big portion of the wall in the Rio Grande Valley, which is now the biggest area for people coming in. We've sealed up a lot of the areas where people come in.

But they're looking for the soft spots, and they come up in a caravan and they look for the areas without any barrier. And that's why they like to come in. And we grab them, and it's a very tough situation.

We could save billions and billions of dollars in cost and hundreds of billions of dollars in drugs and what they're doing to us with drugs. And so much of it comes through. And don't believe people when they say it all comes through the portals; it doesn't — the ports of entry. It comes through — the big loads come through the border, where you don't have wall, where they can drive a truck, a big truck, loaded up with drugs or loaded up with this thing called a "human cargo." Human cargo.

SER226

These are traffickers. These are the worst people on Earth. And they don't come through the ports of entry with people in the back of a car tied up. Could never do that. They come through areas where there's no barrier.

So we'll see what happens. I got reports last night, when I was going out to speak. We had, by the way, a massive crowd. And my competitor had very few people, but the press didn't report it that way. The press reported it like two speeches. We had a competitor that decided to challenge me with the crowds. And he failed very badly. From what I hear, he had less than a thousand people. And we had a packed arena, and we had probably 25,000 people outside of the arena. It was an incredible night in Texas, I can tell you that. It was really amazing.

But as I'm going on stage to speak, they're telling me about the committee came out with a deal. And, you know, they went over it very briefly. Then I went over it briefly last night, but it was 3 o'clock in the morning. And I can't say I'm happy. I can't say I'm thrilled. But the wall is getting built, regardless. It doesn't matter. Because we're doing other things beyond what we're talking about here. So we'll see what happens.

We're having a meeting on it later. It's really obstruction. The Democrats want everybody to be able to come into our country. We have many criminals. When you look at the numbers of criminals that are nabbed — I mean, I'm looking at numbers that are incredible. This card was just given to me by Secretary Nielsen. And — assaults: 99,000 assaults. Larceny: 40,000. Burglary: 25,000. Fraudulent activities: 25,000. Damage and stolen property: 17,000. Sex offenses: 13,552. Sexual assaults: 10,468. That's sexual assaults on people that live in our country by people that are coming illegally across our borders. In many cases, people that have come before I became — before I became President.

What happens is we are working very hard. We're getting rid of tremendous numbers of MS-13. And the Democrats don't like us to get rid of MS-13. Now, you figure that one out. These are violent people, and they don't like us to get rid of MS-13.

So, robberies: 11,177. Kidnappings: 4,112. Murders: 3,914. Okay? So these are people that ICE is dealing with, and nobody can deal with them more effectively. There's probably no group in this country that does so much and gets, really, so little respect or love as ICE. It's really a terrible thing. They're doing an incredible job.

One other thing I might want to say is that anti-Semitism has no place in the United States Congress. And Congressman Omar is terrible, what she said. And I think she should either resign from Congress or she should certainly resign from the House Foreign Affairs Committee. What she said is so deep-seated in her heart that her lame apology — and that's what it was; it was lame, and she didn't mean a word of it — was just not appropriate. I think she should resign from Congress, frankly. But at a minimum, she shouldn't be on committees, and certainly that committee.

And with that, we're going to have a meeting. Our Cabinet is doing really well. I'll tell you, we're doing great. Our country is doing great. The stock market is up tremendously today. Of course, I haven't seen it in 15 minutes, so, you know, anything is — Larry Kudlow, anything is subject to change, right? But so far, so good. And we're hitting new records with growth. We're hitting new records with the economy. We've hit many new records on unemployment.

More people working today in the United States than at any time in the history of our country. We're getting very close to 160 million people. And we've never had anything like that, which tells you that we have to have people come into our country — great people, from the areas that we're talking about. But we want them to be productive, and they — we want people that are going to love our country and help our country.

So I want to thank our Cabinet. The Cabinet is doing a fantastic job. Really, unsung job. Because members of this Cabinet, there are those people that say this is one of the best Cabinets this country has ever had. I happen to agree. I happen to agree. We have great, great people in our Cabinet. And I want to thank you all very much for doing a fantastic job. Thank you very much.

And, Matt, I guess, maybe at some point there will be a vote, and —

ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL WHITAKER: Thursday, we hear. Thursday we are.

THE PRESIDENT: — maybe at some point you won't be doing what you're doing. Come here. I think you've done — you've taken a tremendous amount of abuse. You handled yourself incredibly last Friday. But on behalf of all of us, I want to thank you very much. Matt Whitaker. (Applause.)

It's heartfelt, too — believe me.

Okay, thank you all very much.

SER228

Q Sir, will you sign Congress's border deal?

THE PRESIDENT: I have to study it. I'm not happy about it. It's not doing the trick. But I'm adding things to it. And when you add whatever I have to add, it's all going to happen where we're going to build a beautiful, big, strong wall that's not going to let criminals and traffickers and drug dealers and drugs into our country. It's very simple. It's very simple.

We're building a wall. And now I'm saying we're finishing the wall. We just started a big, big section on the Rio Grande. You probably saw it. Some of you were there when they started. You went there; you didn't believe it. You went there, and you see trucks all over the place. You said, "Hey, he's not kidding." I don't kid. I never kid about construction. I love construction. (Laughter.) And I know how to do it for the right price. And we're getting a beautiful-looking structure that's also less expensive to build and works much better. That's a good combination of events, because it was crazy what they were putting up.

In fact, I happen to think that the walls that they were building were so unattractive and so ugly that walls got bad names. Okay? If that means anything. But they were so ugly, with rusted steel and big ugly plates on top that were all tin-canned. It's called tin-canned, where they're wavy, because the heat makes them expand and contract, and they're tin-canned.

I said, "Why didn't you paint the steel?" "Well, sir, we save money by not painting." And I said, "Yeah, but it's going to rust. You have to paint." I've never seen — I've ordered a lot of steel — I've never seen, in my whole life, steel come to me that was unpainted. This can only happen at the border. It wasn't me; it was our past geniuses.

So, I can tell you that, am I happy at first glance? I just got to see it. The answer is no, I'm not. I'm not happy. But am I happy with where we're going? I'm thrilled because we're supplementing things and moving things around. And we're doing things that are fantastic and taking from far less — really, from far less important areas. And the bottom line is we're building a lot of wall. Right now, we're building a lot of wall.

And you think it's easy? We're building in the face of tremendous obstruction and tremendous opposition from a small group of people. And one thing that happened that was, I think, very revealing — we had the biggest and best border agents and experts come up and see the

committee. And they said, more than anything else, “You need a barrier. You need a wall.” And the recommendation was unacceptable to the committee. So that tells you more than anything else.

Q Mr. President, are ruling out the possibility of a government shutdown?

Q Do you really want to go through another shutdown?

THE PRESIDENT: I don’t think you’re going to see a shutdown. I wouldn’t want to go to it, no. If you did have it, it’s the Democrats’ fault. And I accepted the first one, and I’m proud of what we’ve accomplished because people learned during that shutdown all about the problems coming in from the southern border. I accept — I’ve always accepted it.

But this one I would never accept if it happens, but I don’t think it’s going to happen. But this would be totally on the Democrats. Okay?

Q Mr. President, are you saying that you may amend and send back the proposed compromise, or that you may grudgingly accept it and then move forward with the executive action?

THE PRESIDENT: It’s always nice to negotiate a little bit, right? So, you know, whatever you get. But I would hope that there won’t be a shutdown. I am extremely unhappy with what the Democrats have given us. It’s sad. It’s sad. They’re doing the country no favor. They are hurting our country very badly. But we certainly don’t want to see a shutdown. But you’ll be hearing fairly soon. The bottom line is — on the wall — we’re building the wall. And we’re using other methods, other than this and in addition to this. We have a lot of things going. We have a lot of money in this country, and we’re using some of that money — a small percentage of that money — to build the wall, which we desperately need.

Q Mr. President, do you plan to meet with President Xi at the end of March?

THE PRESIDENT: Not at this moment. We have our people over there now. I just got a report. Things are going well with China. China wants to make a deal very badly. I want it to be a real deal, not just a deal that makes — you know, cosmetically looks good for a year. We have a chance to really make a deal — a real deal with China. We’ve never been in this position before. We’ve always been the lame duck. And we’re not the lame duck anymore. And we’ve gone up tremendously in value as a country, in economic value. Tremendously.

SER230

Larry, we've gone up what — \$11 trillion, \$14 trillion? And China has gone down close to \$20 trillion since we've started this whole —

MR. KUDLOW: Worst performing stock market in the world.

THE PRESIDENT: Say it?

MR. KUDLOW: China — worst performing stock market in the world.

THE PRESIDENT: Has anybody ever heard of Larry Kudlow? (Laughter.) That voice. I hear that voice, and you think money. Right, Larry? (Laughter.)

MR. KUDLOW: Thank you, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: So, I didn't even know that. That's — China, he said, has the worst performing stock market right now in the world. And we don't want that. We want China to do — but — and that's because of us. And we're — have to be one of the best performing stock markets, but we are the best performing country and we have a lot of potential for further growth.

So we're doing very well over in China. Our people are there. You know the people very well. And I think we're going to have some good answers. I think — either way, I'm happy. I'm happy either way. I could live receiving billions and billions of dollars a month from China. China never gave us 10 cents. It was always the opposite way. Now they're paying billions of dollars a month for the privilege of coming into the United States and, honestly, taking advantage of our country. So we'll see how it works out.

But at some point, I expect to meet with President Xi — who I have a lot of respect for and like a lot — and make the parts of the deal that the group is unable to make. That's the way deals happen.

Q Will the March 1st deadline slide, do you think?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, thus far, I've said — as you know, the tariffs tick up for us. In other words, we take in much more money because the tariff — and there's nothing they can do that's comparable, so it's not like tit for tat. The tariffs kick in; they go up.

Right now, they're paying — they're paying 25 percent on \$50 billion. Okay? And they are paying 10 percent on \$200 billion. So we have \$250 billion. We have \$267 billion that we were very nice about and we're not taxing. On the \$200 billion, we're paying the 10 percent. The 10 percent on \$200 billion goes up to 25 percent on March 1st. And so far, I've said don't do that.

Now, if we're close to a deal where we think we can make a real deal, and it's going to get done, I could see myself letting that slide for a little while. But generally speaking, I'm not inclined to do that. Okay?

Q If Congress sends you a deal that you disagree with, would you consider declaring a national emergency to build the wall?

THE PRESIDENT: I consider everything. I'm considering everything. You know, we already have national emergencies out there. You know, President Obama, President Clinton, President Bush — they've declared many national — this is not unique. They've declared many national emergencies. Many, many. And you have some out there that we can use in addition to one that we can declare if we want to do it.

Thank you very much everybody. Thank you. Thank you.

Q Sir, were you aware that AMI was investigating Jeff Bezos?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No, I wasn't.

END

12:17 P.M. EST

Exhibit 13

**REMARKS**

Remarks by President Trump on the National Security and Humanitarian Crisis on our Southern Border

IMMIGRATIONIssued on: **February 15, 2019**

Rose Garden

10:39 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, everybody. Before we begin, I'd like to just say that we have a large team of very talented people in China. We've had a negotiation going on for about two days. It's going extremely well. Who knows what that means, because it only matters if we get it done. But we're very much working very closely with China and President Xi, who I respect a lot. Very good relationship that we have. And we're a lot closer than we ever were in this country with having a real trade deal.

We're covering everything — all of the points that people have been talking about for years that said couldn't be done, whether it was theft or anything. Anything. The unfairness. We've been losing, on average, \$375 billion a year with China. A lot of people think it's \$506 billion. Some people think it's much more than that. We're going to be leveling the playing field.

The tariffs are hurting China very badly. They don't want them. And frankly, if we can make the deal, it'd be my honor to remove them. But otherwise, we're having many billions of dollars pouring into our Treasury. We've never had that before with China. It's been very much of a one-way street.

SER234

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So, that's happening. And the relationship with China is very good, but I think they finally respect our country. They haven't respected us for a long time. Not for a long time.

The UK and the U.S., as you probably have been seeing and hearing, we're agreeing to go forward and preserve our trade agreement. You know all of the situation with respect to Brexit, and the complexity and the problems. But we have a very good trading relationship with the UK, and that's just been strengthened further.

So with the UK, we're continuing our trade, and we are going to actually be increasing it very substantially as time goes by. We expect that the UK will be very, very substantially increased as it relates to trade with the United States. The relationship there, also, is very good.

We have a lot of great announcements having to do with Syria and our success with the eradication of the caliphate. And that will be announced over the next 24 hours. And many other things. A lot of positive things are going on.

We're working on a summit. And you know all about the summit. It will be in Vietnam — Hanoi. And we will — we'll be meeting in Hanoi. We'll be meeting in Hanoi. I think a lot of you will be going, I suspect. And I hope we have the same good luck as we had in the first summit. A lot was done in the first summit. No more rockets going up. No more missiles going up. No more testing of nuclear. Get back our remains, the remains of our great heroes from the Korean War. And we got back our hostages.

But we hope we're going to be very much equally as successful. I'm in no rush for speed. We just don't want testing. The sanctions, as you know, remain. Everything is remaining. China has been helping us, and Russia has been helping us. And South Korea, I think you can say, has been — we've been working very closely with South Korea, with Japan.

But China, Russia, on the border, have really been at least partially living up to what they're supposed to be doing. And that's okay — as per the United Nations.

So we will have a meeting on the 27th and 28th of February, and I think that will be a very successful one. I look forward to seeing Chairman Kim. We have also established a very good relationship, which has never happened between him or his family and the United States. They

have really taken advantage of the United States. Billions of dollars has been paid to them. And we won't let that happen.

But we think that North Korea and Chairman Kim have a tremendous potential as an economic force, economic power. Their location between South Korea and then Russia and China — right smack in the middle — is phenomenal.

And we think that they have a great chance for tremendous economic prosperity in the future. So I look forward to seeing Chairman Kim in Vietnam.

Today, I'm announcing several critical actions that my administration has taken to confront a problem that we have right here at home. We fight wars that are 6,000 miles away; wars that we should have never been in, in many cases. But we don't control our own border.

So we're going to confront the national security crisis on our southern border. And we're going to do it one way or the other — we have to do it — not because it was a campaign promise, which it is. It was one of many, by the way; not my only one. We're rebuilding the military, our economy is thriving like never before.

You look at other economies — they're doing terribly, and we're doing phenomenally. The market is up tremendously today, not that that's anything, but, you know — because I'll go back in and they'll say, "Oh, the market just went down." But the market is getting close to the new highs that we created. We have all the records. We have every record. But we're getting close to that point again where we'll create new records.

So our country is doing very well, economically. And we've done a lot. But one of the things I said I have to do and I want to do is border security, because we have tremendous amounts of drugs flowing into our country, much of it coming from the southern border. When you look and when you listen to politicians — in particular, certain Democrats — they say it all comes through the port of entry. It's wrong. It's wrong. It's just a lie. It's all a lie.

They say walls don't work. Walls work 100 percent. Whether it's El Paso — I really was smiling, because the other night I was in El Paso — we had a tremendous crowd, and — tremendous crowd. And I asked the people — many of whom were from El Paso, but they came from all over Texas. And

I asked them. I said, “Let me ask you, as a crowd: When the wall went up, was it better?” You were there, some of you. It was not only better; it was like 100 percent better. You know what they did.

But that’s only one example. There are so many examples. In El Paso, they have close to 2,000 murders right on the other side of the wall. And they had 23 murders. It’s a lot of murders, but it’s not close to 2,000 murders right on the other side of the wall, in Mexico.

So everyone knows that walls work. And there are better examples than El Paso, frankly. You just take a look. Almost everywhere. Take a look at Israel. They’re building another wall. Their wall is 99.9 percent effective, they told me — 99.9 percent. That’s what it would be with us, too.

The only weakness is they go to a wall and then they go around the wall. They go around the wall and in. Okay? That’s what it is. It’s very simple. And a big majority of the big drugs — the big drug loads — don’t go through ports of entry. They can’t go through ports of entry. You can’t take big loads because you have people — we have some very capable people; the Border Patrol, law enforcement — looking.

You can’t take human traffic — women and girls — you can’t take them through ports of entry. You can’t have them tied up in the backseat of a car or a truck or a van. They open the door. They look. They can’t see three women with tape on their mouth or three women whose hands are tied.

They go through areas where you have no wall. Everybody knows that. Nancy knows it. Chuck knows it. They all know it. It’s all a big lie. It’s a big con game.

You don’t have to be very smart to know: You put up a barrier, the people come in, and that’s it. They can’t do anything unless they walk left or right, and they find an area where there’s no barrier, and they come into the United States. Welcome.

We’ve detained more people. Our border agents are doing such incredible work. Our military has been incredible. We put up barbed wire on top of certain old walls that were there. We fixed the wall and we loaded it up with barbed wire. It’s very successful.

But our military has been fantastic, and I want to thank them. And it’s very necessary. We’ve broken up two caravans that are on their way. They just are breaking. They’re in the process of breaking up. We have another one that we haven’t been able to break up yet.

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We've been actually working with Mexico much better than ever before. I want to thank the President. I want to thank Mexico. They have their own problems. They have the largest number of murders that they've ever had in their history — almost 40,000 murders. Forty thousand. And they got to straighten that out, and I think they will.

But I just want to thank the President, because he's been helping us with these monstrous caravans that have been coming up. We had one that it was up to over 15,000 people. It's largely broken up. Others have gotten through. And, in Tijuana, you have a lot of people staying there. If we didn't have the wall up, and if we didn't have the wall secured and strengthened, they would have walked right through; they'd be welcomed to the United States.

One of the things we'd save tremendous — just a tremendous amount on would be sending the military. If we had a wall, we don't need the military because we'd have a wall.

So I'm going to be signing a national emergency. And it's been signed many times before. It's been signed by other Presidents from 1977 or so. It gave the Presidents the power.

There's rarely been a problem. They sign it; nobody cares. I guess they weren't very exciting. But nobody cares. They sign it for far less important things, in some cases, in many cases. We're talking about an invasion of our country with drugs, with human traffickers, with all types of criminals and gangs.

We have some of the greatest people I know. They've been with me from the beginning of my campaign — almost from the first week. The Angel Moms. Unfortunately, we have new Angel Moms. One incredible woman just showed me her daughter who — we're talking about killed, in the year of '18. I said, "I haven't seen you before." She said, "No, I'm new." I said, "That's too bad." It's too bad. It's so sad.

Stand up, just for a second. Show how beautiful your girl was. Thank you.

I have such respect for these people. Angel Moms, Angel Dads, Angel Families. I have great respect for these people. These are great people. These are great people. They're fighting for their children that have been killed by people that were illegally in this country.

And the press doesn't cover them; they don't want to, incredibly. And they're not treated the way they should be. They're fighting for other people because they don't want what happened to their children or husband or anybody.

We have one young lady whose husband — please, stand up. Your husband was just killed in Maryland. Incredible man. Just killed. Beautiful children — won't be seeing their father again.

These are brave people. These are people that — they don't have to be here. They don't have to be doing this. They're doing it for other people. So I just want to thank all of you for being here, okay? I really do. I want to thank you. Incredible people.

Last year, 70,000 Americans were killed, at least — I think the number is ridiculously low — by drugs, including meth and heroin and cocaine, fentanyl. And one of the things that I did with President Xi in China, when I met him in Argentina at a summit — before I even started talking about the trade — it was a trade meeting. It went very well, but before I talked about trade, I talked about something more important.

I said, "Listen, we have tremendous amounts of fentanyl coming into our country. It kills tens of thousands of people — I think far more than anybody registers. And I'd love you to declare it a lethal drug and put it on your criminal list." And their criminal list is much tougher than our criminal list. Their criminal list — a drug dealer gets a thing called the death penalty. Our criminal list, a drug dealer gets a thing called, "How about a fine?"

And when I asked President Xi, I said, "Do you have a drug problem?" "No, no, no." I said, "You have 1.4 billion people. What do you mean you have no drug problem?" "No, we don't have a drug problem." I said, "Why?" "Death penalty. We give death penalty to people that sell drugs." End of problem.

What do we do? We set up blue ribbon committees. Lovely men and women — they sit around a table, they have lunch, they eat, they dine, and they waste a lot of time. So if we want to get smart, we can get smart. You can end the drug problem. You can end it a lot faster than you think.

But President Xi has agreed to put fentanyl on his list of deadly, deadly drugs. And it's a criminal penalty. And the penalty is death. So that's, frankly, one of the things I'm most excited about in our trade deal, if you want to know the truth. I think maybe there's no more important point.

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We're going to make billions of dollars with this trade deal. It's going to be great for our country and great for China, I hope. Their market is down close to 40 percent. Our market is way up. We've picked up, since my election, trillions of dollars of worth. Trillions. Many trillions. And China has lost trillions of dollars. But I want it to be good for China and I want it to be good for the United States. So we'll see what happens.

China is coming here next week, by the way. They're coming home, the traders. And then China is coming here next week. And then I'll be meeting with President Xi at some point after that to maybe — for some remaining deals. We'll make them directly, one-on-one, ourselves.

So, we're going to be signing today, and registering, national emergency. And it's a great thing to do because we have an invasion of drugs, invasion of gangs, invasion of people, and it's unacceptable.

And by signing the national emergency — something signed many times by other Presidents — many, many times. President Obama — in fact, we may be using one of the national emergencies that he signed, having to do with cartels. Criminal cartels. It's a very good emergency that he signed. And we're going to use parts of it in our dealings on cartels. So that would be a second national emergency. But, in that case, it's already in place.

And what we want — really want to do — is simple. It's not like it's complicated. It's very simple: We want to stop drugs from coming into our country. We want to stop criminals and gangs from coming into our country. Nobody has done the job that we've ever done. I mean, nobody has done the job that we've done on the border.

And in a way, what I did by creating such a great economy — and if the opposing party got in, this economy would be down the tubes. You know, I hear a lot of people say, "Oh, well. But maybe the previous administration..." Let me tell you, the previous administration, it was heading south, and it was going fast. We would have been down the tubes. The regulations were strangling our country. Unnecessary regulations.

By creating such a strong economy — you just look at your televisions or see what's going on today; it's through the roof. What happens is more people want to come, so we have far more people trying to get into our country today than probably we've ever had before. And we've done an incredible job in stopping them, but it's a massive number of people.

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If we had the wall, it would be very easy. We would make up for the cost of the wall just in the cost of the fact that I would be able to have fewer people. We wouldn't need all of this incredible talent, some of whom are sitting in the first row. You wouldn't need all of this incredible talent. We would get — we would get thousands of law enforcement people, including Border Patrol. You put them in different areas, you have them doing different things. Law enforcement and Border Patrol.

And I want to thank law enforcement, and I want to thank Border Patrol, and I want to thank ICE. ICE is abused by the press and by the Democrats. And, by the way, we're going to be taking care of ICE. You know, we talk about the new bill. We're going to be taking care of ICE. They wanted to get rid of ICE. And the bill is just the opposite of that. A lot of good things happened.

So, that's the story. We want to have a safe country. I ran on a very simple slogan: "Make America Great Again." If you're going to have drugs pouring across the border, if you're going to have human traffickers pouring across the border in areas where we have no protection, in areas where we don't have a barrier, then very hard to make America great again.

But we've done a fantastic job, but we haven't been given the equipment. We haven't been given the walls. And in the bill, by the way, they didn't even fight us on most of the stuff. Ports of entry. We have so much money, we don't know what to do with it. I don't know what to do with all the money they're giving us. It's crazy.

The only place they don't want to give as much money — \$1,375,000,000. Sounds like a lot, but it's not so much, although we're putting it to much better use than it used to be. A lot of the past administrations, they had — it was easy to get, and they didn't build or they didn't do what they could have done. It would have been great. It would have been great to have done it earlier, but I was a little new to the job, a little new to the profession.

And we had a little disappointment for the first year and a half. People that should have stepped up did not step up. They didn't step up, and they should have. Would have been easy. Not that easy, but it would have been a lot easier. But some people didn't step up. But we're stepping up now.

So we have a chance of getting close to \$8 billion. Whether it's \$8 billion or \$2 billion or \$1.5 billion, it's going to build a lot of wall. We're getting it done. We're right now in construction with wall in some of the most important areas. And we have renovated a tremendous amount of wall, making it just as good as new. That's where a lot of the money has been spent — on renovation. In fact, we

were restricted to renovating, which is okay. But we're going to run out of areas that we can renovate pretty soon. So — and we need new wall.

So I want to thank everybody for being here. I want to thank, in particular, the Angel Moms and Dads for being here. Thank you very much. We have great respect for you. The real country, our real country — the people that really love our country, they love you. So I just want you to know that. I know how hard you fight and I know how hard a fight you're having.

I also want to thank all of the law enforcement for the job you do. Believe me, our country loves you and they respect you greatly. And we're giving you a lot of surplus. We're giving you surplus military equipment, which a lot of people didn't like giving, previous to this administration. But hundreds of millions of dollars of surplus equipment. And as we get it, as you know, we send it down. And you have much better protection. But I really appreciate you being here.

So the order is signed. And I'll sign the final papers as soon as I get into the Oval Office. And we will have a national emergency, and then we will then be sued, and they will sue us in the Ninth Circuit, even though it shouldn't be there. And we will possibly get a bad ruling, and then we'll get another bad ruling. And then we'll end up in the Supreme Court, and hopefully we'll get a fair shake. And we'll win in the Supreme Court, just like the ban. They sued us in the Ninth Circuit, and we lost, and then we lost in the appellate division, and then we went to the Supreme Court, and we won.

And it was very interesting, because yesterday they were talking about the ban. Because we have a ban. It's very helpful. Madam Secretary, is that right? Without the ban, we'd have a bigger problem. We have a ban on certain areas, certain countries, depending on what's going on in the world. And we won.

But somebody said, "President Trump lost on the ban." Well, he was right; I lost at the lower court. He — he didn't say that we ultimately won at the United States Supreme Court. They didn't want to say that. They didn't want to go that far. They were saying how I lost. The person sitting right up here — "Donald Trump lost on the ban." Yeah, I did. And then I lost a second time; you should have said that, too. And then it went to the Supreme Court and I won. Didn't want to take it that far. But we won on the ban and we won on other things, too.

The probably easiest one to win is on declaring a national emergency, because we're declaring it for virtual invasion purposes: drugs, traffickers, and gangs. And one of the things, just to finish: We

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have removed thousands of MS-13 gang monsters. Thousands. They're out of this country. We take them out by the thousands. And they are monsters.

Okay. Do you have any questions? Yeah. John, go ahead.

Q Mr. President — (inaudible).

AIDE: Yes, we do. There you go.

Q You were prepared. Mr. President, a lot of the money —

THE PRESIDENT: Were you saying I was prepared?

Q With the microphone and prepared for questions.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I thought you meant I was prepared. I couldn't believe you said that.

Q (Laughs.) No, no, no. (Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: People don't like saying that.

Q You were prepared for questions.

THE PRESIDENT: I am prepared. I'm always prepared.

Q A lot of the money that goes to count toward your \$8 billion is money that's being reprogrammed in the DOD budget. How can you guarantee to military families and to our men and women of the military that none of the money that would be reprogrammed to a wall will take away from other technology, other renovations, construction that is desperately needed in our military?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah. So, John, we had certain funds that are being used at the discretion of generals, at the discretion of the military. Some of them haven't been allocated yet, and some of the generals think that this is more important. I was speaking to a couple of them. They think this

is far more important than what they were going to use it for. I said, “What were you going to use it for?” And I won’t go into details, but it didn’t sound too important to me.

Plus, if you think, I’ve gotten \$700 billion for the military in year one, and then last year, \$716 billion. And we’re rebuilding our military, but we have a lot. And under the previous administration, our military was depleted — badly depleted. And they weren’t spending — I mean, they had a much less — they had a much smaller amount of money.

So when I got \$700 billion, and then \$716 billion — and this year, it’s going to be pretty big too, because there’s few things more important than our military. You know, I’m a big deficit believer and all of that, but before we really start focusing on certain things, we have to build up our military. It was very badly depleted. And we’re buying all new jetfighters, all new missiles, all new defensive equipment. We have — we’ll soon have a military like we’ve never had before.

But when you think about the kind of numbers you’re talking about — so you have \$700 billion, \$716 billion — when I need \$2 billion, \$3 billion of out that for a wall — which is a very important instrument, very important for the military because of the drugs that pour in. And as you know, we have specific rules and regulations where they have drugs, and what you can do in order to stop drugs. And that’s part of it, too.

We’re taking a lot of money from that realm also. But when you have that kind of money going into the military, this is a very, very small amount that we’re asking for.

Yeah, go ahead. Go ahead. ABC. Not NBC. I like ABC a little bit more — not much. Come on, ABC. Not much. Pretty close.

Q Mr. President, what do you say to those, including some of your Republican allies, who say that you are violating the Constitution with this move and setting a bad precedent that will be abused by possibly Democratic Presidents in the future? Marco Rubio has made this point.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, not too many people. Yeah. Not too many people have said that. But the courts will determine that.

Look, I expect to be sued. I shouldn’t be sued. Very rarely do you get sued when you do national emergency. And then other people say, “Oh, if you use it for this, now what are we using it for?” We

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got to get rid of drugs and gangs and people. It's an invasion. We have an invasion of drugs and criminals coming into our country that we stop, but it's very hard to stop. With a wall, it would be very easy.

So I think that we will be very successful in court. I think it's clear. And the people that say we create precedent — well, what do you have? Fifty-six? There are a lot of times — well, that's creating precedent. And many of those are far less important than having a border. If you don't have a border, you don't have a country.

You know, we fight — before I got here — we fight all over the world to create borders for countries, but we don't create a border for our own country.

So I think what will happen is, sadly, we'll be sued, and sadly, it'll go through a process. And, happily, we'll win — I think.

Go ahead. Let's go. Let's hear it, NBC. Come on.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. I just want to say, in the past, when President Obama tried to use executive action as it related to immigration, you said, "The whole concept of executive order, it's not the way the country is supposed to be run." You said, "You're supposed to go through Congress and make a deal." Will you concede that you were unable to make the deal that you had promised in the past, and that the deal you're ending up with now from Congress is less than what you could have had before a 35-day shutdown?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Look, I went through Congress. I made a deal. I got almost \$1.4 billion when I wasn't supposed to get one dollar — not one dollar. "He's not going to get one dollar." Well, I got \$1.4 billion. But I'm not happy with it. I also got billions and billions of dollars for other things — port of entries, lots of different things. The purchase of drug equipment. More than we were even requesting.

In fact, the primary fight was on the wall. Everything else, we have so much, as I said, I don't know what to do with it we have so much money. But on the wall, they skimped.

So I did — I was successful, in that sense, but I want to do it faster. I could do the wall over a longer period of time. I didn't need to do this. But I'd rather do it much faster. And I don't have to do it for

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the election. I've already done a lot of wall, for the election — 2020. And the only reason we're up here talking about this is because of the election, because they want to try and win an election, which it looks like they're not going to be able to do. And this is one of the ways they think they can possibly win, is by obstruction and a lot of other nonsense.

And I think that I just want to get it done faster, that's all.

Okay. Yes, ma'am, go ahead.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

Q Roberta Rampton from Reuters. I wanted to ask about China. Do you feel that enough progress has been made in the talks to head off the increase in tariffs scheduled for March 1?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you know, you're talking to the wrong person, because I happen to like tariffs, okay? I mean, we're taking in billions and billions of dollars in tariffs from China. And our steel industry now, as an example, we tax dumped steel — much of it comes from China — at 25 percent. Our steel industry is so vibrant now again, they're building plants all over the United States. It's a beautiful thing. And from a defensive standpoint, and from any standpoint, you need steel.

You know, you can do without certain industries. Our country cannot do without steel.

So, I love tariffs, but I also love them to negotiate. And right now, China is paying us billions of dollars a year in tariffs. And I haven't even started.

Now, here's the thing: If we make a deal, they won't have to pay. You know, it'll be a whole different story. They won't be paying that, but we'll have a fair deal. There won't be intellectual property theft. There won't be so many other things that have gone on. And no other President has done this. No other — you know, we didn't have a deal with China. You had the WTO, one of the worst trade deals ever made — probably even worse than NAFTA, if that's believable, which, you know, hard to believe, because I think NAFTA was just a disaster. It was a total disaster for our country.

And now we made the USMCA, which is going to be a terrific — a great deal. And, by the way, the USMCA, from Mexico — that's United States, Mexico, Canada — that's where the money is coming from, not directly but indirectly, for the wall. And nobody wants to talk about that. Because we're saving billions and billions of dollars a year, if Congress approves that deal.

Now, they might now want to approve a deal just because they'll say — one of the things I'm thinking of doing — this has never been done before: No matter how good a deal I make with China, if they sell me Beijing for one dollar, if they give me 50 percent of their land and every ship that they've built over the last two years — which is a lot — and they give them to me free, the Democrats will say, "What a lousy deal; that's a terrible deal."

Like, ZTE, I got a billion — more than a billion-dollar penalty in a short period of time. And the Democrats said, "Oh, should've gotten more." When I made that deal, I said, "This is incredible." I just got — I got over a billion-dollar penalty, plus they had to change their board of directors. They had to change their top management. But they had to pay over a billion dollars. I said, "What a deal." It took like a week. And the Democrats didn't even know there was a problem with ZTE.

I'm the one that find them. I'm the one that settled it. Over a billion dollars. And President Xi called me and he said it would be important to him if they could get a deal. And we made a deal — paid — like, in a short period of time.

The Democrats went out and said, "Oh, they should've done better." So what I'm thinking of doing is getting Chuck Schumer, getting Nancy Pelosi, having them bring two or three of their brilliant representatives. And we'll all go down together, and what we'll do is we'll negotiate. I'll put them in the room and let them speak up. Because any deal I make with China, if it's the great — it's going to be better than any deal that anybody ever dreamt possible, or I'm not going to have a deal. It's a very simple.

But any deal I make with China, Schumer is going to stand up and say, "Oh, it should've been better. It should've been better." And you know what? That's not acceptable to me. So I'm thinking about doing something very different. I don't think it's ever been — I just don't want to be second-guessed. But that's not even second-guess; that's called politics. Sadly, I'd probably do the same thing to them, okay?

But any deal I make toward the end, I'm going to bring Schumer — at least offer him — and Pelosi. I'm going to say, "Please join me on the deal."

And, by the way, I just see our new Attorney General is sitting in the front row. Please stand up, Bill. (Applause.) Such an easy job he's got. He's got the easiest job in government. Thank you and congratulations. That was a great vote yesterday. Thank you very much.

Q Mr. President —

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, go ahead. Go ahead.

Q In your remarks, sir, you said that you were too new to politics, earlier in your administration, when you would've preferred that this be done. Is that an admission of how you might be changing on the job? And —

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I'm learning. I mean, I am learning. Don't forget, it's not like I've done this for — a senator came into my office and said, "Sir, I've been running for office for 30 years. I've won seven out of seven. I did lose a couple when I was younger." I said, "Well, I've won one out of one. But, you know, I never did politics before. Now I do politics." I will tell you, I'm very disappointed at certain people, a particular one, for not having pushed this faster.

Q Are you referring to Speaker Ryan, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: But I've learned — who?

Q Speaker Ryan.

THE PRESIDENT: Let's not talk about it.

Q Okay.

THE PRESIDENT: What difference does it make? But they should have pushed it faster. They should have pushed it harder. And they didn't. They didn't.

If they would have, it would have been a little bit better. In the meantime, I've built a lot of wall. I have a lot of money, and I've built a lot of wall. But it would've been nice to have gotten done. And I would like to see major immigration reform, and maybe that's something we can all work on, Bill, where we all get together and do major immigration reform — not just for a wall, for a barrier; for port of entry, for other things.

We have a real problem. We have catch-and-release. You catch a criminal and you have to release them. We have so many other things. You have chain migration, where a bad person comes in, brings 22 or 23 or 35 of his family members — because he has his mother, his grandmother, his sister, his cousin, his uncle — they're all in.

You know what happened on the West Side Highway. That young wise guy drove over and killed eight people and horribly injured — nobody talks about that — horribly — like, loss of legs and arms — going 60 miles an hour, he made a right turn into a park on the West Side Highway, along the Hudson River in New York. He had many people brought in because he was in the United States. It's called chain migration.

And then you have the lottery. It's a horror show, because when countries put people into the lottery, they're not putting you in; they're putting some very bad people in the lottery. It's common sense. If I ran a country, and if I have a lottery system of people going to the United States, I'm not going to put in my stars; I'm going to put in people I don't want. The lottery system is a disaster. I'm stuck with it.

Q Mr. President, could you tell us —

THE PRESIDENT: It should have — wait. It should have never happened. Okay.

Q Mr. President, could you tell us to what degree some of the outside conservative voices helped to shape your views on this national emergency?

THE PRESIDENT: I would talk about it. Look, Sean Hannity has been a terrific, terrific supporter of what I do. Not of me. If I changed my views, he wouldn't be with me.

Rush Limbaugh — I think he's a great guy. Here's a guy who can speak for three hours without a phone call. Try doing that sometime. For three hours, he speaks. He's got one of the biggest

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audiences in the history of the world. I mean, this guy is unbelievable. Try speaking for three hours without taking calls. Taking calls is easy. “Okay, I’ll answer this one. I’ll answer that one.” He goes for three hours, and he’s got an audience that’s fantastic.

Q Should they be —

THE PRESIDENT: Wait —

Q Should they be deciding policy, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: They don’t decide policy. In fact, if I went opposite — I mean, they have somebody — Ann Coulter. I don’t know her. I hardly know her. I haven’t spoken to her in way over a year. But the press loves saying “Ann Coulter.” Probably, if I did speak to her, she’d be very nice. I just don’t have the time to speak to her. I would speak to her; I have nothing against her.

In fact, I like her for one reason: When they asked her, like right at the beginning, who was going to win the election, she said, “Donald Trump.” And the two people that asked her that question smiled. They said, “You’re kidding, aren’t you?” “Nope. Donald Trump.”

So I like her, but she’s off the reservation. But anybody that knows her understands that. But I haven’t spoken to her. I don’t follow her. I don’t talk to her. But the press loves to bring up the name “Ann Coulter.” And you know what? I think she’s fine. I think she’s good. But I just don’t speak to her.

Laura has been great. Laura Ingraham. Tucker Carlson has been great. I actually have a couple people on CNN that have been very good. I have some on MSNBC. The other day, they did a great report of me. I said, “Where the hell did that come from?” I think it was the only one in over a year.

So the crazy thing is, I just had, as you know, Rasmussen — 52 percent in the polls. It’s my highest poll number. And people get what we’re doing. They get it. They really get it. And I’m honored by it.

Yes. Jim Acosta.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. I wonder if you could comment on this disconnect that we seem to have in this country, where you are presenting information about what's happening at the border — calling it an “invasion,” talking about women with duct tape over their mouths, and so on — and yet there's a lot of reporting out there, there's a lot of crime data out there, there's a lot of Department of Homeland Security data out there that shows border crossings at a near-record low —

THE PRESIDENT: That's because of us. But it's still —

Q — that shows undocumented immigrants committing crime at lower levels —

THE PRESIDENT: Excuse me. It's still massive numbers of crossings.

Q — that shows undocumented criminals — or undocumented immigrants committing crime at lower levels than native-born Americans. What do you say —

THE PRESIDENT: You don't really believe that stat, do you? Do you really believe that stat?

Q What do you — well, let me ask you this —

THE PRESIDENT: Take a look at our federal prisons.

Q I believe in facts and statistics and data, but —

THE PRESIDENT: Okay? Any more? Quick, let's go.

Q Let me just ask you this: What do you say to your critics who say that you are creating a national emergency, that you're concocting a national emergency here in order to get your wall because you couldn't get it through other ways?

THE PRESIDENT: I ask the Angel Moms: What do you think? Do you think I'm creating something?

Ask these incredible women, who lost their daughters and their sons. Okay?

PARTICIPANT: This is real.

THE PRESIDENT: Because your question is a very political question because you have an agenda. You're CNN. You're fake news. You have an agenda. The numbers that you gave are wrong.

Take a look at our federal prison population. See how many of them, percentage-wise, are illegal aliens. Just see. Go ahead and see. It's a fake question.

Yes. Go ahead.

Q Can I ask a follow-up?

Q Thank you, Mr. President. Just to follow up on that, unifying crime reporting statistics — numbers from your own Border Patrol, numbers from this government — show that the amount of illegal immigrants are down, there is not violence on the border, and that most —

THE PRESIDENT: There's not violence on the border?

Q There's not as much violence as —

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, really?

Q Let me — wait a minute. Wait a minute. Wait —

THE PRESIDENT: You had 26 people killed —

Q Let me finish the question, please. Let me finish the question, please.

THE PRESIDENT: Two weeks ago, 26 people were killed in a gunfight on the border —

Q I understand what you're — I understand what you're saying.

THE PRESIDENT: — a mile away from where I went.

Q I was there. I understand. That's not the question. The question is —

THE PRESIDENT: Do we forget about that?

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Q No, I'm not forgetting about it. I'm asking you to clarify where you get your numbers, because most of the DEA crime reporting statistics that we see show that drugs are coming across at the ports of entry, that illegal immigration is down, and the violence is down.

THE PRESIDENT: Okay.

Q So what do you base your facts on?

THE PRESIDENT: Okay, let me — come on, let's go. Sort of — sort of —

Q And, secondly —

THE PRESIDENT: No, no. You get one. You get one. Ready?

Q Well, the second question is —

THE PRESIDENT: Just sit down. Wait. Sit down. Sit down.

Q Could you please answer it?

THE PRESIDENT: Sit down. You get one question.

I get my numbers from a lot of sources — like Homeland Security, primarily. And the numbers that I have from Homeland Security are a disaster. And you know what else is a disaster? The numbers that come out of Homeland Security, Kirstjen, for the cost that we spend and the money that we lose because of illegal immigration: Billions and billions of dollars a month. Billions and billions of dollars. And it's unnecessary.

Q So your own government stats are wrong, are you saying?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no. I use many stats. I use many stats.

Q Could you share those stats with us?

THE PRESIDENT: Let me tell you, you have stats that are far worse than the ones that I use. But I use many stats, but I also use Homeland Security.

All right, next question.

Q And do you — wait a minute. Just a quick follow-up.

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead. No. Go. Please.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. I just want to bring you back to China for a second. The White House put out a statement today talking about the March 1st deadline. The other day, though, you gave the possibility that maybe this could slide. Are you eyeing a possible extension — 30 days, maybe 60 days? What is the status there? Or is March 1st the deadline?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah. Very good question. So it's a very big deal. I guess you could say it's like — must be the biggest deal ever made, if you think. Trade with China, how big does that get? Although if you look, the USCMA is right up there. But it's very complicated. There are many, many points that we're bringing up that nobody ever brought up or thought to bring up, but they're very important, because we were on the wrong side of every one of them.

There is a possibility that I will extend the date. And if I do that, if I see that we're close to a deal or the deal is going in the right direction, I would do that at the same tariffs that we're charging now. I would not increase the tariffs.

Q Let me also ask you about the debt, sir, because it's gone from a shade under \$20 trillion from when you took office. Now it's a shade over \$22 trillion and heading in the wrong direction. What are your plans to reverse it?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it's all about growth. But before I —

Q (Inaudible.)

THE PRESIDENT: — really focus on that — and you have to remember, President Obama put on more debt on this country than every President in the history of our country combined. So when I took over, we had one man that put on more debt than every other President combined. Combine

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them all. So you can't be talking about that. But I talk about it because I consider it very important.

But first, I have to straighten out the military. The military was depleted. And if we don't have a strong military — that hopefully we won't have to use because it's strong — if we don't have a strong military, you don't have to worry about debt; you have bigger problems. So I have to straighten out the military. That's why I did the \$700- and \$716 billion. But growth will straighten it out.

You saw last month, the trade deficit went way down. Everybody said, "What happened?" Well, what's happening is growth. But before I can focus too much on that, a very big expense is military. And we have no choice but to straighten out our military.

Q Is growth the only answer, sir, or is (inaudible)?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, ma'am, go ahead.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. On North Korea — back on the last summit, you guys came out with a pretty general agreement.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q I was wondering what you thought has, you know, been accomplished since the last summit. And then —

THE PRESIDENT: A lot.

Q — are we going to be seeing anything concrete —

THE PRESIDENT: A lot has been accomplished. Okay.

Q — on denuclearization.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah. A lot has been accomplished. We're dealing with them, we're talking to them.

When I came into office, I met right there, in the Oval Office, with President Obama. And I sat in those beautiful chairs and we talked. It was supposed to be 15 minutes. As you know, it ended up being many times longer than that.

And I said, "What's the biggest problem?" He said, "By far, North Korea." And I don't want to speak for him, but I believe he would have gone to war with North Korea. I think he was ready to go to war. In fact, he told me he was so close to starting a big war with North Korea. And where are we now? No missiles. No rockets. No nuclear testing. We've learned a lot.

But much more importantly than all of it — much more important — much, much more important that that is we have a great relationship. I have a very good relationship with Kim Jong Un. And I've done a job. In fact, I think I can say this: Prime Minister Abe of Japan gave me the most beautiful copy of a letter that he sent to the people who give out a thing called the Nobel Prize. He said, "I have nominated you..." or "Respectfully, on behalf of Japan, I am asking them to give you the Nobel Peace Prize." I said, "Thank you." Many other people feel that way too. I'll probably never get it, but that's okay.

They gave it to Obama. He didn't even know what he got it for. He was there for about 15 seconds and he got the Nobel Prize. He said, "Oh, what did I get it for?" With me, I probably will never get it.

But if you look at Idlib Province in Syria, I stopped the slaughter of perhaps 3 million people. Nobody talk about that. They don't talk about that. Russia and Iran and Syria were going to go in and perhaps destroy 3 million people in order to get 45,000 terrorists. And I heard about it from a woman who had her parents and her brothers living there, and she said, "Please, please." And I thought — I said, "No, it can't happen. What are you talking about?" "No, they're going to get..." And I come home, and I read a certain paper where the story was there that they were actually forming to go into — to really — to really do big destruction. And I put out a statement that "you better not do it."

And in all fairness to Russia and Iran and Syria, they didn't attack. Or they're doing it surgically, at least. Saved a lot of people. We do a lot of good work. This administration does a tremendous job, and we don't get credit for it. But I think the people understand what we do.

So Prime Minister Abe gave me — I mean, it's the most beautiful five letter — five-page letter. Nobel Prize. He sent it to them. You know why? Because he had rocket ships and he had missiles flying

over Japan. And they had alarms going off; you know that. Now, all of a sudden, they feel good; they feel safe. I did that.

And it was a very tough dialogue at the beginning. Fire and fury. Total annihilation. “My button is bigger than yours” and “my button works.” Remember that? You don’t remember that. And people said, “Trump is crazy.” And you know what it ended up being? A very good relationship. I like him a lot and he likes me a lot. Nobody else would have done that.

The Obama administration couldn’t have done it. Number one, they probably wouldn’t have done it. And number two, they didn’t have the capability to do it.

So I just want to thank everybody. I want to wish our Attorney General great luck and speed, and enjoy your life. (Laughter.) Bill, good luck. A tremendous reputation. I know you’ll do a great job. Thank you very much. And thank you, everybody. Thank you very much. Thank you.

END 11:29 A.M. EST

Exhibit 14



FACT SHEETS

President Donald J. Trump's Border Security Victory

— NATIONAL SECURITY & DEFENSE

Issued on: February 15, 2019



“

I will never waver from my sacred duty to defend this Nation and its people. We will get the job done.

President Donald J. Trump

SECURING OUR BORDER: President Donald J. Trump is following through on his promise to secure the border with legislation and Executive action.

- President Trump was elected partly on his promise to secure the Southern Border with a barrier and, since his first day in office, he has been following through on that promise.
- As the President has said, sections of the border wall are already being built, and legislation and Executive actions are building on that progress.
- Executive action being taken by the President makes available additional funding to secure our border that is essential to our national security.

LEGISLATIVE WINS: President Trump secured a number of significant legislative victories in the Homeland Security appropriations bill that further his effort to secure the Southern Border and protect our country.

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- The funding bill contains robust resources and additional provisions to secure the border and strengthen immigration enforcement.
- The bill provides \$1.375 billion for approximately 55 miles of border barrier in highly dangerous and drug smuggling areas in the Rio Grande Valley, where it is desperately needed.
 - More than 40 percent of all border apprehensions occurred in the Rio Grande Valley sector in fiscal year (FY) 2018.
 - The Rio Grande Valley was the border sector with the most known deaths of illegal border crossers in FY 2018.
- \$415 million will go toward addressing the humanitarian crisis at the border by providing medical care, transportation, processing centers, and consumables.
- President Trump successfully rejected efforts by some to undercut Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) ability to uphold our laws and detain illegal aliens, including criminals.
 - ICE funding supports nearly 5,000 additional beds to detain illegal aliens and keep criminals off our streets.
- Customs and Border Protection will receive funding for 600 additional officers.
- This bill will help keep deadly drugs out of our communities by increasing drug detection at ports of entry, including opioid detection staffing, labs, and equipment.

A PROMISE TO ACT: President Trump is taking Executive action to ensure we stop the national security and humanitarian crisis at our Southern Border.

- President Trump is using his legal authority to take Executive action to secure additional resources, just as he promised. In part, he is declaring a national emergency that makes available additional troops and funding for military construction.
- Including funding in Homeland Security appropriations, the Administration has so far identified up to \$8.1 billion that will be available to build the border wall once a national emergency is declared and additional funds have been reprogrammed, including:
 - About \$601 million from the Treasury Forfeiture Fund

- Up to \$2.5 billion under the Department of Defense funds transferred for Support for Counterdrug Activities (Title 10 United States Code, section 284)
- Up to \$3.6 billion reallocated from Department of Defense military construction projects under the President's declaration of a national emergency (Title 10 United States Code, section 2808)
- These funding sources will be used sequentially and as needed.
- The Department of Homeland Security, Department of Defense, and the Army Corps of Engineers are working to create a prioritized list of segments and a work plan for the remainder of FY 2019 and beyond.
- New projects could include: new levee wall, new and replacement primary pedestrian barrier, new vehicle-to-pedestrian barrier, and new secondary barrier.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY ON OUR BORDER: The President is using his clear authority to declare a national emergency as allowed under the National Emergencies Act.

- Since 1976, presidents have declared nearly 60 national emergencies.
- Most of the previously declared national emergencies have been continually renewed and are still in effect, after being continually renewed.
- Multiple Governors have declared states of emergency along the border in the past.
- Former Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano, who became President Obama's DHS Secretary, declared a state of emergency along the border in 2005.
- Former New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson also declared a state of emergency at the border in 2005.
- Former President George W. Bush and former President Obama both directed the use of the military to assist DHS in securing and managing the Southern Border.
- Former President Bush declared a national emergency in 2001, which invoked reprogramming authority granted by Title 10 United States Code, section 2808, and both he and former President Obama used that authority a total of 18 times to fund projects between 2001 and 2014.

ADDRESSING THE CRISIS AT HAND: President Trump is taking the necessary steps to address the crisis at our Southern Border and stop crime and drugs from flooding into our Nation.

- Cartels, traffickers, and gangs, like the vile MS-13 gang, have taken advantage of our weak borders for their own gain.
- Immigration officers have made 266,000 arrests of criminal aliens in the last two fiscal years.
 - This includes aliens charged or convicted of approximately 100,000 assaults, 30,000 sex crimes, and 4,000 killings.
- Tons of deadly drugs have flooded across the border and into our communities, taking countless American lives.
 - Methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine, and fentanyl all flow across our Southern Border and destroy our communities.
 - More than 70,000 Americans died of drug overdoses in 2017 alone.
- Human traffickers exploit our borders to traffic young girls and women into our country and sell them into prostitution and slavery.
- Massive caravans of migrants view our unsecure border as a way to gain illegal entry into our country and take advantage of our nonsensical immigration loopholes.

Exhibit 15

Stenographic Transcript
Before the

COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES

UNITED STATES SENATE

HEARING TO RECEIVE TESTIMONY ON THE
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BUDGET POSTURE IN REVIEW OF
THE DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST FOR FISCAL YEAR
2020 AND THE FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

Thursday, March 14, 2019

Washington, D.C.

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1 HEARING TO RECEIVE TESTIMONY ON THE
2 DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BUDGET POSTURE IN REVIEW OF THE
3 DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020 AND THE
4 FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

5

6 Thursday, March 14, 2019

7

8 U.S. Senate
9 Committee on Armed Services
10 Washington, D.C.

11

12 The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 9:31 a.m. in
13 Room SD-G50, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. James M.
14 Inhofe, chairman of the committee, presiding.

15 Committee Members Present: Senators Inhofe
16 [presiding], Wicker, Fischer, Cotton, Rounds, Ernst,
17 Sullivan, Perdue, Cramer, McSally, Scott, Blackburn, Hawley,
18 Reed, Shaheen, Gillibrand, Blumenthal, Hirono, Kaine, King,
19 Heinrich, Warren, Peters, Manchin, Duckworth, and Jones.

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1 Senator Hirono: I'll get to the question.

2 Mr. Shanahan: All right.

3 Senator Hirono: -- as well as the impact of removing
4 that testing capacity from PMRF. So, briefly, could you
5 tell us how operationalizing the Aegis Ashore site in Kauai
6 would add to our ability to defend Hawaii from missile
7 threats, especially as the major missile threat to Hawaii
8 would be an ICBM, and the Aegis Ashore is not set up to
9 counter ICBMs?

10 Mr. Shanahan: My understanding of the request in the
11 MDR is that it's a study to assess taking the test assets
12 and operationalizing them. And, as you well point out, the
13 ground-based midcourse defense system that is resident in
14 Alaska defends Hawaii. I believe that the study will look
15 at what are other threats that may be posed to Hawaii, and
16 how there might be a layered defense. But, as you pointed
17 out, the test range there is vital capability and capacity
18 for developing our missile defense systems.

19 Senator Hirono: So, I want to make sure that my
20 concerns are in the record. For Secretary Shanahan and
21 General Dunford, 2 weeks ago before this committee, General
22 O'Shaughnessy, the North -- Northern Command Commander,
23 testified that the current situation at our southern border
24 is, to quote him, "not a military threat." Do you agree,
25 Secretary Shanahan, that the situation on the southern

1 border is not a military threat?

2 Mr. Shanahan: Senator, you're referring to General
3 O'Shaughnessy's testimony?

4 Senator Hirono: Yes.

5 Mr. Shanahan: Yeah. What I recall from his testimony
6 is, he said that it is not a military threat. He said
7 border security is national security.

8 Senator Hirono: I understand that. But, he said
9 specifically that the -- it's not a military threat. I'm
10 asking you whether you agree with him that --

11 Mr. Shanahan: I --

12 Senator Hirono: -- it's not a military threat.

13 Mr. Shanahan: I agree with him.

14 Senator Hirono: General Dunford?

15 General Dunford: I agree. It's a security challenge,
16 not a military threat.

17 Senator Hirono: So, you testified, Secretary -- Mr.
18 Secretary, that there are 6,000 troops currently deployed at
19 our southern border. Can you tell us how long they're going
20 to be there?

21 Mr. Shanahan: The -- I'd say 30 or 40 percent of them
22 will be departing in the next month or so when they complete
23 some of their work. And I believe we'll probably draw down
24 to between 3- and 4,000.

25 Senator Hirono: Is this something that the President

1 is indicating to you, or can he say that, "I want you all to
2 remain at the border"?

3 Mr. Shanahan: No, this was part of the tasking from
4 the Department of Homeland Security. And, based on their
5 request to us --

6 Senator Hirono: From the President.

7 Mr. Shanahan: From the Department.

8 Senator Hirono: Yes.

9 Let me get on to a matter that is of great concern to
10 some -- to a lot of us, actually. Secretary Shanahan, in
11 your response to Senator Inhofe's question about refueling
12 the Truman, you stated that growing the workforce in the
13 shipyard is a priority, and the move to not refuel the
14 Truman would save 3.4 billion over 5 years. And how does
15 canceling 3 years of shipyard work grow the workforce there?

16 Mr. Shanahan: Yeah. The workforce -- when we look at
17 what is in the shipyard, so the combination of submarines,
18 new carriers, and then maintenance, all that is done in the
19 same shipyards, and that workforce moves from project to
20 project. So, when we look at the total employment, the
21 actual total employment goes up over the period of time in
22 which we're building the two carriers.

23 Senator Hirono: Frankly, as I talk with some of the
24 people from the shipyards, I'm not so sure that that is the
25 case. And it'll cost about 3.4 billion to refuel the

Exhibit 16

QUARTZ

DISPATCHED

The US border situation isn't a national emergency, Pentagon officials tell Congress

By Heather Timmons • January 29, 2019



JESSE UNTALAN/VIA REUTERS

Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force 7 places concertina wire near Otay Mesa, California, November 27, 2018..

Congress members tasked with overseeing the US's massive military grilled Pentagon officials today (Jan. 29) on one of Donald Trump most controversial orders—sending troops to the border with Mexico to handle a caravan of Central American immigrants.

The bipartisan House Armed Services Committee, which includes many of Congress's military veterans and oversees a \$700 billion annual defense budget, probed the cost of the order and its impact on other military operations during a three-hour hearing. The event raised questions about Trump's motivations for declaring a "national emergency" on the border, which he threatened to do if he's not happy with the outcome of ongoing talks on border security

You have 2 free stories remaining this month.

SER270

<https://qz.com/1536879/trump-border-wall-isnt-an-emergency-pentagon-tells-congress/>

A Congressional committee is currently negotiating a border security budget, a condition under a deal struck by Trump and Democrats last week to temporarily reopen the US government. Until then, the president had refused to sign a spending bill that didn't contain funding for a border wall.

Trump's wall plans have been criticized in part because the number of people being apprehended at the Southern border is at historical lows, and most of the drugs coming from the south travel through ports of entry, not the areas where a wall would be constructed. Today, Pentagon officials indicated that they don't consider the situation at the border a threat to US security.

For example, they said US troops there aren't operating on an emergency footing. "Given the threat description that surrounded this order," are the service members on the border getting the extra bonus that active duty troops receive when they're deployed to an area near hostile fire or mine explosions, asked Joe Courtney, a Connecticut Democrat. "No, sir," responded vice admiral Michael Gilday, operations director for the Joint Staff, the senior Pentagon council that advises the White House.

Paul Mitchell, a Michigan Republican, asked what the military is doing at the border that couldn't be handled by the Department of Homeland Security, if they had the funding for it.

Nothing, was the short answer. "None of the capabilities that we are providing are combat capabilities," Gilday said. "It's not a war zone along the border."

Does the 2018 "National Defense Strategy," the Pentagon's annual review that's used to allocate resources based on security threats, contain the term "Southern border," or the word "caravan?" asked Bill Keating, the Massachusetts Democrat. No, Pentagon officials said.

The Trump White House ordered the military to send over 5,000 active duty military to the US's southern border last October, just

their way on foot through Mexico. Dubbed “Operation Faithful Patriot,” the troops strung miles of concertina wire on fences on the Arizona and Texas border, even as many of the immigrants headed to a legal port of entry in California.



U.S. ARMY/SGT. KYLE LARSEN VIA REUTERS

US soldiers at the DeConcini port of entry in Nogales, Arizona, November 27, 2018.

More than 2,000 troops are still on the US southern border, Pentagon officials said today, as well as over 2,000 National Guard troops. They’re providing security for CBP officials, operating surveillance cameras, and stringing more wire. Acting Defense Department secretary Patrick Shanahan told reporters today “several thousand” more troops were being dispatched “soon” following a DHS request.

The cost for the active duty troops could total over \$130 million by the end of this month, Pentagon officials said, while the cost of National Guard troops there is estimated to be about \$550 million through the 2019 fiscal year that ends in September.

The military is preparing in the event Trump does declare a national emergency, said John Rood, the Pentagon’s under secretary for Defense. “We have done pre-planning to understand the law and the obligations,” the military may have, he said, but he refused to

estimate what it might cost, or discuss any details. “We have not made any decisions,” he said.

Pentagon officials’ answers during the hearing suggest that they don’t believe an emergency declaration is warranted. When asked which of the military’s stated missions on the border is the most pressing, whether stopping human trafficking, the flow of illegal drugs, or border crossers, Gilday didn’t choose, but admitted that overall drug enforcement operations have not been at the top of the military’s list.

Globally, the Trump administration has prioritized China, Russia, North Korea, and Iran, he said, and the military has followed suit.

“We just can’t do it all,” Gilday added.

Exhibit 17

Transcript

DOD Briefing on Use of 2808 MILCON Funds for Construction of the Border Wall

SEPT. 3, 2019

Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) Elaine McCusker; Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Global Security Ken Rapuano; Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs Jonathan Hoffman; Lieutenant General Andrew Poppas, J3, Joint Staff

ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE JONATHAN HOFFMAN: All right. Good afternoon, everybody. Hello again. Thank you for being here today. I'm joined by Acting Under Secretary of Defense Comptroller Elaine McCusker, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Global Security Ken Rapuano, and the J3 of the Joint Staff, Lieutenant General Andrew Poppas.

Today's briefing is going to be off-camera, on the record. Audio can be used for accurate reporting, but is not to be used in any broadcast products.

We're here to provide an update on the use of 2808 MILCON [military construction] funds for construction of necessary border wall along the U.S. southern border. We will walk through the process the department took to reach a decision on whether to use that funding, and what the final decision is.

On April 4, 2018, the commander in chief issued a presidential directive that ordered DOD to take all necessary actions to assist the Department of Homeland Security in gaining operational control of the southern border.

On Feb. 15, 2019, the president declared a national emergency at the southern border, requiring the use of the armed forces and authorizing the use of Title 10, U.S. Code, Section 2808.

On Feb. 18, 2019, then-Acting Secretary Patrick Shanahan requested from the Department of Homeland Security, a list of prioritized proposed border construction projects that would support the use of the armed forces to assist Customs and Border Protection in securing the southern border.

Since that date, the department has been conducting a deliberate process to consider whether those military construction projects are necessary to support the use of the armed forces in conjunction with the national emergency at the southern border, and which military construction projects should be deferred to fund such emergency construction.

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Joseph Dunford, concluded that military construction projects are necessary to support the use of the armed forces.

Constructing physical barriers along the southern border of the United States is necessary to support the use of the armed forces, in conjunction with the national emergency, because such construction will allow DOD to reprioritize forces conducting military missions that assist DHS in gaining operational control of the southern border, thereby making the use of military personnel more effective and efficient.

Informed by the chairman's analysis and advice, and the department's analysis, Secretary Esper has determined that such construction projects are necessary to support the use of the armed forces, and therefore DOD will undertake 11 border barrier military construction projects on the southern border, pursuant to section 2808 of Title 10 of U.S. code. Once we determined that such military projects were necessary on the southern border, we conducted a logical and thorough process to determine which military construction projects should be deferred to fund the emergency construction. Our strategy was to limit the impact of military construction projects within the United States and its territories.

Further, the identified projects for deferral did not include family housing, barracks or dormitory projects; did not include projects that had already been awarded; and did not include projects that were expected to have fiscal year 2019 award dates. There will be two tranches of funds made available to the Department of the Army for the section 2808 MILCON projects totaling \$3.6 billion. The first tranche of funds is associated with deferred military construction projects outside of the United States. This will provide approximately \$1.8 billion of the required funds. The second tranche, also totaling \$1.8 billion, is associated with deferred military construction projects located in the United States and the U.S. territories.

These funds will be made available to the secretary of the Army only if and when it is needed for obligation. These projects are important. The intent is prioritizing funds in this manner, is to provide time to work with Congress to determine opportunities to restore funds, as well as work with our allies and partners on improving cost -- cost burden sharing for the overseas construction projects. Department of Defense components and military departments provided input and prioritized projects based on effects on readiness and consistency with the National Defense Strategy.

We will not release the list of affected projects today. The secretary has made a commitment to members of Congress whose states and districts are affected that they will receive a personal update prior to the full list being made public. Those notifications are underway and we expect they will be completed tomorrow. When that process is complete, we will release the full list. To be clear, we will not -- we will have no additional information on specific projects affected today. So with that, we'll open it up to questions.

Q: Jonathan, you're not going to release the list of projects. Can you tell us how many there are in each of the two categories? Like a number? You know, there's 40 here, 20 there, whatever.

ACTING UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (COMPTROLLER) ELAINE MCCUSKER: So there's 127 projects overall on the total list. I think I'd like to withhold giving details of how that breaks out until we actually talk to the members of Congress.

Q: Even in national versus domestic? That would seem like not...

MS. MCCUSKER: Yeah, it's nothing that we've discussed with them today, and so I'm trying to be sensitive to the fact that the secretary wants to make sure that the members of Congress get full notification before we -- we give the news to anyone else.

MR. HOFFMAN: OK. Yes.

Q: Hi, thanks. Tara Copp from McClatchy.

Just to follow on Lita's question, could you give us a general description? Are the majority international, the majority of the projects?

MS. MCCUSKER: As Jonathan mentioned, the funding for the projects splits pretty evenly between those outside the United States at \$1.8 billion and those that are in the 50 United States and our territories at \$1.8 billion.

Q: And besides the -- you know, the 2020 benchmark for funding, given the needs across the force, how did you prioritize which projects to keep funding in and which to take from?

MS. MCCUSKER: It really was mostly related to projected award dates. I mean, we had some really good input from the components and the military services on their prioritization for projects. We looked at readiness issues. We looked at the National Defense Strategy.

When it came down to it, given where we are in the fiscal year, we really tried to preserve a flexibility to make sure that we wouldn't have award dates coming up too soon, that we wouldn't get an opportunity to backfill those projects. And so, what we have on the list are recap projects, projects for which we have an existing capability that can last from -- in a temporary way, until we can get these projects built.

Q: Can you tell us if it's a new part of wall, or if it's a wall already existing that you are consolidating or reinforcing?

MS. MCCUSKER: It's both.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR HOMELAND DEFENSE AND GLOBAL SECURITY

KEN RAPUANO: It is both. It is replacing vehicular wall in some places. It is adding an additional secondary wall -- or a barrier is the more accurate description -- in other places. So it's a combination of areas where there was no barrier previously and areas where they're -- we're replacing existing, older, less capable barriers.

MR. HOFFMAN: Yeah, I think the key -- the key to what Ken is saying there, is that this will all go -- funding will all go to adding significantly new capabilities to DHS's ability to prevent illegal entry. In areas where we go from, say, a vehicle barrier to a 30-foot wall, will add significant new set of capabilities that don't exist previously.

Q: And can you tell us how many miles it add -- adds?

ASST. SEC. RAPUANO: The total mileage is -- for the project for 2808 is 175 miles.

Q: New miles or...

Q: New miles?

MR. RAPUANO: So these are -- as Jonathan just described, they're a combination of new barrier, where old vehicular barriers or -- or much less capable barriers in terms of the way they were constructed and the ease of illegal crossing is -- these will -- these will replace those barriers.

Q: Sorry, go ahead.

Q: Travis Tritten, Bloomberg Government.

How would you describe the effect on these 127 projects? Would you say that they are being delayed, or would you say the hope is that Congress is going to backfill those projects and there wouldn't be an effect?

MS. MCCUSKER: The way we're describing it, is really deferred. If Congress were to backfill the projects, our request -- and our request, none of the projects would be delayed, but we do realize this could cause some delay. They're definitely not canceled.

Q: Bill Hennigan, Time.

You said 11 different projects. Can you describe what those projects are? And also with the 175 miles, what states will you be seeing that barrier go up in?

MR. HOFFMAN: Ken, do you want to talk about the list and then we can...

Exhibit 19

**REMARKS**

Remarks by President Trump During Visit to the Border Wall | San Diego, CA

IMMIGRATIONIssued on: **September 19, 2019**

Otay Mesa Border Wall Site
San Diego, California

September 18, 2019
3:11 P.M. PDT

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, why don't you start, Kevin? And this has been a very exciting project, as you know. It's — for many years, people have wanted the proper wall and we have a wall that — the likes of which, very few places have ever seen.

And I want to thank all of the people. General Semonite from the Army Corps of Engineers — we're working very closely with them. I want to thank Kevin and all of your staff —

ACTING SECRETARY MCALEENAN: Thank you, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: — because what they've done is beyond.

And I wanted to show you some of the details of the wall. You can see — you can see a pretty good view. This is going to be close to 500 miles by the time we finish. Those are the areas that are most important.

SER281

After we've completed 5- — that should be done pretty close to next year. Over — it'll be over 400 miles. And we think we can get it close to 500 miles by the end of next year, depending on certain terrain conditions. But we're doing all of the most important areas. We have a lot of natural barriers, like mountains and streams and rivers and — some pretty vicious and violent rivers, actually. But it's — it's an amazing project.

And I think what I'd like you to do is if you could explain the interior of these pipes. The wall is 30 feet high. We also have 18-foot wall. We have a combination of 30 feet and 18 [feet], depending on the area, depending on the — on the importance.

Tijuana is right over here. There are thousands of people over there that had been trying to get in. Tremendous cooperation from Mexico. And the President of Mexico has been fantastic. All of Mexico has been fantastic. As you know, right now they have 27,000 soldiers. So, in addition to the wall, we have the soldiers.

Now, the wall still, obviously, has a ways to go, but we're building it at a breakneck speed. I wanted them to show you the interior of parts of the wall and what's inside of each individual slat. And you'll see it's a combination of steel, concrete, and — as one of the folks just said — it really is virtually impenetrable. Any walls that were put up would get knocked down very quickly, very easily. This wall is not something that can be really knocked down. I guess anything can, but this is very tough.

And it goes down six feet. It's three and four feet wide. The concrete — you see it right here; it's exposed. And I might ask General Semonite to say a few words about it.

And I'd like to bring them right up — look at the inner tube — to see what happens. Because after the wall is up, we pour concrete, and concrete goes into the tube. And in addition to that, we have rebar. So if you think you're going to cut it with a blowtorch, that doesn't work because you hit concrete. And then if you think you're going to go through the concrete, that doesn't work because we have very powerful rebar inside.

So it's a very powerful, very powerful wall — the likes of which, probably, to this extent, has not been built before.

This is an area — because it's so highly trafficked, this was one of the most dangerous areas. We have a double wall. We have a wall on both sides. One is 18 feet; that's your border. And the other one is 30 feet. And everybody — if they should be able to make that, this is where people are waiting for them. It's a very — a very powerful situation.

So, General, maybe you could take over for a couple of minutes, and then I'll take it back.

GENERAL SEMONITE: So, Mr. President, I want to build on your comments. This is a system. It is both the two walls, but it also is the road networks, down through the middle and the back, so that the Customs and Border can go ahead and continue to be able to move around it. Also, a lighting system.

And if you think about this, I mean, it really is kind of a defense in depth. When you think about these panels going up — right now, we're putting in about 270 panels a day that are going in the ground. We've got over 44,000 panels that are already built. And you think about the depth of how we're doing it.

Without getting into a lot of details: 66 miles today are already completed. There's 251 miles that are under contract, going in the ground right now at 17 other sites. There's 163 miles that are actually on contracts that are going to be (inaudible) in the next 90 days. And the remainder of the miles the President talked about is mainly private land that takes a little bit longer to get.

One of the things I want to just remind you about: That when you have a football field — kind of a flat area like this — it's a little bit easier to build a wall. But if you just turn around and look at the mountain behind you, one of the projects that's going to go up in the next year continues this barrier right up over the rest of that mountain. So it goes back to being able to — we've got to have this linear capability to be able to continue to provide that level of defense.

We will talk — this is what the bollards look like. Thirty feet high on the backside. And you'll see, on the inside, there was a time —

THE PRESIDENT: Come on over here, if you want. You can bring the cameras. It's sort of interesting.

GENERAL SEMONITE: — where people were worried that maybe you could negotiate — you could negotiate through the bollard.

So what the bollard is now, again, is that there are two pieces of rebar — 12 feet long — that are inside the bollard. And then, when we put it up, we put concrete in. I won't tell you the depth of the concrete, but it is a pretty substantial obstacle to be able to go through.

And I would defer to you, Commissioner, for anything else you want to add.

ACTING COMMISSIONER MORGAN: Yeah. Thanks, General. So a very important part of this — and that's why the President was talking about the (inaudible). Right here, what we — part of what the wall gets is, is it gets the men and women of CBP, specifically Border Patrol, operational capacity to get to the area where people are trying to illegally cross.

Before — the old landing style — they could cut through that in seconds. Sometimes, they could come in a vehicle and just knock it over, and literally, within seconds, they were in the United States illegally. This makes it almost impenetrable.

Right now, they've had four attempts to cut through this. All four times it's failed. Border Patrol has been able to respond and interdict those individuals.

This, right here — this design — it's a game changer.

THE PRESIDENT: And the reason we pour the concrete afterwards is because it's too heavy to lift when the concrete is poured in. So we put it up and we pour the concrete. A lot of people don't see that. But we pour the concrete afterwards.

So you have the rebar, you have the steel, and then you have concrete. And it's hardened concrete. Very powerful concrete. What is that — 4,000 pounds or 5,000-pound concrete?

GENERAL SEMONITE: That would be 5,000, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: That's a very strong — that's a very powerful concrete. And a lot of technological advances have been made with concrete. It sounds pretty simple, but it's not. It's a very powerful concrete.

So you have the rebar, you have the outer crust, and you have the inside is concrete. And it's pretty amazing. And, again, the concrete is poured after it's up. They pour it through funnels and cover much of the territory of the bollard.

GENERAL SEMONITE: Mr. President, also, this is a great view to look at the anti-climb. I defer to the Commissioner to explain what that panel does.

ACTING COMMISSIONER MORGAN: Hey, you know what? I'd actually turn this over right now to our chief patrol agent right now, Agent Harrison. He's really going to be able to give you, from an agent's perspective, exactly the magnitude of what this wall — the operational capacity — gives the Border Patrol agents.

AGENT HARRISON: Thank you, Commissioner and Mr. President. So, so you know, sir, this is the wall that the agents asked for. And they wanted me to tell you personally that they appreciate this — and not only this here, but the extension that — it's bringing the secondary out, further out. They really appreciate it. It makes them safer —

THE PRESIDENT: Right. You've been great. You guys have been great.

AGENT HARRISON: — it makes the community safer, and it allows us to make that apprehension here in the border zone, as opposed to getting in vehicles and getting in pursuits on the highway. We want to make that apprehension here.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you know, just in terms of the quality, I came with the Border Patrol — we worked with them very closely. I said, "Fellas, how about doing a less expensive version?" They said, "Well, this is the version that works" — including the poured concrete in the steel, with the rebar and everything else. That's the Rolls Royce version.

Then I said, "Well, fellas, how about doing one wall instead of two?" In a lot of areas, we have two — where you have tremendous amounts of people on the other side trying to break through. We know exactly where those areas are — Tijuana being over here, as I said. And they said, "Well, sir, two works much better in these areas." A lot more expensive. So, we have the one side, on the border — 18 [feet]. And then we have over here, 30 feet.

And I think one of the things you were asking, Mark, and wanted somebody to explain is the protection on top — how that stops. It's an anti-climb device, if you look at the steel on top. It's also structural, but actually it was there, more importantly, for anti-climb.

Do you want to explain that? The panels up top.

AGENT HARRISON: So it's one thing to figure out how to navigate the vertical posts, but the transition at the top makes the climb orders of magnitude more difficult. It requires different equipment, different tools, different skills. And so it's the change, as we get to the top, that adds to the protection of that fence, sir.

ACTING COMMISSIONER MORGAN: And, again, anything that we can do to give the Border Patrol agent even a few more seconds, a few more minutes to respond — that's a game changer.

And, sir, if you don't mind, I think this is important to talk about. The chief patrol agent just mentioned — is that there's a false narrative out there that this wall is the President's vanity wall. I'm here to tell you right now that's false. This President, this administration — what they did is exactly what the President just explained. He reached out to the experts — to the Border Patrol agents that are on the frontlines every single day, risking their lives protecting this country, enforcing the laws that Congress enacted. He reached out to those agents, to those line agents, and asked, "What do you need to do your job more effectively to secure and safeguard this country?" And those Border Patrol agents said, "We need this."

So, this President — thank you. You listened to the agents and you gave them exactly what they asked for.

THE PRESIDENT: This is your maximum that you can do. And one thing we haven't mentioned is technology. They're wired so that we will know if somebody is trying to break through. And you may want to discuss that a little bit, General.

GENERAL SEMONITE: Sir, there could be some merit in not discussing that.

THE PRESIDENT: Okay. (Laughter.) I like that. That was a great answer. I'll just tell you they're wired, okay? They're wired. They're, technologically, very advanced. All set up for cameras any place we want. We have all of the — everything we need. But it's all set up for cameras, for

anything. And you've been hearing "drone technology" — they're all wired out for drone technology. Anything you want, we have.

And, frankly, this is the right time to do it. Because to do it later, after it's built is very expensive. This way, it's mostly just adding wire. So we're all set up to adapt.

And that's the story. We have certain areas like this, where you have double walls. If you look behind, you can see how it goes up the hill. And that goes many miles in that direction. And we're starting now many miles in this direction.

We also have — it all fits together like a puzzle. How many sites would you say, over the next period of time, will have been started construction?

GENERAL SEMONITE: Sir, probably about 35 sites. At any one given point, all working — and some of the contractors, actually — if they're building five miles, they might have one on one end, one on the other, and one in the middle, so they get the maximum amount of people building at the same time.

THE PRESIDENT: So we have different bids and different contractors. This is one contractor — an excellent contractor, by the way. They're doing a really good job. But we have many contractors bidding on many different parts in different states — in Arizona; New Mexico, where I just left. We have great contractors bidding, and we're starting walls in New Mexico. The Arizona wall are moving along really well. They're really moving along rapidly, and they need them desperately.

And part of the beauty — sometimes you'll see the tunneling, where they go under the wall. Here, this goes down — the concrete goes down very deep. It's very hard to tunnel. You can't tunnel. It's actually dangerous. But, at a certain point, you hit rock, so you can't tunnel. So we have it covered underground. We have it covered over ground.

And this is — as I said, this is the finest you can do. I said, "Let's do it differently. We don't have to go 30 feet." They said, "Sir, if you don't do 30 feet, it won't be the same, because of the climb."

We actually built prototypes and we have, I guess you could say, world-class mountain climbers. We got climbers. We had 20 mountain climbers. That's all they do; they love to climb mountains. They can have it. Me, I don't want to climb mountains. But they're very good. And some of them

were champions. And we gave them different prototypes of walls, and this was the one that was hardest to climb.

And we've all seen the pictures of young people climbing walls with drugs on their back — a lot of drugs. I mean, they're unbelievable climbers. This wall can't be climbed. This is very, very hard.

And what the panel does on top, as I said, is structural, but it's also very hard to get by panel. Plus, it's designed to absorb heat, so it's extremely hot. The wall is — you won't be able to touch it. You can — you can fry an egg on that wall. It's very, very hot.

So if they're going to climb it, they're going to have bring hoses and waters — water. And we don't know where they're going to hook it up, because there's not a lot of water out here. So it's a very, very hard thing to climb.

We were thinking about an all-concrete wall — this is a much more expensive version — but they want to be able to have a vision in through — looking through Mexico, looking in both directions. They have to be able to because otherwise you have a block; you can't see what's going on on the other side. They can build — literally, they could have a group of some pretty tough people out there. And we don't want to do that.

You may want to explain that. Why would you want — you need this vision. It was so important. Because, frankly, an all-concrete wall would have been a much less expensive wall to build. But from the standpoint of Border Patrol, they were very much opposed to it.

Go ahead.

AGENT HARRISON: So, sir, as you mentioned, it — our agents patrol along these walls.

THE PRESIDENT: Right.

AGENT HARRISON: And as they get closer to that, being able to see the threat through the wall prior to a rock coming over the fence or something else coming over the fence at them is just — it's an officer-safety thing, sir. And we appreciate it.

THE PRESIDENT: Good. Yeah. It worked out. And I understood.

SER288

It's sort of interesting; I always envisioned maybe it's a solid concrete wall. And that would have been easy to do. But every time I had a meeting with Border Patrol, with ICE, with the General, with the — everybody involved — with Kevin, with Mark, they said, "Sir, we have to be able to see through. If you don't see through, this thing is not going to work. It's not going to be a good situation."

They even talk about things where somebody would be talking on one side of the wall and they would throw up bags of drugs that weigh 100 pounds. They would catapult it up and over the wall. And it was — I mean, we've had instances where people got hit on the other side because you don't see who's over there. So having the wall, though it's more expensive, but it's the right thing to do.

And people that have seen it — other countries are now coming, as you know, and they're studying the wall, because other people are thinking about something. The only thing is, I'm not sure that they can afford a wall like this. This is —

Q Which countries?

THE PRESIDENT: This is really — I will tell you at a certain point if I get their approval. We've had three of them already. They're coming and they're studying the wall. But I'll let you know. If I can get their approval, I'll give that.

Who asked that? Jeff?

Q That was me.

THE PRESIDENT: I'll give you that information if I can. I want to ask their approval first, okay?

So that's pretty much it. Again, the President of Mexico has been great. The soldiers who are right outside — we have a lot of soldiers right now — they've been great. Twenty-seven thousand, I think, is the number, as of today.

And this will be something very special. I want to thank Mark. And I want to thank Kevin. And I want to thank you. Really fantastic job they've done. The whole — the whole group. Border Patrol has been incredible. And the knowledge that you've imparted — who would think this is what we had to do? But that's it.

SER289

When you look down here, you'll see on a more flat area — this is fairly flat — you'll see what the wall looks like, and it's pretty impressive.

If the cameras can look down here — and these are the real people. These are the workers that put up the wall, by the way. All of these guys, they don't do as much of that. (Laughter.) But these guys do a great job, but we appreciate it, fellas. These are the ones that are here.

Each one of these is considered a panel. When they said — how many panels are you going to put up?

GENERAL SEMONITE: Over 44,000 are in right now, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Forty-four thousand are already in. Each one of these — if you look they're — they're together. So each one of these, I think, they have — so they would have — yeah — like eight? Eight.

ACTING SECRETARY MCALEENAN: Yes sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Eight bollards.

ACTING SECRETARY MCALEENAN: Right.

THE PRESIDENT: And each one of them — so I guess it's mostly an eight bollard. We also have some very sophisticated openings when you have to get the Border Patrol through or various people through to the other side. We have some really beautiful openings that work, I hear, really well. I hear we finally figured that one out, right?

That's — that was not an easy thing to figure out because of the weight. The weight is — it's tremendously heavy.

But if you look down here, you'll see what the wall looks like. And the beautiful thing is that people are seeing that we're not going to do — in another week, I understand — no more catch and release. We're not allowing people into the country at all anymore. Nobody is coming in unless they're coming in legally. They're coming in through a process.

We have it covered between 27,000 Mexican soldiers. And, really, now the wall is starting to kick in very big. San Diego was just — they were just thanking me for the wall we built in San Diego. It's like — they said it's a difference of day and night. They actually said, "It's 100 percent."

The only thing is we have to now expand it out. The only way they get through to walk many, many miles in the opposite direction — one way or the other — and go around it. But going over it is impossible — is virtually impossible. But they were very, very happy with what we've done.

So the days — and I tell you this very strongly: No more people can come in. We wanted Congress to help us. It would have made life very easy. And we still want them to get rid of loopholes, but we've done it a different way. We've done it with the help of Mexico. We've done it with the help of Border Patrol. And we've done it with the help of Kevin and all of your great people, and Mark. We've done it a different way.

We still want them to do it because it would be a little bit easier, but Congress wouldn't do it. When I say "Congress" — the Democrats just wouldn't do it. So now we have a world-class security system at the border, including the highest technology. I would think that there's no place like this anywhere. There's no place has anything like this or even close to it.

Now, other places have guards and, unfortunately, they have machine guns and they have electrified fences. You touch them and you get electrocuted. We don't do that. We don't do that. But this is something that is equally difficult to get across.

Okay?

Q Can you explain what was here before? Was there fencing here? Was there anything here?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah. We had a very low fencing here. In fact, you were here before, I think. We had a very low fencing. It was a — like a sheet metal. And people would knock it over, like just routinely. And we ripped it out.

We have a lot of areas where we had that and even less than that, and then we have areas where we had nothing. We had some areas where we just had a pipe along the ground and that, sort of, stopped cars or trucks, but they'd knock that out pretty quickly.

So those are areas — but, in this case, we had — you saw it — it was sheet rock. It was like sheet metal. A very thin — used to build runways, as just a form to build runways. And they had a lot of it left over years ago, and they put it up. But it would be knocked down on a daily basis.

Tell them about that.

ACTING SECRETARY MCALEENAN: Can I offer, Mr. President? This is the same area that we had the prototypes built. The President was here 18 months ago. We now have 24 miles of new primary and secondary wall in this sector.

The difference that makes for us, operationally is, instead of 3[00] to 500 people crossing a day, we're now seeing 30 to 50. And combined with our partnership with Mexico, where people aren't being released into the U.S., the traffic in this sector has dropped dramatically. That's how your strategy is coming into play.

THE PRESIDENT: And the only way you get to 50 is they walk around the areas like this that aren't — you know, we haven't sealed this up yet. We'll be sealing this up very shortly, or, in part of this, we have a gate. But the only way you get the 50 — nobody is going over the wall. But where we are still building it, that's where they get the 50.

We think it's going to be close to 100 percent in the end. I don't think anybody is — I guess, maybe, one of the greatest pole vaulters in history can get over the low — (laughter) — the low one, but it's going to be very painful when they land, right?

Q Mr. President, it's been about six or seven months since you declared a national emergency here at the border. Do you still consider the country — the situation at the border a national emergency?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah. Sure.

Q And what will — how will you measure success? When will you withdraw that declaration?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think — I think, really, the success is going to be when the wall is built, when human traffickers can't go through. You can understand, Phil. Right here, nobody is coming through this here. If they got through here, they have go through here. And they drive — they make

a left turn up here and someplace where they didn't have anything, and they drive into the country and usually go unnoticed. And if they are noticed, it's a big deal. It's — a big chase goes on.

I think that the — we certainly — this is certainly a tremendous national emergency because of human trafficking, drugs, and people coming in illegally. And, in many cases, those people have criminal records. And we don't want them in our country.

Q And will troops be here indefinitely?

THE PRESIDENT: The Mexican troops? Indefinitely.

Q No. Any U.S. troops.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we're lowering it down. As we build the wall, we can just about take all of the troops out and Border Patrol takes over. Border Patrol has really been taking over now anyway.

People are hearing about the wall and they're not coming up nearly as much either. You know, when you're in Guatemala — and, by the way, I want to thank, also, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador. The leaders of those countries have really been working with us very strongly. And in all fairness, they weren't at the beginning, but they are now.

And, in a couple of cases — in all cases, ultimately, we'll be doing the safe third agreements. We already have them. In certain instances, we already have them. And we're talking about that.

But the thing is, when people see this — and it's, you know, one of the reasons I'm doing it today: People see this and they say, "Hey, there's no reason to make that long journey up, because we're not getting into the United States."

AGENT HARRISON: If I could jump in, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, please.

AGENT HARRISON: So to your point, although we've had a 43 percent decrease from May to August of this year, we're still 55 percent over last year. This is still a crisis. We've still got high numbers coming.

Q For the Mexicans who do want to come over illegally, is the administration doing anything to streamline immigration?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, they come over illegally. They're not going to be able to get over, so they're going to try —

Q Legally.

THE PRESIDENT: — and come in. So that if they want to try and come in — when the wall is built, it will be virtually impossible to come over illegally. And then we're able to take Border Patrol and put them at your points of entry, where you need some extra help and extra protection. And we're able to do a lot of things.

But the numbers now are way down. And as the wall goes up — literally, as the wall goes up, the numbers go down. But also, the Mexican soldiers have been incredible. They've really done a good job.

Q But for the great Mexicans citizens who want to come over legally, are we doing anything to streamline —

THE PRESIDENT: No, no. When they want to come over legally, we make it absolutely — in my opinion, it will be easier. They'll have passes. They'll have whatever we're going to sign. That's being worked on right now. And the farmers won't be hurt at all when we have — you know, as we — as you know, we have many people coming over from Mexico, and from certain other countries. And they're coming through legally or they're coming through with a work pass.

And do you want to explain that maybe?

ACTING SECRETARY MCALEENAN: Sure. I mean, our neighbors from Mexico — we have 400,000 that cross the border almost every day. We have two of the biggest, busiest ports of entry in the entire country right here in San Diego: San Ysidro and Otay Mesa. So the border crossing cards for daily commerce, the longer-term visas for employment — those are going to continue to be issued for people who follow the lawful process.

Q You said, in 2016, Mr. President, that Mexico would pay for the wall. Do you feel like you've kept that promise?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, they're paying for 27,000 soldiers, as you know. And I am so — we are all thrilled. You know, Mexico has never done anything to impede people from pouring into our country, and now they're doing just the opposite. They've really been incredible.

I also think it's good for Mexico, because they're breaking up the cartels. The cartels were really a problem. If I took 5 percent — 5 percent tariff for six months — that pays for the entire wall. But at this moment, I don't want to do that.

But if I charged a 5 percent tariff on Mexico — with all of the cars and everything else that comes through in commerce — for six months, that would fully pay for the wall. At this moment, I don't want to do that because I'm really happy with what Mexico is doing.

Now, Mexico is doing this because they don't want to be tarified. So you can figure that out any way you want. But if I wanted to, for a six-month period, charge only 5 percent, that would pay for the wall and you would have money left over.

Q Is that something that's still on — I mean, you say you don't want to do that right now, but is it still on the table?

THE PRESIDENT: If Mexico stopped helping us, that would be immediately on the table. And that would more than pay for it. That would pay for the wall many times over, because it would be for, certainly, a lot longer.

But we don't want to do that now because they have been fantastic. Mexico has never done anything to impede the people from coming in. And now they're doing yeoman's work — yeoman's work. Twenty-seven thousand soldiers on today.

Yes?

Q Mr. President, there has been a great deal of turmoil at the Department of Homeland Secretary the last several months.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think there has.

Q Pretty much every person —

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q — leading that agency is in an acting capacity. Are you going to be —

THE PRESIDENT: Well, being fired, because they weren't doing jobs. And some of them were there for a long time.

Q When will you make permanent appointments there — nominations?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, I'm very happy, I can say. I haven't announced it yet, but I'm very happy with many of the people there. And we'll be announcing things in the future.

I mean, there were many people that were there for a long period of time, and I wasn't happy with the job they were doing. And who could be happy? They were there for many years. They weren't doing their job. And we've made some incredible replacements. And, yeah, I'll be announcing permanents in the — pretty soon.

Q But should the American people expect —

THE PRESIDENT: I like — you know that — you know, Phil, I like — I like having non-permanent, to a certain extent. It gives me more flexibility. I like having acting. I like the word "acting," because it gives me great flexibility.

But at a certain period of time, we'll be making permanent positions.

Q Is it not unfair for the American people to expect some stability now —

THE PRESIDENT: No, I think we have tremendous stability.

Q — in that agency, especially if there's a national emergency going on?

THE PRESIDENT: I think we have tremendous — I mean, that's the way you write. But I think we have tremendous stability. I think we've never had a border — when this is completed, there won't be a border anywhere that's a border like this.

And a big beneficiary, frankly, is going to be Mexico. And one of the things that is happening, and I've heard it from the top echelons on Mexico, is they're breaking up the cartels. The cartels have been disaster. And that's a good thing for Mexico because they have their own problems.

No, we have acting people. And the reason they're acting is because I'm seeing how I like them. And I'm liking a lot of them very, very much.

We also have people that I've let go that have been here for many, many years and have done a bad job and I let them go. And if you call that turmoil — I don't call it terminal — I really — I really don't say that's turmoil. I say that's being smart. And that's what we do.

And the structure that you see — I wanted to have you here, because nobody would believe this unless they see it. I hope you're impressed. But nobody would believe it. This is top of the line.

And I went to the General — General Semonite. I said, "General, can we do a less expensive version?" He said, "Yes, sir, but it won't be good like this." He said, "This is something that you can't cut through. You can't use welders to cut it. You can't cut it down. It's the real deal." And we can do a less expensive, but it won't be — it won't be like this. And I think you see that.

Q (Inaudible) from San Diego. We really appreciate it. We are dealing —

THE PRESIDENT: Made a big difference, right?

Q We are dealing with the homeless issue as well, and you said —

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that's a different issue. And I'll be talking about that soon. But you do have a homeless issue. And in the case of San Diego, the mayor is doing the right thing. He's doing a good job.

In the case of Los Angeles, it's a disaster. In the case of — if you look at San Francisco, it's a total disaster what's happening, where they're going to ruin those cities. And I — we're going to get

involved very soon on a federal basis if they don't clean up their act.

One of the things we're very upset about and angry about is we're paying a lot of money to Los Angeles to build the subway system — billions and billions of dollars. And yet, you have tents all over the place. And you have — you really have a sanitary condition, because this water is rushing into the ocean and this is supposed to be storm water. It's not supposed to be sewage. And it's turning out to be sewage.

And if these Democrat, liberal politicians don't straighten it out, the federal government will have to come in. We're not going to lose cities like Los Angeles, San Francisco, and others that are great cities. We're not going to allow that to happen to our cities.

And we also want to take care of the people. And I'll even put the people first. Let's say we're going to take care of people. But they shouldn't be living like that and it's destroying the city. And they're being destroyed. They're being further destroyed.

But that's for a different day. It's going to be very soon though. We're going — we're working on that right now. It's a very good question. Okay?

Q Mr. President, all told, how much is this border wall costing the United States? And where is that money coming from?

THE PRESIDENT: So it's coming from various sources. We've had tremendous Supreme Court victories over the last short period of time — you've all reported on them — and it's allowing us to do the proper job. And it's also allowing us to work with the Army Corps of Engineers, where we have very talented people, like the General, who are getting it done.

You may want to comment on this section. How is this being paid for, General, as an example?

GENERAL SEMONITE: This was through regular, normal congressional appropriations. Part of this was in FY17. Part was in FY18. But it came through CBP appropriations.

Q And what about the (inaudible), because the drugs are just —

THE PRESIDENT: I'll give you an example: You know, they tried to stymie us by saying \$1.6 billion, but only for renovation. Well, if they have a little 8-foot wall, 7-foot wall, or 10-foot wall that's like, you know — they just pull down the panel and they walk across. And if we rip that down, I guess you could say that's renovation. So, you know, we've used some of this (inaudible). Some of this comes right out of the budget. Much of the wall comes out of the budget.

But if we have even a small piece of steel going around, that's called a "renovation," because we take the piece of steel out, we put up a 30-foot wall. And so, in many ways, that works very much to our advantage.

Q Did you expect to have more of this done when you were talking about it in 2016?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I think that — I've always heard 500 miles. That was always like a — you know, a number, because, you know, you look behind and you see, even here, we're going up the side of the mountain. But in some cases, you can't. It's very, very hard to traverse. In some cases, you have areas that nobody is going to even get near.

So the number I heard was 500. What we're going to do is we're going to stop at anywhere from 400 to 500 and we're going to see where else we may need something. And we can add pieces to that. But you really won't know until you stop, because you're going to have tread paths. It's like, you know — where are they going to go? Where are they going to walk?

So we're going to get up to about 400 and then we're going to look and see whether or not we have to go much more than 470, 5-, 500. It could be, at maximum, I would say, 550. So we might add another 50, but we won't know that until it's complete.

Q Does that mean you don't think you need a wall along the entire U.S.-Mexican border?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you couldn't even do it, because in some cases you have rapidly moving rivers, which are, in many ways, more effective than a wall. In some cases, you have mountains and they're very dangerous mountains, which, in many cases, are more effective. So you wouldn't need that.

You have a little bit less than 2,000 miles, and you have 500 miles where it's really space where people can come through. And you may have a little bit extra, but about three quarters of it is

covered by natural terrain, where the terrain doesn't allow people to get through.

Q Mr. President, you said earlier that you wanted the wall to be painted black —

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q — and have the spikes at the top.

THE PRESIDENT: I do.

Q Why did you —

THE PRESIDENT: I do.

Q — go against that?

THE PRESIDENT: The General feels that we're better off letting it be a natural rust, letting it be the way it is. We'll make a determination as to painting it later. This will be a good strong rust color. And we'll see. We'll make that — it's not a big deal. The black attracts more heat, even than this color. But this is your natural steel and I think we're going to see how it works out. We can paint at it at a later date if we decide to do it.

GENERAL SEMONITE: I think the real — the real issue though is that — and it goes back to economics. And so when you are able to use that money to be able to get more miles, therefore you're able to resist the threat better.

THE PRESIDENT: It's not a huge amount of money, but it's enough to build many — you know, quite a few more miles. And I think we want to do that. And we can paint it at any time. We can paint it later on.

Okay?

Q Can we just ask you again quickly about Iran, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah.

Q About — do we — should we expect to see military strikes coming soon? And John Bolton apparently was critical of you today — both your policies on Iran and on the Taliban.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I was critical of John Bolton for getting us involved with a lot of other people in the Middle East. We've spent seven and a half trillion dollars in the Middle East. And you ought to ask a lot of people about that.

We are doing it the right way. We're doing it the smart way. It's very easy to go in. We could go in in one instant. Just one phone call, we could go in. And we'll see — and that might happen. That might happen. But we will — we will see what we will see.

John was not able to work with anybody and a lot of people disagreed with his ideas. And a lot of people were very critical that I brought him on in the first place, because of the fact that he was so in favor of going into the Middle East. And he got stuck in quicksand. We became policemen for the Middle East and it's ridiculous.

So — and I've always felt that. I always felt it. From day one, I felt it. Even though I wasn't in government, I felt it. But I think that you will see what happens and we'll see what happens.

Q He also said, on your North Korea policy, that negotiations with the North Koreans were doomed to failure, today.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it's easy to say that. He may be — he may be right and he may be wrong. I mean, he — let's see what happens. Only time will tell.

In the meantime, for three years, there's been no nuclear testing. We've gotten our hostages back. We've gotten our great soldiers back who were killed — many of them. And many more are coming back. We have many more coming back. And the families of those — we call them "our heroes." And they were our heroes. And they're coming back.

And the relationship is good. So I think that's better than somebody that goes around saying we want to use the Libyan model. He said the "Libyan model." That set us back very badly when he said that. So I think John really should take a look at how badly they've done in the past and maybe a new method would be very good.

Now, with all of that being said — may be a very powerful attack. We've never had a military as strong as our military right now because of what we've done. And when I first came into this position, our military was in very, very depleted, sad shape.

Q And you mean a powerful attack against whom, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: I'm not saying anything. I'm saying there may be a very powerful one, and maybe it won't be necessary. We'll see.

Q With regard to Iran?

THE PRESIDENT: But I will tell you, guys like Bolton and others wanted to go into Iraq, and that didn't work out too well, all right? That didn't work out too well. That was a horrible idea. It was —

And I put him in anyway. And, frankly, everybody knows: If you move wrong, he wants to — you know, he doesn't realize that you get stuck. You get stuck. And they got stuck. And I'm unsticking it. Okay? I'm unsticking it. And we're doing a great job.

North Korea — we'll see what happens. And, frankly, in the Middle East, we'll see what happens. It's very fluid. A lot of things can happen. Rough things and not such rough things.

Q Mr. President, how about the Fed? Did you see —

THE PRESIDENT: And, by the way: very, very easy to go in. One phone call — we go in. That's a very easy thing. And it doesn't have to be today. It can be tomorrow, and it can be in two weeks from now. You understand.

Q Mr. President, the Fed cut the rate today. Your reaction on Twitter was not favorable.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think it's fine. I think that, frankly, they should have acted faster. They raised far too quickly and they lowered too soon.

And you look at Germany, where they're actually getting paid money to loan money. They get paid to loan money. Japan gets paid to loan money. And we're a much better credit than anybody —

anybody in the world. We're a much better credit. And because of our Fed, we're actually paying interest.

So I'm not a fan. We have no inflation. We have an unbelievable economy. And we have no inflation. That's a very big thing, Peter.

So, he just did this a little while ago. Some people thought he might do 50, instead of 25. He did 25. I figured he'd probably do 25. He — I think that they made some mistakes. And the mistake was he raised too fast and he lowered too slow.

But, despite that, we have a great economy. We have the greatest economy in the world. We're doing really well. Our businesses are doing very well. And regardless — but I thought it would give us an advantage. When other countries are doing it and we're not doing it, it becomes a little bit tougher, competitive-wise. But we're so much better than everybody else, it really doesn't matter.

I want to just thank everybody. This is — I hope you folks see the level of talent that's involved here, the level of quality that's involved here. If you came back here in two months, you would see this would be a paved road, right through the middle. And you'll have Border Patrol all over the place. But they're not going to have to work too hard because nobody is getting over the wall. And if they get over the first one, they sure — they're not getting over the second one.

And, I think, most importantly, I want to thank you folks. Great job. Really great job.

PARTICIPANT: Mr. President, there is a tradition here on the border that anyone who works on the wall signs the wall for us. Would you be —

THE PRESIDENT: Sign it.

PARTICIPANT: Would you do that for us today?

THE PRESIDENT: I'll sign it. Let's go. I'm going to sign it.

Thank you very much. See you back on the plane. Maybe we'll speak on the plane.

END

SER303

Exhibit 20



A BUDGET FOR A
Better
America

PROMISES KEPT. TAXPAYERS FIRST.

FISCAL YEAR 2020
BUDGET OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT
SER305

“Our policy at DHS in the face of growing dangers will not be ‘strategic patience.’ Instead, we are reasserting U.S. leadership. And we are building the toughest homeland security enterprise America has ever seen.”

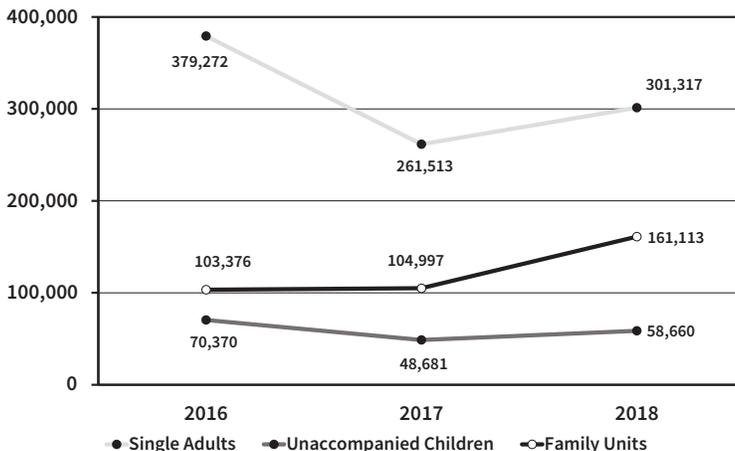
Kirstjen M. Nielsen
Secretary
September 5, 2018

Secures the Borders of the United States. Each day, DHS works to protect the American people and economy by preventing the illegal movement of people and contraband across U.S. borders while facilitating legitimate trade and travel to advance American prosperity. As depicted in the chart below, the number of people determined to be inadmissible at a port of entry or apprehended for illegally crossing the border grew by over 25 percent from 2017 to 2018, with illegitimate border crossers travelling as a family increasing by 53 percent.

Border security remains a top Administration priority, and the Budget continues to implement the President’s direction to secure the U.S. Southwest border. The Budget requests \$5 billion to construct approximately 200 miles of border wall along the U.S. Southwest border; provides \$192 million to hire 750 Border Patrol agents, 171 CBP Officers, and support staff; and invests \$367 million in CBP aircraft, vessels, surveillance technology, and equipment. In addition, the Budget includes \$1.2 billion to continue to modernize U.S. Coast Guard vessels and aircraft that patrol and provide life-saving rescue missions across the Nation’s coastal borders. The men and women of CBP work to keep the Nation safe from those seeking to smuggle people and

contraband across America’s borders. The Administration is pursuing innovative and effective solutions to hire and retain these valuable Government employees.

Increased Illegitimate Cross-Border Activity On the Southwest Border



Source: Department of Homeland Security, 2018.

Enforces the Nation’s Immigration Laws and Strengthens Border Security. The Budget provides discretionary and mandatory funding to promote the Administration’s immigration and border security priorities and ensure the safety and security of American communities. While the Budget provides discretionary funding and investments to support a robust level of immigration and border security activities, these resources are insufficient to close existing loopholes in U.S. immigration laws and provide the full range of programs, activities, and staff-

ing necessary. To bridge this gap, the Budget proposes the creation of a new Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Fund to be financed from mandatory receipts.

Provides Discretionary Funding to Support Enhanced Immigration and Border Security. The Budget provides \$314 million to hire an additional 1,000 ICE law enforcement officers, 128 immigration court prosecuting attorneys, and 538 additional critical support staff to carry out this vital national security mission. Funding of \$2.7 billion is provided for 54,000 detention beds to ensure ICE has the ability to detain criminal aliens and those apprehended at the border—including aliens with meritless asylum claims—so they can be safely removed. The Budget also makes additional investments in the Alternatives to Detention program for active monitoring of a total alien population of approximately 120,000. Moreover, the Budget increases funding for the Transportation and Removal

Exhibit 21

**OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
(COMPTROLLER)/CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
MARCH 2019**



Defense Budget Overview

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
FISCAL YEAR 2020 BUDGET REQUEST**

Overview – FY 2020 Defense Budget

EMERGENCY REQUIREMENTS

Emergency Requirements (\$9.2 billion): The FY 2020 budget request includes \$9.2 billion of emergency funding for unspecified military construction to build border barriers, backfill funding reallocated in FY 2019 to build border barriers and rebuild facilities damaged by Hurricanes Florence and Michael. This funding and the required transfer authority would be provided through a general provision.

Exhibit 23



Troops Who Deployed to the US-Mexico Border Are Getting a Medal



The Armed Forces Service Medal has a green, blue and yellow ribbon and a bronze medal featuring a torch like that held by the Statue of Liberty. U.S. Air Force graphic by Staff Sgt. Alexx Pons

19 Aug 2019
Military.com | By [Gina Harkins](#)

Thousands of U.S. service members who've been sent to operate along the Mexico border will receive a military award reserved for troops who "encounter no foreign armed opposition or imminent hostile action."

The Pentagon has authorized troops who have [deployed](#) to the border to assist U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) since last April to receive the Armed Forces Service



There is no end date for the award since the operation remains ongoing.

"The Under Secretary of Defense has authorized the Armed Forces Service Medal to service members who have provided support to CBP, starting from April 7, 2018 [until a

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National Guardsman Found Bound and Shot to Death in his Tennessee Home



Active-Duty Green Beret to Receive Medal of Honor for Heroic Afghanistan Rescue

Exhibit 22

National Park Service^(/)

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1

[NPS.gov \(/\)](#) / [Park Home \(/orpi/index.htm\)](#) / [Learn About the Park \(/orpi/learn/index.htm\)](#)

/ [History & Culture \(/orpi/learn/historyculture/index.htm\)](#) / [Places \(/orpi/learn/historyculture/places.htm\)](#) / [International Vehicle Barrier](#)

International Border Vehicle Barrier



This steel fence is designed to stop car and truck traffic that drove from Mexico through the wilderness of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument to enter into the United States illegally.

For the longest time, the only indication of an international border was stone obelisks placed every few miles across the border. Eventually a barbed-wire fence appeared to keep livestock and vehicles from entering the desert wilderness of Organ Pipe Cactus. In the mid-1900s, the land surrounding Organ Pipe Cactus became prime corridors for illegal trade due to its rugged terrain, yet close proximity to major metropolitan areas. To avoid detection, many individuals began illegally driving through the barbed-wire fence.

The damage caused by this illegal use was astounding. Eventually more than 200 miles of illegal roads traversed Organ Pipe Cactus.

In 2004, the monument undertook the work of constructing a vehicle barrier along the south boundary at the Mexico border. It stretches 30 miles of our southern boundary.

The barrier was designed to stop vehicles from driving around the US customs offices in Lukeville on Highway 85, or up through the desert wilderness instead of using Highway 85.

In 2006, the NPS finished building the steel fence. Although the three-year construction project was costly, the natural and cultural resources it has protected are priceless. It also provides positive value to visitor safety, officer safety, and our national security.



The damage left behind by vehicles traveling through the sensitive desert wilderness is lasting and detrimental to native plant and animal species.

Sue Rutman, NPS Photo

The vehicle barrier has stopped nearly all off-road vehicle traffic through Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. The barrier has not been breached, and monitoring has revealed a dramatic decline in illegal off-road vehicle activity. Visitor safety has increased, as the potential for high-speed chases along park roads has virtually vanished. The barrier design allows water, and animals, including the highly endangered **Sonoran Pronghorn** (</orpi/learn/nature/pronghorn.htm>), to safely roam their natural ranges uninterrupted.

In 2015, the National Park Service, in partnership with the Department of Homeland Security and neighboring public lands, embarked on a successful **Wilderness Restoration project** (</orpi/learn/nature/interagency-restoration.htm>) to restore the disturbed lands to their natural state.

Last updated: May 13, 2018

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www.nps.gov
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

