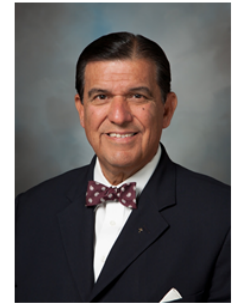




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Senator Lucio statement on the Deployment of the National Guard

AUSTIN - Today (Monday), Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr. (D-Brownsville) releases the following statement on the deployment of the National Guard in support of the Border Surge:

“As I’ve stated in the past, our state must supplement the Border Surge with additional adequate resources to compassionately deal with detained migrants and to provide humanitarian assistance to those in need.

Today, Governor Rick Perry exercised his authority as Texas’ Commander-in-Chief to deploy the National Guard. As different outlets have reported, past Governors have deployed the Guard for a variety of reasons.

From the limited information provided in today’s press conference, up to 1,000 National Guard troops will be deployed over the next month in a supporting role to the state’s Border Surge led by the Texas Department of Public Safety.

The National Guard will support local and state law enforcement by providing air assets and ground personnel to "deter and refer" potential criminal activity.

I pray every day that Washington will overcome the partisan division that prevents passage of common sense immigration legislation. The failure to address the compounding problems has led directly to our present crisis, and our distressed border communities cannot continue to shoulder the burden.

Since the Guard will be inevitably deployed, I expect them to offer critical humanitarian assistance as part of their supporting role by providing essential resources (e.g., food and water), as well as medical aid. I further expect everyone to be treated with compassion and dignity.

The Guard must exhibit the same compassionate care as demonstrated when providing mission delivery to our communities with Operation Lone Star. I pray we can cope with this crisis in the least intrusive and most humanitarian manner.

If one life can be saved and if one heinous crime can be prevented then time will be the judge of this new phase of the Border Surge.”

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