

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Pete Hegseth
Secretary of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Arlington, VA 20301

June 3, 2025

Dear Secretary Hegseth:

As members of the San Antonio congressional delegation, we write regarding your April 30, 2025, memorandum directing the consolidation of U.S. Army North (ARNORTH) and U.S. Army South (ARSOUTH) headquarters in Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston with Forces Command into a single Western Hemisphere Command at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. We respectfully recommend the Department consider Joint Base San Antonio as the location for this proposed consolidated command structure based on the strength of its infrastructure, expertise, strategic location, and exceptional city-military integration.

For over two decades, San Antonio has served as the nerve center for ARSOUTH's operations. ARSOUTH's mission across 31 countries and 15 areas of special sovereignty benefits immensely from Texas's proximity to Latin America and the Caribbean. Its geographic location enables rapid engagement with partner nations and is supported by co-located intelligence, communications, and logistics infrastructure at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

Similarly, ARNORTH's homeland defense mission leverages San Antonio's central location and natural disaster resilience. The command's successful leadership of major operations from Desert Storm to post-9/11 deployments reflects the strategic value of its current position. Additionally, ARNORTH has cultivated strong interagency relationships with the Department of Homeland Security and emergency management entities - relationships that are essential to timely and effective responds to natural disasters and domestic security threats.

Beyond location, the City of San Antonio plays a unique and ongoing role in supporting the military's mission success. San Antonio has invested or leveraged over \$158 million for Joint Base San Antonio's priority infrastructure projects, executed intergovernmental support agreements to reduce costs for on-base services, and implemented land-use protections to guard against city encroachment. These efforts reflect a mature, reliable civil-military partnership that enhances mission readiness and resilience.

San Antonio is also a growing cybersecurity hub. The city is home to one of the largest concentrations of cybersecurity professionals outside of Washington, D.C. and hosts the Texas Cyber Command Center and multiple DOD cyber operations. This capacity strengthens both homeland defense and transnational threat responses, capabilities directly relevant to the missions of ARNORTH and ARSOUTH.

Additionally, Joint Base San Antonio is the largest joint base in the Department of Defense and contributes an estimated \$151.2 billion annually to the Texas economy. The installation supports 266 mission partners that are vital to national security. San Antonio's long-standing commitment to military families, service member transitions, and mission resilience has ensured no major mission loss over the past two decades.

As the Department evaluates the future command structure at Joint Base San Antonio, we encourage a full assessment of how best to preserve continuity, mission readiness, and operational integration. Joint Base San Antonio already hosts the infrastructure, personnel, and community partnerships to support both ARNORTH and ARSOUTH effectively. Transitioning these missions to a new location will result in avoidable costs and disruptions to long-standing institutional knowledge and trusted partnerships.

Given the importance of this decision, we respectfully request the Department provide responses to the following questions by June 6, 2025:


1. Will the Department consider consolidating ARNORTH, ARSOUTH and Forces Command into a new Western Hemisphere Command headquartered in San Antonio?
2. What factors led the Department to consider Fort Bragg, North Carolina, as the location for the Western Hemisphere Command headquarters?
3. What Department assessments have guided the decision to consolidate ARNORTH and ARSOUTH with Forces Command into a single regional command?
4. How many military and civilian positions currently assigned to ARNORTH and ARSOUTH would be relocated, reclassified, or eliminated?
5. What legislative or appropriation requests does the Department foresee requesting from Congress to execute a potential relocation?
6. How will ARNORTH's homeland defense emergency coordination mission be preserved and not diluted under a merged Western Hemisphere construct?
7. Should the consolidation proceed as planned, would the Army consider relocating elements of the Defense Health Agency's mission to San Antonio, taking advantage of the existing DoD footprint, physical spaces, and strong existing relationship with the community?

We welcome the opportunity to work with the Department to explore solutions that meet operational goals while preserving the strategic and institutional strengths that Joint Base San Antonio and the City of San Antonio offer to our national defense. We stand ready to support Joint Base San Antonio and the Department of Defense to ensure continued operational success well into the future.

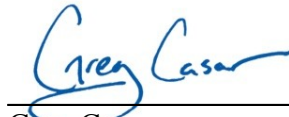
We respectfully request a briefing with the San Antonio delegation before any final decisions are made.

Thank you for your consideration of these concerns.

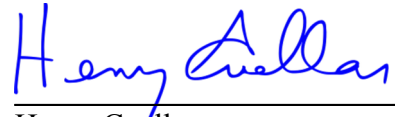
Sincerely,



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



Greg Casar
Member of Congress



Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress