



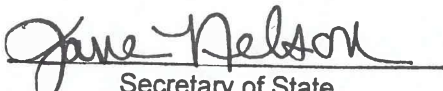
GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

January 29, 2025

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
TEXAS SECRETARY OF STATE
12:15 pm O'CLOCK

JAN 29 2025

The Honorable Jane Nelson
Secretary of State
State Capitol, Room 1E.8
Austin, Texas 78701


Secretary of State

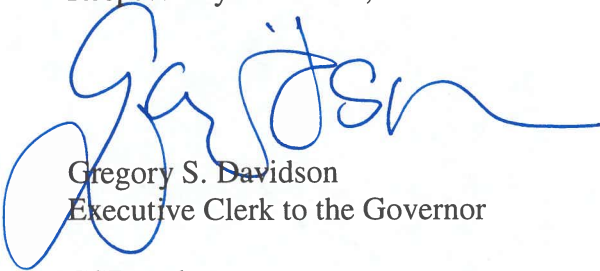
Dear Secretary Nelson:

Pursuant to his powers as Governor of the State of Texas, Greg Abbott has issued the following:

Executive Order No. GA-53 relating to the development of an operational plan by the Texas Military for cooperating with the U.S. armed forces to regain and maintain operational control of the southern border.

The original executive order is attached to this letter of transmittal.

Respectfully submitted,



Gregory S. Davidson
Executive Clerk to the Governor

GSD:gsd

Attachment

Executive Order

BY THE
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Executive Department
Austin, Texas
January 29, 2025

EXECUTIVE ORDER GA 53

Relating to the development of an operational plan by the Texas Military for cooperating with the U.S. armed forces to regain and maintain operational control of the southern border.

WHEREAS, for four years, the Biden–Harris Administration adopted open-border policies that invited mass illegal entry into Texas and other States, including by ignoring laws that require the federal government to secure the border, construct barrier infrastructure, detain illegal aliens, vet would-be entrants, and swiftly remove aliens pressing frivolous asylum claims; and

WHEREAS, the surge of individuals crossing the southern border continued, resulting in roughly 12 million people—a number larger than the population of 43 different States—entering this country illegally in less than four years; and

WHEREAS, this *en masse* entry into the country includes violent criminals, gang members, known terrorists, and other hostile foreign actors smuggling weapons and drugs like deadly fentanyl, trafficking women and children, and raping and murdering innocent Americans; and

WHEREAS, such illegal entry by hostile non-state actors—largely military-aged males who come in open defiance of our laws and often by force, outfitted with body armor, burying improvised explosive devices, and decorating trees with trophies from sexual assaults—is an invasion, as former Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) officials told Congress last year; and

WHEREAS, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, repeatedly demanded that former President Joe Biden fulfill his obligation under Article IV, Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution to protect Texas and the United States from the invasion of their sovereign territories; and

WHEREAS, I launched Operation Lone Star, consistent with my concurrent authority under Article I, Section 10, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution, to defend the people of Texas against this hostile invasion by employing an array of defensive strategies to stop the flood of foreign actors bringing hostile designs, dangerous weapons, and deadly drugs into Texas; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Military Department, under my command, has deployed an array of strategies to combat this invasion, including establishing defensive barriers to deter and deny hostile entry, utilizing advanced tools to repel would-be illegal entrants, developing enhanced technology and strategies to interdict foreign actors, and gathering sophisticated intelligence on hostile non-state actor groups; and

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WHEREAS, Texas soldiers deploying these strategies up and down the 1,254 miles of the Texas–Mexico border for years have developed unparalleled expertise concerning the southern border’s terrain, the tactics, techniques, and protocols of the hostile non-state actors operating there, and the socio-political motivations of a failed narco-state that is both unwilling and unable to stop incursions from its own territory into Texas; and

WHEREAS, on January 20, 2025, I again invoked Article IV, Section 4, urging President Donald Trump to protect Texas, and the rest of the United States, from the continuing invasion along our southern border by exercising the full scope of his constitutional authority; and

WHEREAS, on January 20, 2025, President Trump issued a Proclamation, *Guaranteeing the States Protection Against Invasion*, which “determined that the Federal Government has failed in fulfilling [its Article IV, Section 4] obligation to the States” and “declare[d] that an invasion is ongoing at the southern border, which requires the Federal Government to take measures to fulfill its obligation to the States”; and

WHEREAS, on January 20, 2025, President Trump issued an Executive Order, *Clarifying the Military’s Role in Protecting the Territorial Integrity of the United States*, Section 3 of which directs the U.S. Secretary of Defense to develop a plan that assigns the United States Northern Command (NORTHCOM) the mission of regaining operational control of the southern border; and

WHEREAS, on January 20, 2025, President Trump issued an Executive Order, *Securing Our Borders*, Section 4(a) of which directs the U.S. Secretary of Defense to “take all appropriate and lawful action to deploy sufficient personnel along the southern border of the United States to ensure complete operational control,” and Section 2(f) of which provides that it is the policy of the United States to “[c]ooperate fully” with state actors seeking to achieve the same goal; and

WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 7 of the Texas Constitution provides that the Governor of Texas “shall be the Commander-in-Chief of the military forces of the State” and may direct such forces “to suppress insurrections, and to repel invasions”;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GREG ABBOTT, Governor of Texas, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and Statutes of the State of Texas, do hereby direct the Adjutant General of Texas, based on the Texas Military Department’s years of expertise combatting the present invasion, to develop and report to me within 30 days a full operational plan to assist NORTHCOM in repelling this invasion, securing the Texas–Mexico border, and neutralizing the hostile non-state actors infiltrating Texas.

This executive order supersedes all previous orders in conflict or inconsistent with its terms and shall remain in effect and in full force until modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded by the Governor.

Given under my hand this the
29th day of January, 2025.



GREG ABBOTT
Governor

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SECRETARY OF STATE
12:15pm O'CLOCK

JAN 29 2025

ATTESTED BY:



JANE NELSON
Secretary of State

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