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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4323

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2239 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4511
WWW.GONZALES.HOUSE.GOV

DISTRICT OFFICES:
3522 PAESANOS PARKWAY
SUITE 301
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78231
(210) 806-9920

1501 MAIN STREET
SAN ELIZARIO, TX 79849
(915) 990-1500

2401 GARNER FIELD ROAD
BUILDING Q
UVALDE, TX 78801
(830) 333-7410

103 WEST CALLAGHAN ROAD
FORT STOCKTON, TX 79735
(432) 299-6200

October 21, 2025

The Honorable Daniel Driscoll
Secretary of the Army
101 Army Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20310-0101

Subject: Request for Update on Proposed Western Hemisphere Command and Support for Expanding Key Elements in Support of Western Hemisphere Command at Fort Sam Houston

Dear Secretary Driscoll:

Thank you for your continued leadership in pursuing reforms to strengthen the lethality, agility, and readiness of the U.S. Army. In alignment with those goals, I write to request an update on the proposed establishment of the Western Hemisphere Command through the consolidation of U.S. Army North, U.S. Army South, and U.S. Army Forces Command, and to urge your consideration of not only retaining, but expanding, operational elements and personnel at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio to support the new mission set at hand.

As a combat veteran and retired Navy Master Chief Petty Officer, I respect and understand the critical need to enhance efficiency across our armed forces, and I commend the *Army Transformation Initiative* for its intent to streamline operations and eliminate redundancies across the service.¹ To that end, I strongly believe the City of San Antonio, known as “Military City, U.S.A.”, can be of even greater use to strengthen the Army’s overall strategic posture.

With the Western Hemisphere Command “focused on homeland defense and partnership with our Western Hemisphere allies,” Fort Sam Houston is uniquely positioned to serve as a central pillar for operations supporting this mission.² This is especially true as the Department of War prioritizes efforts to counter narco-trafficking and the transnational and foreign terrorist organizations that enable it.

To meet these challenges, Army South’s longstanding partnerships—including with militaries in Chile, Honduras, and Panama, as well as through cooperation with Joint Task Force-Bravo at Soto Cano Air Base and Naval Station Guantanamo Bay—provide built-in muscle memory at Fort Sam Houston for interoperability with foreign forces and forward operations that project power across the hemisphere.³ Moreover, expanding key operational elements of the Western Hemisphere Command at Fort Sam Houston would further strengthen coordination with initiatives like Joint Task Force-Southern Border, as San Antonio’s

¹ U.S. Department of War. (2025). *Army Transformation and Acquisition Reform*. <https://media.defense.gov/2025/May/01/2003702281/-1/-1/1/ARMY-TRANSFORMATION-AND-ACQUISITION-REFORM.PDF>

² Ibid.

³ U.S. Army South. (n.d.). U.S. Army. <https://www.arsouth.army.mil/>

proximity to the U.S.-Mexico border, and relationships with Department of Homeland Security assets, make Fort Sam Houston vital to defending the homeland. At the same time, cybersecurity cannot be forgotten in the Western Hemisphere Command's homeland defense mission. It is no secret that the United States faces increasingly sophisticated and coordinated cyber threats from both nation-state and non-state actors—underscored by the Department of Homeland Security's warning following Operation Midnight Hammer that “pro-Iranian hacktivists [were] likely to launch low-level cyberattacks against U.S. networks, while Iran-linked cyber operators may attempt more targeted intrusions.”⁴

Threats like this demand a fortified domestic cyber posture, and Fort Sam Houston is uniquely positioned to serve as the Western Hemisphere Command's cyber anchor. Leveraging Army North's expertise through the Multi-Domain Resiliency Zone initiative and San Antonio's broader cyber ecosystem, including NSA Texas, the newly established Texas Cyber Command, and the 16th Air Force (Air Forces Cyber), the region provides a steady pipeline of cyber talent and unmatched public-private sector integration that will ensure the Western Hemisphere Command is equipped to counter hostile actors across both physical and digital battlefields.⁵

In light of these considerations, I respectfully request an update on the following:

1. What efforts have been made by the Department to assess San Antonio's operational, geostrategic, and infrastructural advantages in determining how Fort Sam Houston can continue supporting the Western Hemisphere Command?
2. As San Antonio's merits to continue serving as a key pillar for the Western Hemisphere Command are evaluated, I am confident you will find a strong case to not only retain operational elements at Fort Sam Houston, but to expand them.
 - a. Have any studies been carried out to demonstrate the benefits derived from an expanded operational footprint at Fort Sam Houston in terms of growth in the total number of soldiers assigned to this base?

Thank you again for your leadership and your continued commitment to the soldiers, civilians, and families who make our Army the most capable fighting force in the world. The United States can and must maintain a secure and stable hemisphere, and I encourage you to consider the many ways that San Antonio can continue supporting this goal with an expanded operational footprint through the new Western Hemisphere Command. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Tony Gonzales
Member of Congress

CC: General Randy George, Chief of Staff of the Army
Sergeant Major of the Army Michael Weimer

⁴ Ribeiro, A. (2025). *NTAS bulletin highlights rising cyber-terror threats to U.S. critical infrastructure from Iran-linked hackers*. *Industrial Cyber*. <https://industrialcyber.co/threat-landscape/ntas-bulletin-highlights-rising-cyber-terror-threats-to-us-critical-infrastructure-from-iran-linked-hackers/>

⁵ U.S. Army North. (2024). Framing the future of homeland defense: Multi-Domain Resiliency Zones. U.S. Army. <https://www.armorth.mil/Media/News/Article/3922295/framing-the-future-of-homeland-defense-multi-domain-resiliency-zones/>