

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3304

March 24, 2026

The Honorable Pete Hegseth
Secretary of Defense
United States Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Re: Inquiry Regarding Civilian Detention at Military Installations in Eastern North Carolina and Subsequent Transfer to Immigration Authorities

Dear Secretary Hegseth,

I write to request information regarding a series of reported incidents in which civilian drivers have been detained at military installations in eastern North Carolina and subsequently transferred to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). These incidents have been brought to my attention by constituents of North Carolina's Fourth Congressional District (NC-04), and raise serious questions about the policies and protocols governing civilian contact with military-controlled areas in my district.

Since November 2025, my office has received eleven (11) reports of individuals who were detained after inadvertently entering military-controlled areas while following GPS navigation directions. These incidents involve installations in or near NC-04 and surrounding region, including areas connected to Fort Liberty, Camp Lejeune, Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, Marine Corps Air Station New River, and the Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point.

In numerous cases, those detained were individuals traveling to work or completing delivery routes; some with pending immigration proceedings and others with valid work authorization. Families of the detained individuals report that many had no prior criminal record and entered restricted areas unintentionally due to GPS misdirection. In at least one case, an immediate family member of a detained individual is currently serving on active duty in the United States Armed Forces.

The circumstances described above raise significant questions about current military policy and inter-agency coordination. I respectfully request that the Department of Defense provide written responses to the following:

- What policies and legal authorities govern the detention of civilian drivers who inadvertently enter military-controlled areas, including individuals who are not U.S. citizens? Are military personnel authorized to detain such individuals, and if so, under what circumstances and for what duration?

- What coordination protocols currently exist between military installation commanders and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement? Under what conditions are military personnel directed or permitted to contact ICE following a civilian detention, and who has authority to initiate such contact?
- What safeguards, if any, exist to distinguish between individuals who deliberately attempt to unlawfully enter a military installation and those who enter accidentally due to navigation error or inadequate signage? Are distinctions drawn in policy between these two categories of individuals?
- Have any of the military installations referenced above—Fort Liberty, Camp Lejeune, Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, Marine Corps Air Station New River, or Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point—updated their civilian access policies, signage, or GPS data coordination since November 2025? If not, are any such reviews underway?
- In cases where a detained individual has a family member on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, what policies govern how that information is considered, and what resources or points of contact within the Department are available to active-duty service members whose family members have been placed in immigration proceedings?

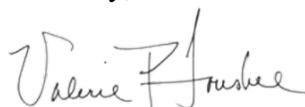
My office has been contacted by the family of an active-duty service member whose relative is currently in immigration proceedings arising from one of the incidents described above. I request that the Department identify the appropriate point of contact; whether through the Judge Advocate General's Corps, installation chaplaincy, or another channel, through whom this service member may seek information and support. My office stands ready to facilitate that connection.

I recognize the importance of securing military installations and appreciate the responsibility that entails. At the same time, I believe it is my obligation as a Member of Congress to ensure that federal policies are applied consistently, equitably, and with appropriate protections for individuals who pose no security threat. The incidents described in this letter warrant serious attention.

I respectfully request a written response within thirty (30) days. My office is also available to discuss these matters at your convenience. Failure to respond to this inquiry may result in referral to the DHS Office of Inspector General, notification to the House and Senate Judiciary Committees, and further Congressional action.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Valerie P. Foushee
MEMBER OF CONGRESS