

Email stream from White House spokesman Eric Shultz and White House spokesman Peter Boogaard and Mark Weber, deputy assistant secretary for Public Affairs/Human Services at the Department of Health and Human Services, April 26 to April 29 2016.

From: Weber, Mark (HHS/ASPA)
Sent: Friday, April 29, 2016 5:17 PM
To: Barrios, Nicole
Subject: RE: Fact checking Rep. Carter's claim

Sorry for being so hard to get... I hope this helps...

Mark

Let me start by saying - The Department of Defense has been an exemplary partner in this humanitarian response. DoD facilities are the choice of last resort. HHS is working with the Department of Agriculture, Department of Defense, Department of Labor, and General Services Administration to ensure temporary shelter capacity is available in a time of potential need, so that US Border Patrol facilities are not used for shelter and the US Border Patrol can continue to focus on its vital national security mission to prevent illegal migration, trafficking, and protect the borders of the United States.

-How frequently does HHS make requests to the DOD to house undocumented alien children?
Is it routine or rare?

Rare.

-How long has this been a practice?

In recent history - the first time vacant space was used at a military base was in 2012 - Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio.

Where are officials looking for that room to house UAC specifically? Are they looking at barracks or dorms for that space?

DoD's support continues to be limited to the use of vacant facilities on a fully-reimbursable basis under the provisions of the Economy Act, and this effort continues to have no impact on DoD's ability to conduct its primary missions nor on military readiness. When ORR assesses a site, it considers the dates of availability, modifications that would be necessary to facilities, the availability of certain infrastructure such as dining facilities and bathrooms, the location, the cost

of operating a temporary shelter at the site, and other factors that can affect its appropriateness for a temporary shelter.

-Have children or others been previously housed at Fort Hood and another TX installation?

Fort Hood was assessed this year and was determined not to be viable option at this time.

HHS opened three temporary shelters on military bases in the summer of 2014 to handle the large increase in unaccompanied children apprehended by immigration authorities. The temporary shelters at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Fort Sill Army Base, and Naval Base Ventura County-Port Hueneme played a critical role in the humanitarian response, providing care to more than 7,700 children. In August 2014 HHS suspended all three of these temporary shelters.

At the request of HHS, DoD made vacant space at Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico available this year to provide temporary housing for up to 250 unaccompanied children with the potential to expand capacity to approximately 700 unaccompanied children if needed. HHS sheltered children at Holloman in January and February 2016. Holloman was placed on reserve status in March.

Also HHS is planning to use the Homestead Job Corps facility - a facility that is currently vacant and not in operation as a Job Corps center - to provide approximately 800 temporary shelter beds for unaccompanied children if needed.

-How does the government define "temporary" when housing the children? A certain number of days?

Currently, a child referred to HHS remains in our care for about 32 days, though some children are released to sponsors more quickly while some children, particularly those without close relatives in the United States, remain in the care of ORR for significantly longer.

-----Original Message-----

From: Barrios, Nicole

Sent: Friday, April 29, 2016 12:46 PM

To: Weber, Mark (HHS/ASPA)

Subject: RE: Fact checking Rep. Carter's claim

Hi Mark,

Thanks for the info. I have a few additional questions for you. I've tried to call a few times but figured email might be easier for you to respond to. Please note everything said has to be on the record for this article. I appreciate your help and any insight you can provide.

-How frequently does HHS make requests to the DOD to house undocumented alien children?
Is it routine or rare?
-How long has this been a practice?
-Where are officials looking for that room to house UAC specifically? Are they looking at barracks or dorms for that space?
-Have children or others been previously housed at Fort Hood and another TX installation?
-How does the government define "temporary" when housing the children? A certain number of days?

Thank you,
Nicole

Nicole Barrios

-----Original Message-----

From: Weber, Mark
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2016 2:58 PM
To: Barrios, Nicole
Cc: Boogaard, Peter (EOP.GOV)
Subject: RE: Fact checking Rep. Carter's claim

Hi Nicole

If I understand your question correctly -

DoD facilities are the choice of last resort.

Also I will add - HHS has worked aggressively and successfully to ensure temporary shelter capacity is available in a time of potential need, so that US Border Patrol facilities are not used for shelter and the US Border Patrol can continue to focus on its vital national security mission to prevent illegal migration, trafficking, and protect the borders of the United States.

Background -

There isn't a specific trigger to activate a DoD site. This is a situational decision based on need for temporary shelter and appropriate, available facilities. HHS is currently working with DoD to assess military facilities to determine if the installation is suitable for ORR to temporarily provide shelter for Unaccompanied Children under their care.

In January 2015, Secretary of Health and Human Services Sylvia Burwell requested DoD support to provide up to 5,000 temporary beds for unaccompanied children on DoD installations,

to be available within 30 days of formal notification through December 31, 2015, and has requested similar support going forward for 2016.

At the request of HHS, DoD made unused space available at Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico to provide temporary housing for up to 250 unaccompanied children with the potential to expand capacity to approximately 700 unaccompanied children if needed. HHS sheltered children at Holloman in January and February 2016 but has placed the facility in reserve status because there is sufficient capacity in HHS standard shelters at the current time.

DoD continues to identify potential facilities that have no impact on DOD's ability to conduct its primary missions nor on military readiness and is working with HHS to assess the facilities for potential use to provide temporary shelter for unaccompanied children if needed.

DoD has been an exemplary partner in this humanitarian response and we look forward to their continued partnership as we develop efficient, cost-effective strategies to address these types of variations in border crossings by unaccompanied children.

This effort continues to have no impact on DOD's ability to conduct its primary missions nor on military readiness. HHS use of vacant DOD facilities is on a fully-reimbursable basis under the provisions of the Economy Act.

If you have any further questions - please let me know.

Mark

-----Original Message-----

From: Boogaard, Peter C.

Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2016 3:50 PM

To: Barrios, Nicole

Cc: Weber, Mark (HHS/ASPA)

Subject: Re: Fact checking Rep. Carter's claim

Adding my colleague mark, who can answer your question. I am still tied up.

> On Apr 27, 2016, at 1:14 PM, Barrios, Nicole> wrote:

>

> Sounds good. What time should I call you later?

>

> Thanks,

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> Nicole Barrios

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> -----Original Message-----

> From: Boogaard, Peter C.

> Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2016 12:12 PM

> To: Barrios, Nicole

> Subject: RE: Fact checking Rep. Carter's claim

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> Will need to be a bit later today. My number is below. What is the best number to reach you?

>

>

> Peter Boogaard

> National Security Council

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> -----Original Message-----

> From: Barrios, Nicole

> Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2016 1:10 PM

> To: Boogaard, Peter C.

> Subject: RE: Fact checking Rep. Carter's claim

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> Hi Pete,

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> Just checking back with you to get your desk phone number. Are you able to speak now or should I try back later today?

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> Thanks,

> Nicole

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> -----Original Message-----

> From: Boogaard, Peter C.

> Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2016 5:07 PM

> To: Schultz, Eric H. EOP/WHO

> Cc: Barrios, Nicole

> Subject: Re: Fact checking Rep. Carter's claim

>

> Happy to connect on this. Lot in here. Off the record, Hhs did submit a request to dod to allow preparations for uacs to be housed in military bases if absolutely needed. This is not a desire, but out necessity, if their is overwhelming demand.

>

> Can we discuss what will helpful here? My number is below.

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> On Apr 26, 2016, at 5:54 PM, Schultz, Eric wrote:

>

> + Pete

>

> From: Barrios, Nicole

> Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2016 05:41 PM

> To: Schultz, Eric

> Subject: Fact checking Rep. Carter's claim

>

> Hi Eric,

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> I'm a reporter with the Round Rock Leader and Austin American-Statesman. I'm working with my colleagues over at PolitiFact Texas to check a claim Congressman John Carter, R-Round Rock, recently made concerning President Obama wanting to house illegal aliens on U.S. military installations. I'm hoping you can help me understand to what degree President Obama "wants" this to happen.

>

> Carter's claim in a column published on March

8<>>>[<<<>](http://www.statesman.com/news/news/local/us-rep-carter-put-our-troops-before-illegal-immigr/nqfgG/): "This is not a joke: the president wants to house illegal aliens on our nation's military installations."

>

> Carter also said the Department of Defense received a formal request for assistance from the Department of Health and Human Services to provide temporary housing for unaccompanied alien children. I'm wondering if you can tell me when the DOD made this request and what has come of it so far?

>

> Thanks for your help,

>

> Nicole Barrios