

DEBBIE LESKO
8TH DISTRICT, ARIZONA

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY
RANKING MEMBER, TRANSPORTATION AND
MARITIME SECURITY

COMMITTEE ON
THE JUDICIARY

COMMITTEE ON RULES

1113 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-4576

12515 W BELL RD
SUITE 104
SURPRISE, AZ 85378
(623) 776-7911

website: Lesko.House.gov

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0308

September 30, 2020

The Honorable Doug Ducey
Governor of Arizona
State Capitol Executive Tower
1700 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007

The Honorable Alex A. Beehler
Assistant Secretary of the Army for
Installations, Energy and Environment
110 Army Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20310-0110

Dear Governor Ducey and Assistant Secretary Beehler,

I write regarding the discrepancies in jurisdiction at the United States Army Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) and the need for federal concurrent jurisdiction. The federal law enforcement department at YPG has the training, resources, and personnel to effectively manage the installation, but they currently do not have the authority to process civil and criminal incidents by civilians on their installation.

Currently, the County Sherriff's Offices of Yuma and La Paz have jurisdiction and must adjudicate all actions involving citizens. Since federal officers are unable to assist, the local authorities are responsible for patrolling this Army installation, which is the United States' second-largest, spanning 1,300 square miles. This is unnecessary and an added burden to their primary duties of protecting and enforcing law and order in two counties, 263 miles of improved roadways, 2,843 miles of unimproved roadways, and Highway 95, which transports more than 100,000 vehicles per year. As you know, YPG is also home to multiple command organizations that have classified on-site testing missions. Due to local law enforcement experiencing underfunding and understaffing, they are unable to patrol the expansive site. This is dangerous and leaves the security of our missions at risk.

I strongly encourage the consideration of Yuma Proving Ground to be placed in the status of federal concurrent jurisdiction. Transferring this authority is a commonsense solution that requires no additional funding or resources. Local law enforcement and the YPG Commander support concurrent jurisdiction because it will enhance safety and security for servicemembers and missions from federal officers, while allowing local law enforcement to continue serving their civilian communities. Please do not hesitate to contact me or my Legislative Director at Jennifer.haynes@mail.house.gov or (202)-225-4576.

Sincerely,



Debbie Lesko
Member of Congress