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[From FoxNews.com]

AMERICA'S THIRD WAR: NATIONAL GUARD'S
NEW MISSION

(By Casey Stegall)

There are many theories on how to effectively secure the nearly 2,000-mile-long border the United States shares with Mexico.

Some believe building a fence to separate us from our southern neighbor is the best route while others think adding additional surveillance equipment and Border Patrol checkpoints will help decrease the number of illegal immigrants and drugs entering America.

One thing virtually everyone close to the border security issue can agree on: America seems to be waging a third war with the Mexican cartels that will stop at nothing to smuggle humans and drugs into our homeland and the national security threat it poses.

One of the more popular ideas on how to secure the region is through the deployment of troops and creation of a strong military presence along the border. In May, President Obama gave the green light for up to 1,200 National Guard troops to be assigned to the four southwest border states. In late September, armed troops started trickling in and working alongside U.S. Border Patrol agents, but the ramp up period is a gradual process since it takes a great deal of time to train the soldiers for their new mission.

According to the National Guard Bureau, nearly 1,200 troops are at work on border issues as of Monday: 263 in California, 561 in Arizona, 80 in New Mexico, 284 in Texas and 10 others assigned to border issues at the National Guard Bureau in Virginia. The deployment is expected to last one year although no official end date has been made public.

Sheriff Paul Babeu, Pinal County Arizona: I'm telling you, as a sheriff, where we're the number one passer county here in Arizona, that it's not secure. That the violence and the concerns we have, are more than just a public safety matter. 520 soldiers are not going to stop it. We have said we need 3000 armed soldiers just here in Arizona.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HEROES AMONG US RETURN WITH
HONOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it was dusk when he left Thailand and entered Laotian airspace. Soon he was flying into North Vietnam as darkness came over the horizon. It was his 25th mission into North Vietnam flying an F-4 Phantom jet.

The date was April 16, 1966. The pilot was Sam Johnson, United States Air Force colonel, and he was doing his second tour of duty in Vietnam. He was flying with the fighter squadron called Satan's Angels. He was a career pilot

who had already flown 62 combat missions during the Korean War flying an F-86 Sabre jet. Colonel Johnson also flew with the famed Air Force Thunderbirds.

This is a photograph of Colonel Sam Johnson, United States Air Force.

But this day of April 16th, 1966, Colonel Johnson was shot down by ground fire from the North Vietnamese. He was captured, he was put in a prisoner of war camp, and, Mr. Speaker, he was in that POW camp for 7 years.

Because of the way that he would not give in to the torture and to the interrogation, they moved him to the famous "Hanoi Hilton" and a place called "Alcatraz." Alcatraz was where 11 POWs were put because they were the most obstinate POWs, leaders of the other POWs. They were hard-nosed and they had to be segregated, and they called themselves the "Alcatraz gang." They were defiant, and the North Vietnamese called this man right here "Die Hard." They tortured him, but they got no information from him.

During those 7 years he was beaten and tortured, but he never broke down. So then they put him in solitary confinement for 4 years in a cell 3-feet-wide by 9 feet, and he was there for 4 years. During that 4 years, all that was in that cell was a lightbulb that they kept on 24 hours a day. During the nighttime, they put him into leg irons, and during that 4 years, he never saw or talked to another American.

While in the POW camp, he and the other POWs communicated with each other with a code by tapping on the wall, and during that time he memorized the names of 374 other POWs. He kept that memory going so that when he got away or was released or escaped, he would be able to tell their loved ones who they were and where they were.

The torture continued every day. One example was this: One morning the North Vietnamese took him out of his cell and lined him up to shoot him. They told him they were going to kill him in a firing squad. They lined him up. Armed with AK-47s, they pulled the trigger, but there was no ammunition in those AK-47s. They laughed and made fun of Colonel Sam, and all he said was, "Is that the best you can do?"

For food he ate weeds, pig fat and rice. He went down from 200 pounds to 120 pounds. And after 7 years of confinement, he was finally released with other POWs. He suffered torture and broken bones during that time that he still suffers from today.

He continued to serve in the United States Air Force for 29 total years. While he was in that POW camp, his wife back home in Texas, Shirley, had known that he was shot down, but she didn't know for 2 years where Sam was, whether he was alive, dead, or missing in action. They have now been married for 60 years.

After he left the United States Air Force, he served in the statehouse in

Texas, had his own business, and then in 1991 he came and served with distinction here in the United States Congress.

Today, Colonel Sam celebrates his 80th birthday. Down the street, he and a lot of friends, Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle and family, are honoring him on his birthday.

You know, Sam returned home to the United States after his torture and confinement in the POW camps. You notice right here, this patch, Mr. Speaker? You see what this patch says, which is from the 31st Fighter Wing? It says "Return With Honor."

Sam Johnson returned to America with honor. He is a special breed. He is the American breed. Where does America find such men as Sam Johnson? He is one of those. And he is that special warrior during even the time he was a captive warrior that never forsook his duty and never forsook his honor.

So, Colonel Sam, we thank you for your service to the United States of America during war and during peacetime. Thank you for serving this great country. You are truly a hero among us.

Here are the commendations that Colonel Sam Johnson received while serving in the United States Air Force:

COMMENDATIONS

2 Silver Stars
2 Legions of Merit
Distinguished Flying Cross
Bronze Star w/Combat "V" (Valor)
2 Purple Hearts
4 Air Medals
POW Medal
3 USAF Outstanding Unit Citations

And that's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SAYING ENOUGH IS ENOUGH REGARDING TSA AIRPORT SCREENING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to announce that I introduced some legislation today dealing with the calamity that we have found at our airports with TSA. Something has to be done. Everybody is fed up. The people are fed up, the pilots are fed up, I am fed up.

I have come to this floor many times over the past many years and complained about the terrible foreign policy we have had, the terrible monetary policy we have had, the excessive spending and the debt, and also the tax policy. But what we are doing and what we are accepting and putting up with at the airports is so symbolic of us just not standing up and saying enough is enough.

I know the American people are starting to wake up, but our government, those in charge, Congress, as well as the executive branch, are doing nothing. Yes, they are talking about maybe backing off and allowing the pilots to go through. But can you think how silly the whole thing is? The pilot has a gun in the cockpit and he is managing this aircraft, which is a missile, and we make him go through this groping X-ray exercise, having people feeling their underwear. It is absurd, and it is time we wake up.

The bill I have introduced will take care of this. But we have to realize that the real problem is that the American people have been too submissive. We have been too submissive. It has been going on for a long time. This was to be expected even from the beginning of the TSA. And it is deeply flawed. Private property should be protected by private individuals, not bureaucrats.

But the bill that I have introduced will take care of it. It is very simple. It is one paragraph long. It removes the immunity from anybody in the Federal government that does anything that you or I can't do.

If you can't grope another person and if you can't X-ray people and endanger them with possible X-rays, you can't take nude photographs of individuals, why do we allow the government to do it? We would go to jail. He would be immediately arrested, if an individual citizen went up and did these things, and yet we just sit there and calmly say, oh, they are making us safe. And besides, the argument from the executive branch is that when you buy a ticket, you have sacrificed your rights and it is the duty of the government to make us safe.

That isn't the case. You never have to sacrifice your rights. The duty of the government is to protect our rights, not to use them and do what they have been doing to us.

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The pilots, hopefully, will be exempted from this.

Another suggestion I have that might help us: let's make sure that every Member of Congress goes through this. Get the x-ray and make them look at the pictures and then go through one of those groping pat-downs, and then I think there would be a difference. Have everybody in the executive branch, anybody—a Cabinet member—make them go through it and look at it. Maybe they would pay more attention. But this doesn't work. This

is not what makes us safer. This is preposterous to think that the TSA has made us safer.

When you think about it, if you look at what's happened over the past 10 years, during this last decade, we lost 3,000 on a terrible, terrible day for America. But since that time in this last decade we have also lost 6,000 of our military personnel going over there and trying to rectify this problem. We have lost 400,000 people on our government-run highways. We have lost 150,000 individuals from homicides.

So I think there's reason to be concerned, reason to deal with this problem. We're not dealing with it the right way. We're doing the wrong thing. And groping people at the airport doesn't solve our problems. What has solved our problems, basically, has been that they put a good lock on the door, and they put a gun inside the cockpit. That's been the greatest boon to our safety.

Safety should be the responsibility of the individual and the private property owner. But right now we assume the government's always going to take care of us, and we are supposed to sacrifice our liberties. I say that is wrong. We are not safer. And we also know there are individuals who are making money off this. Michael Chertoff, here's a guy that was the head of the TSA, selling the equipment. And the equipment is questionable. We don't even know if it works, and it may well be dangerous to our health.

The way I see this, if this doesn't change, I see what has happened to the American people is we have accepted the notion that we should be treated like cattle. Make us safe, make us secure, put us in barbed wire, feed us, fatten us up, and then they'll eat us. And we're a bunch of cattle, and we have to wake up and say, We've had it.

I think this whole idea of an opt-out day is just great. We ought to opt out and make the point. Get somebody to watch. And take a camera. It's time for the American people to stand up and shrug off the shackles of our government at TSA at the airports.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

IN MEMORY OF ROSS BEACH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening in memory of my friend, Ross Beach. The House rules only allow me 5 minutes to speak, and it's difficult to summarize anyone's life in such a short time, but impossible to do justice to the life of Mr. Beach.

Ross passed away this weekend at his home at the age of 92. Ross was defined by family and friends, business success, and charity.

A lifelong Kansan, Ross received his education in my hometown of Hays. Following a childhood upbringing in the oil and gas fields of western Kansas, Ross enrolled at Kansas State University, where he met and later married the love of his life, Marianna Kistler. They were married in 1941. Ross's service as a naval aviator during World War II sparked an interest in flying that would continue throughout his life.

Ross was a pioneer in our State in banking, radio and television, and in oil and gas. His many professional endeavors created jobs and economic opportunity for many Kansans. He was the president of Kansas Natural Gas Company and chairman of the board of Douglas County Bank. His success in the business world was overshadowed only by his and his wife's generosity. Ross and Marianna are among our State's most prolific supporters of arts and education—the greatest supporters that perhaps we will ever see in our State. On the campus of Fort Hays State University, the Beach family helped fund the Beach-Schmidt Performing Arts Center, and Ross's generosity made possible the construction of the nationally renowned Sternberg Museum of National History.

The Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art on the campus of Kansas State University bears the name of Mrs. Beach, which was named for her in commemoration of their 50th wedding anniversary. My wife, Robba, and I have been honored to serve on the board of visitors at the art museum that bears the Beach name, and we're able to witness firsthand the passion and commitment Ross and Marianna had for culture and the arts in Kansas. On the campus of the University of Kansas, Ross assisted in the formation of the Beach Center on Disability, where Kansans with disabilities and their families are helped to lead healthier and more productive lives.

Kansans from all walks of life have benefited from Ross's compassion to others and his service to community. He was recognized on many, many occasions, including his designation as Kansan of the Year in 2002; the President's Award from Kansas State University in 1989; and, along with his wife, the Citations for Distinguished Service from both the University of Kansas and Fort Hays State University.

Despite his stature in our community and State, Mr. Beach always treated every person he encountered with respect and dignity. Anyone who met Ross easily became a lifelong friend. As a young newlywed couple starting out our new life in Hays, the first invitation Robba and I received was to come to Ross and Marianna's home for dinner. There was never a more gracious couple than the Beaches.