

WORLD IN BRIEF

Associated Press

US sending 5,200 troops to border, double Syria deployment

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon is deploying 5,200 troops to the Southwest border in an extraordinary military operation a week before nationwide elections in which President Donald Trump wants voters to focus on what he calls an “invasion” — a slow-moving caravan of Central American migrants.

The number of troops being sent is more than double the 2,000 who are in Syria fighting the Islamic State group.

Two caravans of migrants, traveling mostly on foot, are still hundreds of miles from the U.S. border with Mexico. Most are poor, carrying the belongings that fit into a knapsack and fleeing gang violence or poverty. And any who complete the long trek to the border already face major hurdles to asylum in the country — both physical and bureaucratic — to being allowed to remain in the United States.

Trump, eager to keep voters trained on immigration in the lead-up to the midterm elections, stepped up his dire warnings about the caravans, tweeting, “This is an invasion of our Country and our Military is waiting for you!”

In a late Monday interview, Trump said the U.S. would build tent cities for asylum seekers.

“We’re going to put tents up all over the place,” he told Fox News Channel’s Laura Ingraham. “They’re going to be very nice, and they’re going to wait, and if they don’t get asylum they get out.”

Military officials said in announcing the deployment of 5,200 active-duty troops that tents were being provided as temporary housing for border agents. A U.S. official said today that in addition to the 5,200, the Pentagon has put 2,000 to 3,000 other active-duty troops on standby in case they also are needed at the border.

Under current protocol, migrants who clear an initial screening are often released until their cases are decided in immigration court, which can take several years.

The Pentagon’s Operation Faithful Patriot was described by the commander of U.S. Northern Command as an effort to help Customs and Border Protection “harden the southern border” by stiffening defenses at and near legal entry points. Advanced helicopters will allow border protection agents to swoop down on migrants trying to cross illegally, said Air Force Gen. Terrence O’Shaughnessy.

Trump: End birthright citizenship for some US-born babies

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump is making another hardline immigration play, declaring that he wants to order an end to the constitutional right to citizenship for babies born in the United States to non-citizens. Trump has long called for an end to birthright citizenship, as have many conservatives. An executive order would spark an uphill legal battle for Trump about whether the president has the unilateral ability to declare that children born in the U.S. to those living here illegally aren’t citizens. Most scholars think he can’t.

Asked about the legality of such an executive order, Trump said, “they’re saying I can do it just with an executive order.” He added that “we’re the only country in the world where a person comes in and has a baby, and the baby is essentially a citizen of the United States.”

A 2010 study from the Center for Immigration Studies, a group that supports immigration restrictions, showed that 30 countries offered birthright citizenship.

The Pew Research Center found in a survey published two years ago that births to “unauthorized immigrants” were declining and accounted for about 1 in 3 births to foreign-born mothers in the U.S. in 2014. About 275,000 babies were born to such parents in 2014, or about 7 percent of the 4 million births in the U.S. that year, according to Pew estimates based on government data. That represented a decline from 330,000 in 2009, at the end of the recession.

A person familiar with the internal White House debate said the topic of birthright citizen-

ship had come up inside the West Wing at various times over at least the last year, but has some internal detractors. White House lawyers have debated the topic, and expect to work with the Justice Department’s Office of Legal Counsel to develop a legal justification for the action. It is one of many immigration changes being discussed including asylum law changes, and barring the migrant caravan from entering the country.

Omar Jadwat, director of the Immigrants’ Rights Project at the American Civil Liberties Union in New York, said today that the Constitution is very clear.

“If you are born in the United States, you’re a citizen,” he said, adding that it was “outrageous that the president can think he can override constitutional guarantees by issuing an executive order.”

Synagogue shooter was obsessed with Jewish refugee agency

Just moments before the Pittsburgh synagogue shooting that left 11 people dead, the suspect is believed to have posted a final social media rant against a Jewish refugee settlement agency most people had never heard of, but which has increasingly become the target of right-wing rage and conspiracy theories.

“HIAS likes to bring invaders in that kill our people,” Robert Gregory Bowers wrote on the platform Gab early Saturday. “I can’t sit by and watch my people get slaughtered. Screw your optics, I’m going in.”

The group, formerly known as the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, was founded in 1881 in a Manhattan storefront to assist Jews persecuted in Russia and Eastern Europe. HIAS is now among nine groups that contract with the State Department to help refugees settle in the United States, and it has recently clashed with the Trump administration over policies that have throttled the flow of such newcomers.

Leaders of HIAS and the group’s Pittsburgh affiliate vowed to continue their work. “We were the perfect target for this murderer,

because we’re Jewish and we help refugees. So he gets to check off the two hate boxes,” Mark Hetfield, president and CEO of HIAS, told a news conference today in Pittsburgh.

Hetfield said HIAS is getting flooded with donations, with more coming in from non-Jews around the world than Jews for the first time in the organization’s history.

Analysts who follow the extreme right say the fixation some extremists have with HIAS appears to be fueled by a mix of anti-Semitism and the recent caustic rhetoric about an immigrant caravan trudging slowly toward the United States.

Specifically, they believe Bowers ascribed to the “white genocide” conspiracy, which holds that Jews are prominent among the forces seeking to destroy the “white race” by bringing in non-white people.

Based in the Washington, D.C., suburb of Silver Spring, HIAS has an annual operating budget of \$42 million and receives about half of its money from the federal government. It has resettled refugees of different faiths from Afghanistan, Vietnam, Iran and elsewhere. Among the thousands of people it has aided are Google co-founder Sergey Brin and singer Regina Spektor.

Though HIAS strongly supports the rights of asylum seekers to a fair hearing, it has no connection to the immigrant caravan, said spokesman Bill Swersey.

Thousands of Syrians stuck in the desert risk starvation

BEIRUT — Tens of thousands of Syrians stranded in a desert camp near the Jordanian border are at risk of starvation amid dwindling supplies and the approach of winter, while regional powers trade blame over who is responsible for this latest humanitarian catastrophe in Syria’s civil war.

Desperately needed aid deliveries to the besieged Rukban camp have repeatedly failed or been postponed, including a U.N. convoy which was supposed to go in on Thursday but has now been indefinitely delayed.

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1 Carry
5 “— Blue?”
8 Hot tubs
12 Alike (Fr.)
13 Victory
14 British noble
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17 13, in old Rome
18 Architect I. M. —
19 Torched
20 Nasser’s successor
21 Make lace
22 Dadaist Jean
23 Relinquished
26 Scholarship allowance
30 Mountain goat
31 “Tasty!”
32 Panache
33 Isaac’s father
35 Island south of Sicily
36 Knock

DOWN

1 Office part-timer
2 Curved molding
3 Curbside yell
4 Peyton’s brother
5 Anticipate
6 Gum flavor
7 Connections
8 Allure
9 Picked up the tab
10 “Carmen” solo
11 Thin cut
16 Dressed
20 — Lanka
21 Either of two Southern border cities
22 \$ dispenser
23 Spy org.
24 Recede
25 German article
26 Bottom line
27 Right angle
28 Rebel Turner
29 Genetic stuff
31 Chatter
34 Horse chow
35 Transcending (Pref.)
37 Courage
38 Some wines
39 Notion
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43 Top-of-the-line
44 Winter blanket
46 Moving vehicle
47 TV schedule abbr.

Solution time: 22 mins.

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Yesterday’s answer 10-30

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