

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

Major General Glenn H. Curtis  
The Adjutant General  
Louisiana National Guard  
6400 St. Claude Avenue  
Jackson Barracks  
New Orleans, LA 70117

May 14, 2013

We are writing to you in order to stress the priority state officials should place in taking the necessary steps to remedy the remaining munitions issues at Camp Minden.

As you are aware, last year Louisiana State Police discovered an astounding amount of explosives that had not been stored properly in relation to a Department of Defense (DoD) contract with a private contractor, Explo Systems. The company failed to adhere to proper safety standards and managed to go undetected by state officials until a separate explosion unrelated to the M6 propellant occurred.

Initially, the Army seemed to take the general position that that they lack the necessary authority to assist. It is our understanding that the Congressional Delegation's intervention with the Army has changed that. The Explosives Safety Board sent by the Department of the Army to evaluate the situation and provide initial recommendations is currently preparing further guidance. Significant Army assistance could be provided if the state reacts in a timely and appropriate way.

Louisiana state officials have previously requested assistance from the DoD to find storage for the excess M6 propellant. From our understanding, there are currently a number of potential solutions to address the remaining materials in storage. Certain actions by the DoD will require that the Governor's office submit formal requests to the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

Notwithstanding pending local legal action, we ask that state officials submit to the Army what is required so that the Army may be of assistance absolutely as soon as possible.

As we move forward to find a solution please keep our offices informed as to the progress of this situation. In the meantime, thank you for your ongoing and continued attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

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David Vitter  
United States Senate



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Dr. John Fleming  
United States Congress

CC: Louisiana Governors Office