Case Study

Name

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Course

Date

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Border Security

Border security is an endemic problem in the U.S. that attracts the attention of various agencies. The southern border is the most significant security concern due to the influx of illegal immigrants in the U.S. through the area. It also serves as an avenue for drug trafficking, human trafficking, and other cross-border crimes. The Department of Defense (DoD) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) are all involved in keeping the southern border safe in collaboration with respective state authorities (Davis, 2021). The deepening of security threats due to the surge in the arrival of thousands of illegal immigrants at the Southern border prompted the DoD to send in its security personnel to back up the DoHs in enhancing security within the area.

In 2018, the DoD sent about 5,200 active-duty personnel moving to Southwest Border to support the effort by the DHS and U.S. Customs in securing the border. The deployment of the military was occasioned by the security crisis triggered by the drastic increase in the number of immigrants using the Sothern border as an entry point to the U.S. (Garamone, 2018). The deployment of military personnel raises concern about the possible violation of Posse Comitatus, which limited the use of the military in domestic security. The use of active-duty personnel from the DoD in maintaining security at the border is acceptable on the ground that the threat posed by illegal immigrants at the border includes aspects of external and internal security threats (Garamone, 2018). The military is responsible for protecting the U.S. from external security threats. In this respect, a limited number of military personnel would be deployed along the border.

Moreover, the military can be deployed for domestic use with the request of relevant authorities, particularly the DHS. Long caravans of immigrants headed for the southern border compelled the DHS to request the DoD's support, a development that is within the law (Garamone, 2018). Overwhelming security situations can be used as a justification for the use of the military in maintaining peace and orderliness within the U.S. borders. The use of the military along the southern border underscores the severity of insecurity posed by illegal immigrants to the U.S. Human traffickers and immigrants have taken advantage of external and internal factors to move in large numbers towards the border region with the hope of successfully entering the country (U.S. Department of Homeland Security, 2021). The court decision that children should not be held in custody for more than 20 days resulted in the surge in the number of children among the immigrants on the false ground that if one is a child, he or she would easily enter the U.S. without fear of being deported.

The increase in the number of illegal immigrants along the southern border was also triggered by the limited border security capacity in preventing all illegal immigrants from entering the U.S. In 2018 alone, about one million illegal immigrants managed to dodge the security agencies and enter the U.S. through the southern border (Davis, 2021). The success of hundreds of thousands of people to cross into the country without authorization underpins the incapacity of the DHS in managing the security situation along the southern border; this justifies the involvement of the DoD.

References

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