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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

CITY OF ALAMOGORDO

City of Alamogordo

Operation Allies Welcome

Alamogordo, NM Thursday, September 2, 2021 City of Alamogordo leadership had the opportunity today to attend a briefing at the 1st Armored Division Headquarters on Fort Bliss about Operation Allies Welcome. This operation is currently being organized by the Department of Homeland Security and is ever developing and changing. The City of Alamogordo appreciates the opportunity to be included in this briefing and fully supports our military personnel and their efforts.

We are aware of the many concerns that citizens have, City leadership was assured during the briefing of the extensive vetting process that began in Afghanistan and continued throughout the refugees' journey to the U.S. Background, biometric, Covid and other health screenings were all preformed prior to, and again once the refugees arrive at a military installation. City leadership has great confidence in the protocols that have been established for the refugees coming to Holloman, and many of them already have or are in the process of receiving visas. Settlement in communities throughout the United States is being coordinated through resettlement agencies if refugees do not already have family members in the states. The resettlement organizations will work with communities that already have established Afghan communities and resources to support these families/individuals and their needs.

When talking about Holloman AFB & their team, Task Force-Holloman lead, Brig. Gen. Daniel Gabrielli said, "It is because of their unwavering support that we were able to receive our guests with open arms and ensure that they are treated with the utmost dignity and respect." At the time of this briefing, City leadership were told that HAFB has the ability to receive 1000 refugees but will be able to receive up to 5000. HAFB has received their first refugees this week, most of whom are families with children.

In an effort to point citizens to accurate and timely information the City has developed a landing page on their website that provides links to appropriate websites, social media platforms, press releases, volunteer and donation information. The website can be found at this link <https://ci.alamogordo.nm.us/735/Operation-Allies-Welcome>

During our briefing the Alamogordo citizens, businesses and Holloman Spoused organization were acknowledged for their generosity and support, we would like to echo those sentiments.

Learn more about the City of Alamogordo, services, happenings and other information at <http://ci.alamogordo.nm.us>, www.alamogordonmtrue.com or @CityOfAlamogordo on Facebook

