



May 31, 2023

Via Email

COL (CA) Darrin Bender
California Military Department
9800 Goethe Road
Sacramento, CA 95827

Dear COL (CA) Bender:

I write this letter to you on behalf of the California State Guard Foundation.

I received the Department's new Donation and Gift Policy sometime after its date of January 23, 2023. This change in policy contained the following language: "Any donations for the CSG or its members, including those from the California State Guard Foundation, must be conveyed through the California Military Department Foundation (MDF) in order for it to lawfully accepted,"

To ensure that CSG servicemembers would not have to pay their own expenses, and in attempt to comply with the new policy, on February 1, 2023 authority was requested to have the Foundation donate \$137,680 to the MDF for use by the CSG at its June Consolidated Annual Training.

I was advised that the MDF did not have the staff to honor such a request. Rather than waiting until the last moment and possibly inconveniencing 1000 servicemembers, the Consolidated Annual Training was cancelled. In its place, an annual training for just the Emergency Response Command was scheduled for the same period, and a request was made to you on February 14, 2023 for the MDF to accept \$25,000 from the CSGF to pay for transportation, food, and lodging.

At first, it was my understanding that the MDF would accept the donation, but shortly before the event we were notified that the MDF did not have sufficient staff to carry out the donation, and acceptance was refused.

To ensure members of the CSG do not ever have to pay out of pocket expenses to volunteer to the State of California, and to ensure proper training, I request that pursuant to CMVC Section 412.5 the CMD through the MDF enter into an MOA/MOU with the CSGF to allow the CSGF to directly expend funds on behalf of the MDF for CSG needs. This should solve your concerns that the CMD does not have the personnel to dedicate to executing requests.

This is certainly consistent with prior actions regarding funds held by the CMD. As you will recall, when the MDSF did not have the ability to execute requests to expend funds on deposit for museum activities, you authorized the transfer of all such funds designated for museum activities to the CSGF. The CSGF

received a check directly from the CMD, and for the past few years the CSGF has been writing all checks requested for museum activities. This is certainly consistent with your subsequent request to the legislature to amend CMVC 412.5 to authorize the CMD to enter into MOAs with nonprofits such as the CSGF.

I look forward to speaking with you to discuss implementing this program. I can be reached at (805) 305-1876 or jcoggan@csgfoundation.org.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Coggan", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Jay M. Coggan
President
California State Guard Foundation