

**Email, Laura Lopez, information specialist IV  
Texas Military Department/Texas Army National Guard,  
Dec. 13, 2016**

From: Fauzeya Rahman  
Date: Tuesday, December 13, 2016  
Subject: PolitiFact inquiry

Hi Major Warbrick,

I'm working on an assignment for the PolitiFact Texas project and was emailing to request factual (on-the-record) backup for the following claim. Rafael Benavides in Rep. Cuellar's office suggested I email you:

In a letter to Jeh Johnson, Sen. Cornyn along with Gov. Abbott and Rep. Cuellar, said the Department of Homeland Security has not requested any aerial Defense Department coverage of the U.S.-Mexico border for 2017.

Rafael said you would be able to provide the data/source this claim is based on. I'd appreciate if you could get back to me by the end of the day. Thanks and please let me know if you have any questions.

From: Laura Lopez  
Date: Tuesday, December 13, 2016  
Subject: Re: PolitiFact inquiry

Fauzeya,

Good afternoon. Thanks for your inquiry. Operation Phalanx is a federal mission under their direct control.

As such, all questions regarding the status of Operation Phalanx must be directed to the Department of Homeland Security's Media Relations Office. They can be reached at [CBPMediaRelations@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:CBPMediaRelations@cbp.dhs.gov).

For specific questions about the National Guard's role, please contact Ms. Lynn Kirby at [patricia.l.kirby8.civ@mail.mil](mailto:patricia.l.kirby8.civ@mail.mil).

Very Respectfully,

Texas Military Department Public Affairs Staff