

Email, Daniel Hetlage, director of media relations, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Dec. 19, 2016

From: Fauzeyya Rahman
Date: Friday, December 16, 2016
Subject: PolitiFact inquiry

Good afternoon,

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:

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.

I wanted to see if someone at CBP could send me data or information on the number of hours requested for Operation Phalanx in 2017. In a Nov. 22 BuzzFeed article, Dan Hetlage said that "U.S. Customs & Border Protection is looking to continue that partnership into 2017. CBP has already reached out to the Department of Defense to request our partner's continued support."

Rep. Cuellar is saying the letter referenced in the BuzzFeed article didn't actually request any hours of surveillance, and was "a feel good request." I'm trying to find where I can get information regarding the number of hours requested for 2017.

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: Daniel Hetlage
Date: Friday, December 16, 2016
Subject: Re: PolitiFact inquiry

We've received your query and will try to meet your deadline though given the hour that may not happen. Is Monday a possibility?

From: Daniel Hetlage
Date: Monday, December 19, 2016
Subject: Re: PolitiFact inquiry

What I can tell you on the record is that "This support is important, the Commissioner has indicated such, and U.S. Customs & Border Protection will take any hours the Department of Defense can provide."

Best,

Dan Hetlage