



**U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection**

Attorney Johanna Oliver  
U.S. Office of Special Counsel  
Disclosure Unit

Monday, February 10, 2014

RE: Use and abuse of AUO at DHS.

Dear Mrs. Oliver:

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to comment on the findings of the supplemental investigation. It is great that some of the allegations were substantiated. Border Patrol management spent more than 1.4 billion dollars in overtime alone in 2012, (Reference: AP report on a recent analysis of Border Patrol overtime). One billion dollars is a lot of money to be wasted on overtime the Border Patrol does not need to accomplish the mission. In order to completely eliminate the need for AUO or any other unnecessary overtime, is to transition from three shifts to four overlapping-shifts concentrating manpower during night operations. By going to four shifts we can operate without overtime and without neglecting the security of the nation, while at the same time being good stewards of the tax-payers money, and last but not least, saving the United States 1 Billion Dollars annually.

AUO was claimed and collected when we operated with four shifts just like it was collected recently with three shifts. I read the report sent to you by IA and in it management claims that AUO is imperative for the Border Patrol to be able to operate properly. It would be great if management were asked these questions during the next congressional hearing: If AUO is needed when operating with three shifts, because of shift change, then, why did management collect AUO in the past when we were operating with four shifts? Why did management allow every single Border Patrol Agent, even K9 handlers and instructors, to collect AUO every day when, again, we were operating with four shifts? What was the compelling need then to justify AUO on a daily basis even though we were operating with four shifts and presumably had enough time to cover shift change?

The abuse of AUO is a problem that has been taking place for years now, perhaps decades, costing tax-payers millions of dollars annually. Thanks to your efforts Mrs. Oliver, and the efforts of others as well, and Congress, it may finally come to an end.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Miska Rodriguez".

Miska Rodriguez  
Border Patrol Agent  
Laredo North Border Patrol Station

2014 FEB 18 PM 4:43  
U.S. OFFICE OF  
SPECIAL COUNSEL  
WASHINGTON, D.C.