



One Hundred Sixteenth Congress
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

July 17, 2020

Mr. Mark A. Morgan
Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Commissioner
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20229

Dear Mr. Morgan:

I write today to join Customs and Border Protection (CBP) in honoring the service of Border Patrol Agent (BPA) Johan Mordan. I also write today to seek additional information regarding the circumstances of his death.

According to a statement released by CBP, BPA Mordan died while on duty on June 11, 2020, at the age of 26. He had reportedly been working “in the remote boot heel area of New Mexico when agents lost communications with him.” After a search, he was found “unresponsive lying on a trail.” CBP’s statement explains that, “Agents immediately began CPR (chest compressions) and air support was requested for extraction,” but “BPA Mordan could not be revived.”¹

To enable the Committee to better understand the circumstances surrounding BPA Mordan’s death, the Committee requests copies of all investigatory reviews referring or relating to his death produced by CBP or provided to CBP by any other Federal, state, or local agency at the time such reviews are completed by or provided to CBP.

The Committee also requests that CBP produce to the Committee by August 14 all documents referring or relating to:

1. The nature and purpose of BPA Mordan’s duty assignment at the time he died, including the time at which he commenced the duty assignment, the specific tasks he was undertaking at the time of his death, the job titles of all CBP personnel who were with him while he undertook his final duty assignment and who were with him at the time he died, the time when he first reported feeling unwell, and the time he died;

¹ U.S. Custom and Border Protection, Statement—Passing of U.S. Border Patrol Agent Johan Mordan (June 13, 2020) (online at <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/speeches-and-statements/statement-passing-us-border-patrol-agent-johan-mordan>).

2. The nature and timing of all medical assistance rendered to BPA Mordan from the time CBP personnel became aware he was in distress until the time that he passed away, including whether such medical assistance was provided solely by CBP personnel or by any non-CBP first responders, and the medical qualifications of all CBP personnel who rendered assistance to BPA Mordan;
3. The request for, dispatch of, and in-flight communications of CBP air support to assist BPA Mordan, including but not limited to all communications involving the Command Duty Officer who dispatched air support to assist BPA Mordan;
4. The medical qualifications of the personnel who were on board the air support dispatched to assist BPA Mordan as well as the medical equipment available on the aircraft; and
5. Whether the air support reached BPA Mordan and rendered aid to him or, if the air support was unable to reach his location, why it was unable to do so.

If the air support dispatched to assist BPA Mordan originated from a CBP air station that was not the station closest to the location at which he became ill and died, please provide a list of all air stations that were closer to BPA Mordan's location than the station from which air support was dispatched, and please provide documents sufficient to show why air support was dispatched from an air station further from his location than other stations.

The Committee would also like to receive documents sufficient to show the daily duty assignments of all air assets stationed at Deming, New Mexico, from January 1, 2019, through the present, as well as documents sufficient to show all air assets that have been assigned from air stations located outside of New Mexico to operate within the area of responsibility of the Deming Air Station. In addition, the Committee requests documents sufficient to show the number of 911 calls to which air assets from the Deming Air Station responded on a monthly basis disaggregated by month for each month from January 2019 through July 2020.

Finally, the Committee requests a briefing on the circumstances surrounding the death of BPA Mordan as well as CBP's air operations from and in the service area of the Deming Air Station no later than August 31, 2020.

Sincerely,



BENNIE G. THOMPSON
Chairman