



National Border Patrol Council

October 26, 2015

The Honorable John McCain
United States Senate
218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Attn: Mark Delich

Dear Senator McCain,

I am writing to bring your attention to a health issue affecting Border Patrol Agents in the Yuma Sector. Currently the Agents are experiencing problems with Legionnaires Disease at a forward operating base called FOB Grip. In recent months there have been 4 outbreaks of Legionnaires at this FOB caused by contaminated water.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regulations prohibit the FOB from drilling wells, meaning that all water needs to be trucked in. This trucked in water poses a health risk because if the trucks are not cleaned sufficiently, it leads to the specter of Legionnaires. The disease is a bacteria induced case of Pneumonia that puts Border Patrol Agents out of commission until they receive treatment from antibiotics.

This is a recurring problem and needs to be addressed by Commissioner Kerlikowske as the issue is not only putting the effectiveness of the entire operating base at risk but also poses a threat to the Agents' individual health. The long-term solution to this problem would include completely rebuilding FOB Grip since a newer FOB just 30 miles away is not experiencing these issues.

The Customs and Border Protection headquarters is well aware of these concerns but refuses to address the problem due to lack of resources, at the expense of the health of the Agents protecting the border.

I appreciate your leadership on this issue and look forward to continuing to work with you to find a solution. Thank you for your efforts and for considering our comments.

With kindest regard I am,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brandon Judd", is written over a horizontal line.

Brandon Judd
President
National Border Patrol Council