



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

IDO 50/3.1a4

July 3, 2019

MEMORANDUM FOR:

COR

Chief Patrol Agent
El Centro Sector

FROM:

Deputy Patrol Agent in Charge
Indio Station

SUBJECT:

Derogatory and Inflammatory Statements; RE: IDO BPA COR
COR

On July 1, 2019, news stations reported that Border Patrol Agents (CBP Agents), had made derogatory comments in a supposedly "closed" Facebook group entitled 10-15. The comments reported were about an upcoming Congressional inspection by New York Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of a detention center at a Texas Border Patrol Station.

Over the past few weeks, Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez has made comments about USBP Detention Centers, likening them to Concentration Camps and calling Border Patrol Agents Nazi's, and other inflammatory comments. While no doubt inflammatory, such comments are regularly made and being addressed at the Headquarters level.

BPAs nationwide are members of the Facebook group, and recent posts depicted the Congresswoman in various sexual "memes," and also made light of the recent deaths of illegal aliens found drowned in the Rio Grande. The posts had been made public and were shown nationally on various news outlets and internet sites.

At 1:00pm, during a meeting, all Command Staff were instructed to address musters and / or their program areas regarding the comments made by the agents on the 10-15 page, and reiterate the possible repercussions of such comments (the nexus) whether on or off duty. Each station and program area were instructed to forward the 2018 memorandum from Assistant Commissioner Klein to all agents. More importantly, we were to discuss during muster, or in person, the potential ramifications of creating "memes", commenting on, or creating a nexus to the Border Patrol on or off duty.

I attended the 2pm muster immediately following the 1pm conference call. During the muster, (481 attached), IDO BPA COR entered the muster room after I had begun discussing the issue. As I was speaking, it became obvious to me that some of the agents had no idea what I was talking about. I started from the beginning, and discussed exactly what had occurred, essentially what I knew from media outlets. BPA COR interrupted me and asked why we, as Border Patrol Agents could not call Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez a "ho", since she had called

us Nazi's repeatedly. While I was addressing BPA COR specifically, all agents heard me state that his comment was unprofessional and that while I did not know the rules regarding what congressional officials can or cannot say, I am sure that there are rules, but that does not mean we can say whatever we want. He repeated his comment, enhancing it by saying "well it is true, she is a Ho."

Once again, I told him that his comments were unprofessional and to stop making them. He then stated, raising his voice, "I cannot believe I work with a bunch of Fucking Pussies". He said this twice in succession. I told him loudly to stop and that he has crossed the line.

To me, his behavior led me to believe that he was not only disagreeing with the fact that I was stating that comments on a website were inappropriate but that he was someone that had made comments on the website and was concerned that the agency would be investigating agents that had made comments.

Regardless of the reasoning behind his comments, his outburst was unprofessional, Unbecoming of a Federal Law Enforcement Officer and a violation of the EEO Policy. BPA COR outburst was the worst I had seen in my career as a Border Patrol Agent, certainly the worst I have seen since I promoted through the ranks. I have never seen an agent act in this manner and I was not only offended, but embarrassed to be associated to the same agency. I have had many agents, supervisors and even superiors vent to me in the past (behind closed doors) and at no time did their comments come close to what BPA COR stated in front of muster.

I strongly recommend that the public comments made by BPA COR be acted on immediately. Further, I believe that the comments he made in public be treated the same as the comments made by the agents on Facebook. While those agents may be hiding behind a fictitious name on Facebook, BPA COR expressed the comments in full uniform in front of peers and supervisors.

His actions should be acted upon swiftly and I recommend that he immediately have his arrest authority revoked. It is apparent that BPA COR does not respect the agency mission, the leadership and even his peers. The Indio Station operates two permanent checkpoints and combined, interact with over 2.1 million people yearly. BPA COR is an embarrassment to the agency, and if allowed to continue working alongside the agents that heard his comments, they will believe that not only does the agency condone his comments, but believe that agents can say what they want, in front of whoever they want. I believe that BPA COR will be emboldened, and will believe he has the freedom to act or say what he wants regardless of the audience.

I no longer have faith that he will serve the agency in an appropriate manner; I believe that BPA COR needs direct supervision and should not be trusted to interact with the public and certainly not any detainees.