



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF PATROL AGENT

As I had promised you last week, I wanted to keep you up to date on any developments regarding the possibility of a government shutdown on October 1. Now that October 1 is upon us, you should be aware that Congress did not pass a full appropriations bill or, at a minimum, a short-term continuing resolution (CR) by the end of the fiscal year to ensure a government shutdown does not happen. So, I unfortunately have to advise you that the government has been partially shutdown.

While this brings a lot of uncertainty for all of you and our organizations, I tell you that this shall pass. There have been 17 government shutdowns throughout history, 6 of which were in the 1980s and our last in 1995. When this occurred in 1995, it lasted about 3 weeks. As the Department of Homeland Security recently announced, DHS leadership is working with the Attorney General and the Office of Legal Counsel from the Department of Justice to determine which operations must continue even if the CR is not passed.

Due to the shutdown furlough that occurred at 12:01 am on 1 OCTOBER, employees serving in a non-exempt function have been notified. All exempt personnel (Border Patrol Agents, Enforcement Analyst Specialist, Intelligence Research Specialist, Law Enforcement Communications Assistants and Mechanics) are to report to work as scheduled. If you are on leave, you will receive a furlough notice via e-mail at your .gov account. When you complete your leave, you will report back to duty as scheduled.

Since most of our mission support staff is considered non-exempt, I ask that you be patient with any with any request you have pending from HR or Finance. We will continue to provide as much service as possible to keep the sector running while we work through this.

Please rest assured that being placed on furlough is not an indication of your importance or contribution to this agency and to this sector. It is simply a matter of the legal requirements we must abide by during a government shutdown. For now, please take a look at the Office of Personnel Management's Operating Status page, it is updated daily regarding a government-wide shut down: [OPM's Operating Status](#).

The WorkLife4You program can help employees with financial planning, including free 30 minute sessions with financial counselors. The EAP can provide employees and their eligible family members with professional and confidential counseling to find healthy ways to manage stress.

Once again, my commitment to you is to provide as much information to you as possible, but, this is an evolving situation and the information is slow to come. I encourage you to check the OPM site and begin planning, in the event the furlough and budget situation continue longer than

expected. Hopefully, Congress will reach an agreement on the budget, while we work through this I ask that you remain vigilant in your duties and continue to execute the mission as the Border Patrol has with great pride for over 89 years.

HONOR FIRST

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Del Rio Sector