

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

1100 Connecticut Avenue NW ▪ Suite 900 ▪ Washington, DC 20036

Phone: 202-293-1550 ▪ www.fleoa.org



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March 15, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President, United States of America

Dear President Trump:

On behalf of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA), the nation's largest professional, non-profit association representing 26,000 federal law enforcement officers from 65 agencies, I am writing to you regarding our request for an Executive Order that would grant veteran status to any/all federal civilian law enforcement officers who become injured, disabled or killed while serving on official orders with the U.S. military forces.

Every day, our military and federal law enforcement put their lives on the line to combat threats, both domestic and abroad, and to protect our boarders and infrastructure. Occasionally, federal agents work with our military directly in the interest of justice and public safety. When federal civilian law enforcement officials do this, they should have equal protection under the law should they become injured, disabled or pay the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

In May 2012, DOD, INTERPOL and the Malagasy government requested a subject matter expert in extracting intelligence on the operations of pirates in Madagascar. FLEOA member and NCIS Special Agent Amanda Kopke was selected based upon her extensive knowledge of the Somali language, piracy operations and piracy financing. The United States Central Command (CENTCOM), Unified Combatant Command of the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) ordered Amanda to Madagascar.

During the course of her operation, Amanda was infected by an unknown parasite under her skin. After multiple hospitalizations and a difficult journey back home to the United States, Amanda was denied access to the necessary medical treatment and benefits she deserved. Amanda's only treatment of these parasitic worms in her body is anti-parasitic chemotherapy.

Unfortunately, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and Department of Labor (DOL) does not view Amanda's condition as a disabling condition. The Veterans Administration, however, does categorize the parasite as a disabling condition. While Amanda was on DOD orders and embedded with the U.S. Navy,

the soldiers working with her received a greater level of medical protection than she had access to.

Today, Amanda's health is rapidly declining. Chemotherapy has failed to eliminate the parasite. Recent medical tests show escalated disease progression. Additionally, Amanda now has an auto-immune connective tissue disease. Amanda's immune system is attacking her own cells as if they were a foreign virus. In between chemotherapy sessions, Amanda is expected to work a regular 50-hour work schedule at NCIS. Veteran status would instantly allow her to retire disabled and focus her energy towards fighting her illness.

FLEOA believes DOD and INTERPOL's use of Amanda's expertise, talent and ability to apprehend dangerous international pirates more than qualifies her for veteran status. FLEOA eagerly requests an Executive Order to retroactively resolve Amanda's situation and any other federal civilian law enforcement officer who may find themselves similarly situated moving forward.

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Respectfully yours,

Dominick L. Stokes

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FLEOA Vice President for Legislative Affairs