

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1309

June 18, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

The Honorable Mark Esper
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Dear Secretary Esper:

I write to follow up on my June 4, 2020 letter regarding low-flying military aircraft over large groups of people in Washington, DC on June 1, 2020. Statements and information from the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), along with subsequent public reports, have only deepened my concern and outrage over the Trump administration's willingness to use our Nation's military to suppress and intimidate Americans exercising their First Amendment rights guaranteed under the Constitution of the United States.

I am aware the preliminary investigation has been completed and request that DoD leadership brief me on the findings as soon as possible, in addition to providing written answers to my June 4, 2020 letter. In addition, I request that you provide my office with additional supplementary documents that are critical to inform congressional oversight of the June 1, 2020 incident and related activities (if an item refers to the military in the list below, it shall be interpreted to cover all of DoD's military branches and sub-agencies, including Reserve and National Guard forces):

1. The mission briefing sheets for all military aircraft flown in the D.C. Metropolitan Flight Restricted Zone (DC FRZ) on June 1, 2020;
2. The risk assessments forms for all military flights flown in the DC FRZ on June 1, 2020;
3. The post-flight after action reports (AAR) for all military flights flown in the DC FRZ on June 1, 2020;
4. The aircrew training records showing pilots and aircrew were properly trained and signed off by a military flight instructor to fly the tactical "persistent pressure" maneuver reported in the media;
5. A copy of the parent unit's flight training program to verify unit training and proficiency of the "persistent pressure" maneuver;

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6. The military flight manual detailing the procedures to execute the “persistent pressure” maneuver as well as guidance for its tactical usage; and
7. Any information included in questions 4-6 for additional military aerial tactics used to support military flight operations flown in the DC FRZ on June 1, 2020.

Your cooperation in providing the requested information is vital in enabling Congress to carry out our constitutional responsibility to conduct oversight of DoD. Preventing a repeat of the scenes we witnessed on June 1, 2020 requires first understanding the full scope of military operations that preceded and followed the President's bizarre photo op that day, and determining whether aircraft operated in accordance with all applicable Federal regulations and military policies. Thank you in advance for your consideration of my urgent request.

Sincerely,



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator