

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4304

June 13, 2024

The Honorable Lloyd J. Austin III
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Austin,

We write to express our concern regarding recent incidents of foreign nationals attempting to infiltrate United States military bases. Several of our installations are strategic power projection platforms or places where important or sensitive activity occurs. These locations are therefore surveillance targets for foreign nationals who want to collect data on installation operations and uniformed and non-uniformed personnel. This places our servicemembers, their families, and Department of Defense personnel at risk of exploitation and harm.

We fear that we are amid increases in intelligence-gathering and surveillance activity from foreign adversaries and are ill-prepared to respond. To ensure that we as Members of Congress are providing for the security of our bases and the protection of our personnel, we request a briefing from your team on the Defense Department's assessments of recent trends and efforts to address infiltration and information-gathering attempts on the following questions:

1. What is the DOD's assessment on trends of foreign national intelligence, reconnaissance, and surveillance on United States military personnel and domestic bases?
2. Which bases, assets, or groups are targeted the most by foreign nationals?
3. How many situations are misunderstandings handled by DOD and the FBI versus real counterintelligence operations?
4. How is DOD working with other departments and agencies to include FBI and DHS in fighting these counterintelligence threats?
5. How are we training our military members to detect, identify, and respond to attempts by foreign personnel to infiltrate bases or collect sensitive information?
6. What resources or additional authorities does the Department need to combat these threats?

Committee on Armed Services

Tactical Air and Land Forces

Cyber, Innovative Technologies and Information Systems

Committee on Oversight and Reform

Economic Growth, Energy Policy, and Regulatory Affairs

National Security, the Border, and Foreign Affairs

Thank you for your attention to this important issue, and we look forward to learning more about the current strategy in place and ways Congress can provide further support.

Sincerely,



Pat Fallon
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Richard Hudson
Member of Congress