

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 16, 2024

The Honorable Lloyd J. Austin III
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Secretary Austin:

We are writing to request information on the actions the Department of Defense (DOD) has taken to address recent incidents of unauthorized access by Chinese nationals to U.S. military installations and other sensitive sites.

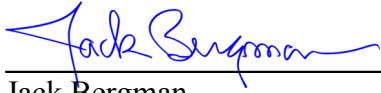
On October 2, 2024, federal prosecutors charged five Chinese nationals with crimes in connection to trespassing on the Camp Grayling¹ training facility in August 2023 during Northern Strike – one of DOD’s largest reserve component readiness exercises. While this security breach certainly raises concerns about our adversaries’ capacity for espionage on U.S. soil, it is by no means an isolated incident.

In recent years, Chinese nationals have been found trespassing at military installations and other sensitive sites across the U.S., including a Naval station in Florida², a shipyard in Virginia³, a Marine Corps base in California⁴, and an arctic warfare training base in Alaska⁵. The alarming rise in such breaches suggests a coordinated effort by the Chinese Communist Party to gauge the security of sites critical to U.S. national security, potentially in anticipation for an attack from within the homeland. This concerning possibility is further amplified by the recent uptick in U.S. Border Patrol encounters with Chinese nationals attempting to illegally enter the U.S. via the southern border.

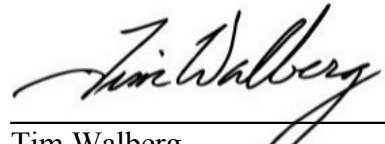
These, along with other, incidents may underscore the need for DOD to review its current security protocols and assess whether additional measures can be implemented to prevent future breaches at what should otherwise be secure facilities. I respectfully request that DOD provide information on any additional security measures that have been implemented or, to the extent permissible, those currently under consideration.

Sincerely,

1. Feds charge five UM students from China amid FBI ... (n.d.). <https://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/michigan/2024/10/02/feds-charge-um-students-from-china-amid-fbi-counterintelligence-probe/75482163007>
2. The Detroit News. (2020, June 15). *3 Chinese nationals sentenced for taking naval base photos*. <https://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/michigan/2020/06/14/3-chinese-nationals-sentenced-taking-naval-base-photos-key-west-florida/3189418001/>
3. Chinese national pleads guilty to espionage, used drone to spy on Navy ships being built. (n.d.-a). <https://www.wavy.com/news/local-news/newport-news/chinese-national-pleads-guilty-to-espionage-used-drone-to-spy-on-navy-ships-being-built/>
4. Mordowanec, N. (2024, April 1). *Chinese migrant suddenly found on California military base*. Newsweek. <https://www.newsweek.com/chinese-migrant-suddenly-found-california-military-base-1885133>
5. Tim Ellis, K.-F. (2023, June 8). *Fort Wainwright apprehended “Chinese spies,” Sullivan says*. Alaska Public Media. <https://alaskapublic.org/2023/06/08/fort-wainwright-apprehended-chinese-spies-sullivan-says/>



Jack Bergman
Member of Congress



Tim Walberg
Member of Congress



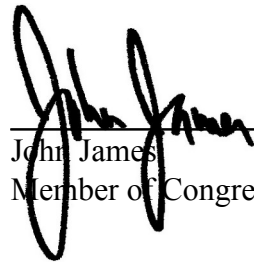
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