



One Hundred Eighteenth Congress  
Committee on Homeland Security  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

September 19, 2023

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, D.C. 20528

The Honorable Christopher Wray  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C. 20528

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

Dear Secretary Mayorkas, Director Wray, and Secretary Austin:

On September 4, 2023, the *Wall Street Journal* reported that Chinese nationals, sometimes posing as tourists, have attempted to access U.S. military bases and other sensitive U.S. sites as many as 100 times in recent years.<sup>1</sup> The Committee on Homeland Security (Committee) is conducting oversight of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS), the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI), and the Department of Defense's processes for identifying, investigating, and mitigating these national security threats.

These reports indicate that these intrusions, which U.S. officials describe as a form of espionage, seem designed to test security practices at U.S. military installations and other U.S. government sites.<sup>2</sup> For instance, some Chinese nationals were reportedly detected crossing into a U.S. missile range in New Mexico and others were caught disguised as scuba divers swimming close to a rocket-launch site in Florida—a site used for surveillance satellites and other sensitive military purposes.<sup>3</sup> Subsequently, these Chinese nationals report back to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) about what they learn.<sup>4</sup> In another case, while claiming they were “tourists,” a group of Chinese nationals attempted to physically bypass security guards at Fort Wainwright, Alaska, asserting they had reservations at a hotel on the military base, which is a strategic location for

---

<sup>1</sup> Gordon Lubold et al., *Chinese Gate-Crashers at U.S. Bases Spark Espionage Concerns*, WALL ST. J., (Sept. 4, 2023), <https://www.wsj.com/politics/national-security/chinese-gate-crashers-at-u-s-bases-spark-espionage-concerns-cdef8187>.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

Secretary Mayorkas  
Director Wray  
Secretary Austin  
September 19, 2023  
Page 2

U.S. homeland defense and houses the U.S. Army's 11th Airborne Division.<sup>5</sup> These encounters appear more than so-called innocent mistakes by foreign nationals on American soil. In fact, in June 2020, three Chinese foreign nationals were sentenced to prison for illegal photography of military sites at the U.S. Naval Air Station in Key West, Florida.<sup>6</sup>

These incidents are also only the latest development in a systemic pattern of efforts designed by the CCP to undermine U.S. national security. By no means an exhaustive list, in this year alone, the CCP has increased its espionage efforts against the U.S. homeland through a variety of means, including the CCP's use of a high-altitude surveillance balloon flying across the majority of the continental U.S., collecting intelligence on sensitive military and homeland security sites,<sup>7</sup> as well as use of a covert Chinese police station in New York, in which two individuals were charged with conspiring to act as agents of the CCP.<sup>8</sup> Further, the CCP's national police has been involved in transnational repression schemes targeting U.S. residents, which is when foreign governments illegally stalk, intimidate, or assault people in the U.S. homeland.<sup>9</sup> Then, just this past June, it was reported that the CCP and Cuba had reached an agreement for the CCP to establish an electronic espionage facility on the island—just 100 miles from the United States—that would allow Chinese intelligence services to collect signals intelligence throughout the southeastern U.S.<sup>10</sup>

These persistent and multi-faceted threats posed by the CCP to U.S. homeland security have only intensified under the Biden-Harris administration. It is curious that while we continue to witness the CCP operating below the threshold of traditional conflict to deceive the U.S., the Biden-Harris administration displays weakness on the world stage inviting further aggression by the CCP. Our concerns are only further heightened in light of the *Wall Street Journal's* recent reporting about Chinese nationals posing as tourists to gain access to U.S. sensitive sites. To assist the Committees' oversight of the broad threats posed by the CCP to U.S. homeland security, and to examine your respective and collective Department's efforts to fully mitigate these brazen activities, please provide the following documents and information as soon as possible, but no later than 5:00 p.m. on October 03, 2023:

---

<sup>5</sup> Tom Vanden Brook, *Suspected Chinese spies, disguised as tourists, tried to infiltrate Alaskan military bases*, USA TODAY (May 31, 2023), <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2023/05/31/suspected-chinese-spies-posing-as-tourists-discovered-in-alaska/70260712007/>.

<sup>6</sup> Press Release, U.S. Att'y Office, S.D. Fla., *Three Chinese Nationals Sentenced to Prison for Illegal Photography of U.S. Naval Installation in Key West, Florida* (June 5, 2020), <https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdfl/pr/three-chinese-nationals-sentenced-prison-illegal-photography-us-naval-installation-key>.

<sup>7</sup> Emily Feng & Lexie Schapitl, *How a Chinese 'spy balloon' prompted the U.S. to scour the skies*, NPR (Feb. 14, 2023), <https://www.npr.org/2023/02/14/1156731462/china-spy-balloon-timeline-key-dates>.

<sup>8</sup> Press Release, U.S. Dep't of Justice, *Two Arrested for Operating Illegal Overseas Police Station of the Chinese Government* (Apr. 17, 2023), <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/two-arrested-operating-illegal-overseas-police-station-chinese-government>.

<sup>9</sup> Press Release, U.S. Dep't of Justice, *40 Officers of China's National Police Charged in Transnational Repression Schemes Targeting U.S. Residents* (Apr. 17, 2023), <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/40-officers-china-s-national-police-charged-transnational-repression-schemes-targeting-us>.

<sup>10</sup> Warren P. Strobel and Gordon Lubold, *Cuba to Host Secret Chinese Spy Base Focusing on U.S.*, WALL ST. J. (June 8, 2023), <https://www.wsj.com/articles/cuba-to-host-secret-chinese-spy-base-focusing-on-u-s-b2fed0e0>.

Secretary Mayorkas  
Director Wray  
Secretary Austin  
September 19, 2023  
Page 3

1. A complete and unredacted copy of any and all reports or reviews as referenced in the *Wall Street Journal's* publication,<sup>11</sup> conducted by the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Bureau of Investigation, or the Department of Defense referring or relating to foreign nationals attempting to gain access or gaining access to U.S. military bases or other sensitive U.S. sites, including a detailed accounting of the reported 100 incidents in recent time;
2. A complete and current copy of the alien file of any alien encountered at a U.S. military base or other sensitive sites within the U.S. without authorization to be there, including all records related to their immigration or visa status, detention or custody status for each alien since January 20, 2021;
3. All documents and communications related to the disposition of removal proceedings initiated with respect to each alien identified in response to request 2;
4. Documents sufficient to show the total number of eGuardians, preliminary investigations, and full investigations of foreign nationals attempting to gain access or gaining accessing to U.S. military bases or other sensitive U.S. sites, for the period of January 20, 2021, to the present; and
5. Documents sufficient to show the total number of investigations of foreign nationals attempting to gain access or gaining access to U.S. military bases or other sensitive U.S. sites, referred to the Department of Justice for prosecution, for the period of January 20, 2021, to the present.

An attachment contains instructions for responding to this request. To the extent a complete response to this inquiry requires the provision of classified information, please do so under separate cover. Please contact the Committee on Homeland Security Majority staff at (202) 226-8417 with any questions about this request.

Additionally, we have sent several letters requesting information about a series of homeland security matters from DHS and the FBI, including about the illegal Chinese government police station in New York, as well as the CCP's eavesdropping facility in Cuba roughly 100 miles from Florida to further its intelligence-gathering capabilities against the U.S. homeland.<sup>12</sup> These letters requesting information have not been sufficiently answered to the

---

<sup>11</sup> Lubold, *supra* note 1.

<sup>12</sup> Letter from Rep. Mark E. Green et al., Chairman, H. Comm. on Homeland Sec., to Hon. Christopher Wray, Dir. Fed. Bureau of Investigation (Feb. 2, 2023); Letter from Rep. Mark E. Green et al., Chairman, H. Comm. on Homeland Sec., to Hon. Christopher Wray, Dir. Fed. Bureau of Investigation (Mar. 30, 2023); Letter from Rep. Mark E. Green et al., Chairman, H. Comm. on Homeland Sec., to Hon. Alejandro Mayorkas, Sec'y, Dep't of Homeland Sec., & Hon. Christopher Wray, Dir. Fed. Bureau of Investigation (Apr. 24, 2023); <sup>12</sup> Letter from Rep.

Secretary Mayorkas  
Director Wray  
Secretary Austin  
September 19, 2023  
Page 4

Committee's satisfaction, and this information is relevant to the Committee's ongoing oversight. Therefore, we reiterate these outstanding requests and ask that you immediately comply in full.

Per Rule X of the U.S House of Representatives, the Committee on Homeland Security is the principal committee of jurisdiction for overall homeland security policy, and has special oversight functions of "all Government activities relating to homeland security, including the interaction of all departments and agencies with the Department of Homeland Security."

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Mark E. Green, MD  
Chairman  
Committee on Homeland Security



August Pfluger  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Counterterrorism,  
Law Enforcement, and Intelligence

cc: The Honorable Bennie Thompson, Ranking Member  
Committee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Seth Magaziner, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Counterterrorism, Law Enforcement, and Intelligence