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Rear Admiral Gary Mayes
Commander
Navy Region Northwest
11000 Hunley Road
Silverdale, WA 98315

Dear Admiral Mayes,

As a supporter of the Navy, I am disappointed at the recent incident in Okanogan County, WA. While I appreciate the Navy has publicly committed to holding the crew accountable for their action, more must be done to maintain and improve the Navy's relationship with the local community.

We have talked many times throughout the past few years about the importance of the Navy acting as a good neighbor. As you know, achieving this goal is important to maintaining national security and support among local communities. These outcomes are not mutually exclusive.

Given this event and ongoing concerns with the impact of other naval aviation activities throughout the region, I would appreciate your response to the following questions:

- Does the Navy have appropriate standards of conduct in place that would allow for appropriate action to be taken against the individuals responsible for this obscene statement towards the local community?
- What specific steps are being taken to hold accountable the individuals responsible?
- What training is provided to pilots and other personnel regarding the importance of good community relations?

I take seriously my responsibility to represent all of my constituents, including those who serve in the military. I have tried to use my position to facilitate better communication and understanding between the military and surrounding communities and to help resolve conflicts when they arise. Actions like this make that job much harder and create an increased burden on the part of local military commanders to take clear action in this case. I feel strongly that situations like this can be avoided in the future and would like to be helpful in that effort.

Sincerely,



Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress