

8 April 2014

Representative James P. Moran
2252 RHOB
House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Moran:

I am writing this letter to request your assistance in eliminating, or at a minimum, significantly reducing the volume of DoD administrative VIP helicopter traffic that our neighborhood and other neighborhoods inside the beltway are having to endure.

Not only is this helicopter traffic an irritant occurring up to 16 hours per day, 7 days a week, but is also subjecting our residences in the west end of Alexandria to excessive danger in case of an accident, not to mention a tremendous waste of scarce taxpayer dollars.

Attachment 1 is a sampling of helicopter traffic I have personally observed from the window of my house in recent months. This traffic does not follow any set pattern as fixed wing traffic from Reagan National Airport must, but rather these DoD helicopters transit from all directions to and from both the Pentagon and the National Guard Headquarters on Route 50. A substantial number of these helicopters (most notably the Air Force UH-1s) pass over my residence at 500 feet or less. These Vietnam era UH-1s are most disturbing because of the rotor noise caused by the 2 bladed rotor. The UH-1s literally rattle the windows of our house. I would also add that the helicopter transits I have listed represent only a small portion of the total DoD helicopter traffic transiting daily inside the beltway, but are those that I have personally observed east of Shirley Highway. I have also witnessed significant traffic on week days and weekends west of Shirley Highway and in many cases the DoD aircraft west of Shirley Highway appeared to be just boring holes in the sky.

Mr. Moran, as one who spent over 20 years in the military and almost 20 years in the Pentagon I do not see why there is a need for ANY DoD helicopter traffic inside the beltway except possibly as support for the Secretary of Defense or an emergency situation.

The majority of these helicopters are based at either Davison Army Airfield at Fort Belvoir or Andrews AFB in Maryland. Both facilities are easily accessible by automobile and the transit time to each from the Pentagon is at most 30 minutes. Furthermore I am aware that on previous occasions DoD officials have traveled by helicopter to Andrews or Davison just to link up with military aircraft. Mr. Moran this is a "perk" that should be reserved solely for the Commander in Chief. The majority of these helicopter flights are supporting mid level flag officers and other DoD civilians. I know of no other cabinet agency other than DoD, where expensive administrative helicopter support is provided.

I have even witnessed on occasion as many as a dozen UH-60s in formation en route to the Pentagon.

Sir, the cost of this administrative "perk" is not insignificant. Costs per Flying Hour for the aircraft in the attachment are:

V-22	\$21,321
VH-3	\$20,737
UH-60	\$4,042
UH-72	\$2,504
UH-1	\$2,744

I have lived on numerous Army posts in my life and I can't ever recall experiencing helicopter traffic of this magnitude in and around residential areas and certainly don't believe we should be subjected to it today.

Thanking you in advance for your assistance in this very important matter affecting our community.

Respectfully,



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