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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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**SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE STRATEGIC
COMPETITION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES
AND THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY**

February 19, 2026

The Honorable Daniel Driscoll
Secretary
United States Army
101 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310

Secretary Driscoll:

I write regarding reports¹ that a U.S. Army aircraft released fuel in the vicinity of populated residential neighborhoods in Tempe and Phoenix, Arizona, on February 5, 2026. According to a KNXV-TV investigation, local first responders were called to evaluate multiple residents for contact with a substance believed to be fuel. Multiple homes and vehicles were coated with the substance, and at least one individual required emergency medical treatment for chemical burns to her eye following exposure.

Given the significant public health, safety, and environmental concerns for my constituents, I request written responses to and a comprehensive briefing on the following inquiries no later than 14 calendar days from the receipt of this letter.

1. Please provide a detailed description of the incident, including the specific aircraft involved, its unit assignment, and its mission at the time of the reported fuel release.
2. Describe any internal U.S. Army review of operational procedures, training, or oversight failures that might have contributed to this event. If deficiencies are identified, please describe corrective actions and policy changes to prevent similar incidents in the future.
3. What national defense regulations, aviation directives, and Army flight standards govern fuel release from Army aircraft? Were these adequately followed?
4. Please provide all assessments of public health impacts of the release, including documented injuries, respiratory impacts, chemical exposure analyses, and environmental contamination.

¹ Grigg, Nicole. "Army Investigating If Military Aircraft Dropped Fuel on Valley Homes, Burns Woman's Eye." *ABC15 Arizona*, 11 Feb. 2026, <https://www.abc15.com/news/local-news/investigations/army-investigating-if-military-aircraft-dropped-fuel-on-valley-homes-burns-womans-eye>

5. Provide any communication or coordination that occurred between Army officials and local emergency responders or public health agencies regarding this specific flight and incident, including how quickly they were notified after the release.
6. Provide a timeline of all Army communications to affected communities and public statements issued regarding this specific flight and incident.
7. Please designate and provide contact information for an appropriate point of contact in the U.S. Army to whom affected residents may direct questions or report concerns.

I appreciate your prompt attention to this matter and thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Stanton". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Greg Stanton
Member of Congress