

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 8, 2023

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

General David H. Berger
Commandant
United States Marine Corps

Dear Commandant Berger:

I write to express my concerns over the unlawful release of military personnel records by the Air Force. An unlawful release of military records by any service branch is highly concerning. This, in turn, raises questions about the personnel document release process of the entire Department of Defense and the need for broader oversight.

In a letter to House Committee on Armed Services Chairman, Mike Rogers, on March 17, 2023, Secretary of the Air Force, Frank Kendall III, noted that an investigation and an audit by the U.S. Department of the Air Force Personnel Center (AFPC) found that a total of eleven service members' records were "released without authority" and nine of them to a Democrat-aligned group, Due Diligence Group, LLC (DDG) between 2021 and 2023.¹ The Air Force is actively investigating this matter and has alleged that they are taking steps to ensure that another improper document release will not happen in the future. However, they've failed to describe the steps taken to prevent another improper document release.

Service members have an expectation that their documents and records will remain properly protected. Given that a service branch released records without the authorization of service members, it is difficult for service members in other branches to have confidence in the security of their personal information.

In order for Congress to perform an objective, independent and complete review, please respond to the following questions no later than June 23, 2023.

1. Has the Marine Corps made any unauthorized release of service records to Due Diligence Group, LLC, or to any other person or entity? If so, please provide a description of each breach, to include the date and recipient of the records. Provide all communications between them and Marine Corps staff.
2. What policies do you have in place to prevent the improper release of service records?

¹ Letter from Hon. Frank Kendall, Secretary of the Air Force to Hon. Mike Rogers, Chairman, Committee on Armed Services (Mar. 17, 2023), <https://www.politico.com/f/?id=00000186-fff2-d959-adcf-fff25c4e0000>.

Commandant Berger

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Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter. Should you have any questions, contact Julian Wilson on my Budget Committee staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chuck Grassley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Budget