

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 28, 2023

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

The Honorable Frank Kendall III
Secretary
Department of the Air Force

Dear Secretary Kendall:

I write to express my concerns over the unlawful release of military personnel records by the United States Air Force. In a letter to House Committee on Armed Services Chairman Mike Rogers on March 17, 2023, you 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 people's records were "released without authority" and nine of them to a Democrat-aligned group, Due Diligence Group, LLC (DDG) between 2021 and 2023.¹

Seven Republican candidates for office in 2022 were affected by this unlawful record disclosure.² Representative Zach Nunn from my home state of Iowa was among the candidates who had their records improperly released. Service members have an expectation that their documents and records will remain properly protected. Given that these records were released without the authorization of the service members, it is difficult for service members across all branches to have confidence in the security of their personal information.

In order for Congress to perform an objective and independent review, please respond to the following questions and requests no later than April 7, 2023:

1. Please provide an unredacted version of the report of investigation conducted by the Department of the Air Force.
2. Please provide all communications between Due Diligence Group, LLC, and Department of the Air Force staff.
3. Who approved the release of documents to Due Diligence Group, LLC? What is their job title and rank?
4. What policies have you since put into place to halt the improper release of documents?

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>.

² Olivia Beavers, *Air Force IDs 2 new GOP candidates whose military records were improperly released*, politico (Mar. 22, 2023), <https://www.politico.com/news/2023/03/22/air-force-gop-candidates-records-released-00088050>.

5. Has the release of these documents violated any existing laws, regulations or policies? If so, who is accountable?

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

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Budget