



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION AND U.S. ARMY HAWAII
2091 KOLEKOLE AVE BLDG 580
SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, HAWAII 96857-6000

July 13, 2020

Congressman Ed Case
1st District, Hawaii
1132 Bishop Street, Suite 1910
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Congressman Case,

Thank you for your letter of May 12, 2020, raising the concerns of [redacted] and other residents of our community. I and the rest of U.S. Army Hawaii care deeply about these relationships, and we have every desire to execute our core mission—maintaining readiness to fight and win America's wars—in such a way that it impacts our neighbors as little as possible. We are also committed to being transparent with you and your constituents, and we trust that the below responses will contribute to shared understanding across our communities.

1. Why are the helicopters going through the Makiki area?

Our aircraft transition through Makiki on an air corridor that parallels the highway from the H1/H2 junction to the Wai'alaie Golf Course. This transition is directed by the Honolulu Control Facility (HCF—the local air traffic control authority) for purposes of air traffic de-confliction, and our aircraft do not delay in this area unless directed to do so by HCF.

2. Why are they frequently flying in a highly dense residential area?

HCF directs the use of the H1 corridor for both civilian and military air traffic transitioning through Honolulu's airspace, with the intent of reducing the total time that aircraft spend in controlled airspace and over densely populated areas. HCF also reduces the risk of mid-air collisions by assigning aircraft operating altitudes that separate them from other traffic. These assigned altitudes are always above the Minimum Safe Altitude specified by Federal Aviation Regulation 91.119, typically between 1,000' and 2,000' above sea level.

3. What is the reason for taking this path?

Our aircraft typically use the H1 corridor in order to access the southeast corner of the island, from which they can proceed north to Kaneohe Bay Marine Corps Air Station or east/southeast to Molokai, Lanai, and Hawaii.

4. Is there another path rather than a residential area?

Unfortunately, HCF and the fuel limitations of our aircraft dictate our flight routes. We are seldom approved by HCF to fly the southern shoreline due to the high density of airplanes that operate in the area, and poor weather conditions often preclude visual flight over the Ko'olau Range.

5. Has there been any change in the military's flight patterns or times during the present crisis?

Yes, during this crisis inter-island flights were restricted by the Governor of Hawaii, so all of our training flights necessarily took place on and around Oahu. However, we reduced our flying hours by 13% since the crisis began.

I hope this answers your questions. Please know that we care deeply about our local community. We will do everything in our power to maintain and cultivate those relationships, while also ensuring that we remain prepared to fight and win when called upon.

I would be happy to further discuss this or any other subject at your convenience. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 808-787-5106 or james.b.jarrard.mil@mail.mil.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JB' with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

James B. Jarrard
Major General, U.S. Army
Commanding