

**SCOTT H. PETERS**  
13<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA



1201 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE  
BUILDING WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-0508

4350 EXECUTIVE DRIVE, SUITE 105  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92121  
(858) 455-5550

*Congress of the United States*  
*House of Representatives*  
*Washington, DC 20515*

March 3, 2021

Captain John De Pree  
Naval Base Coronado  
Box 357033  
San Diego, CA 92135

Dear CAPT De Pree:

First and foremost, I write to express my sincere gratitude to the men and women of the United States Navy for their faithful service in defense of our nation. I recognize San Diego's critical role in the national defense, and it is my honor to represent Naval Base Coronado and many active and retired Sailors in the U.S. Congress.

Over the years I have served in Congress, dozens of constituents and community groups have reached out to me regarding noise and safety concerns due to fixed wing and rotary flight operations from Marine Corps and Navy bases in the area. These complaints have escalated markedly during the COVID-19 pandemic, as routines have changed, and many constituents have shifted to remote work. As their congressional representative, I have been, and continue to be, concerned for the safety and quality of life of the people I represent, while remaining supportive of Navy operations necessary to fulfill national security objectives.

In response to constituent communication, my staff and I have met with local military and FAA leadership several times to elevate these concerns, request that pilots adhere to established flight paths, and to strongly urge the military to be good neighbors to San Diegans impacted by flight operations. Encouragingly, military and FAA leadership have reaffirmed their commitment to routinely follow pre-established flight paths to minimize impacts to affected communities and take appropriate corrective action if pilots fail to follow procedures. Additionally, the Marine Corps, the Navy and the FAA have reminded squadrons to follow guidelines, and provided extensive policy clarifications in response to congressional inquiries, many of which my staff have passed along to constituents. Despite these actions, I continue to receive numerous complaints about frequent loud, low flights, especially rotary flights over coastal areas.

The residents who have reached out to my office are very concerned about deviations from established flight paths. Specifically, constituents from coastal areas, including Sunset Cliffs and La Jolla, report frequent low-level helicopter and Osprey flights alarmingly close to the beaches and coastal or cliffside residences, with flights we believe often originate from MCB Camp Pendleton and Naval Air Station North Island. Many reports include descriptions of rattling windows and excruciating noise levels. These constituents frequently request my assistance to ensure military aircraft adhere to established flight paths and avoid low-level flights in coastal and neighborhood areas to the greatest extent possible.

I well understand that some overflights of certain communities are inevitable given the volume of operations, the complexity of the airspace and weather conditions, and mission requirements in support

of our nation's defense. At the same time, it is my job as a congressional representative to do whatever I can to ensure my constituents' complaints are heard, evaluated and addressed.

I am requesting the Navy take additional, measurable steps to address these ongoing complaints. It is critical that the highest levels of leadership set clear expectations, prioritize pilot adherence to course rules, and ensure meaningful oversight and accountability. I strongly urge you to ensure that all squadrons within Naval Air Station North Island, as well as visiting squadrons, comply with the helicopter course rules. Additionally, I urge you to ensure that all Naval aviators and pilots from visiting squadrons are briefed on and adhere to aviation course rules and avoid unnecessary overflights of neighborhood areas, especially at low altitude.

I am confident that the Navy will work in good faith on a meaningful solution. I will continue to work with the Navy and the FAA to facilitate communication with the people I represent, and I pledge my support to do whatever I can to help ensure that Navy operations prioritize public safety and quality of life while supporting critical military missions. Please let me know how I can best support you in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scott Peters", with a stylized, flowing script.

Scott Peters  
Member of Congress