

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

August 21, 2020

Major General Anthony Carrelli  
Adjutant General  
Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs  
Ft. Indiantown Gap, PA

Dear General Carrelli:

We write to ask for your attention to allegations of misconduct and reprisal at the Horsham Air National Guard Station in Horsham, PA. We write on behalf of two individuals who have contacted our offices and in response to the recent Philadelphia Inquirer article on this matter. Ms. Marianne Bustin has contacted Congresswoman Dean's office and Ms. Bustin and Lt. Col. Oliver Barfield have contacted Representative Houlahan's office requesting assistance. Both constituents are prepared to talk with investigators about their experiences.


Press reporting describes the experiences of Ms. Bustin while serving in the role of sexual assault response coordinator for the base. Lt. Col. Barfield's memo to Congresswoman Houlahan's office describes "...a vindictive culture of unprofessional retaliation against those who speak out..." and documents several allegations of retaliatory behavior. The Inquirer article includes statements from other individuals who were not willing to come forward at this time, suggesting that these views are more widely held among staff at the base.

Despite its different structure, the National Guard is not immune from the cultural challenges facing our military, especially when it comes to sexual harassment, misconduct, and retaliation. Congresswoman Houlahan is the founder of the Servicewomen and Women Veterans Caucus in Congress and a former Air Force officer. Congresswoman Dean is the representative for Pennsylvania's 4<sup>th</sup> District, which includes Horsham Air Guard Station. We are especially concerned for what these allegations, if corroborated, would mean for the command climate at the Horsham Air Guard Station and our ability to recruit and retain talented personnel in our National Guard.

It is our understanding that there are ongoing inquiries related to Ms. Bustin's allegations, and we are not aware of whether there are pending investigations into Lt. Col. Barfield's allegations, as well. We ask that you please keep us and our staff apprised of your work on this matter, as appropriate and consistent with the law.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns, and we stand ready to work with you on this.

Sincerely,

  
Chrissy Houlahan  
Member of Congress

  
Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress