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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

October 25, 2018

CHRISTOPHER R. HIXON, STAFF DIRECTOR
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The Honorable Glenn Fine
Principal Deputy Inspector General
Office of Inspector General
Department of Defense
4800 Mark Center Drive
Alexandria, VA 22350-1500

Dear Mr. Fine:

It has come to my attention that foreign entities may be using websites and Facebook pages to potentially exploit service members, veterans, and their families.¹

I am particularly concerned about Facebook pages linking to a website titled “HotMilitaryGirls.com,” which is still online and active as of October 2018.² According to researchers with Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), the website appears to serve as a messaging board for individuals to trade suggestive photos of women that are current service members, spouses, or partners of current service members.³ Many of the women pictured are easily identifiable; their consent to be photographed and have the photos posted online is not evident and therefore cannot be guaranteed. VVA raised similar concerns in 2017 about the Facebook page “Marines United” which was used to share nude photos of female Marines without their consent.⁴

“HotMilitaryGirls.com” was registered on February 15, 2001, has changed IP addresses 24 times over the last 17 years, and appears to be currently operated from a server

¹ Letter from John Rowan, Vietnam Veterans of America to Chairman Johnson and Ranking Member McCaskill (Mar. 20, 2018).

² Kristofer Goldsmith, *VVA - Notes - Suspicious Facebook Activity, Pages and Affiliated Websites* (Oct. 2017); Hot Military Girls, Homepage, (hotmilitarygirls.com) (accessed Oct. 3, 2018).

³ Kristofer Goldsmith, *VVA - Notes - Suspicious Facebook Activity, Pages and Affiliated Websites* (Oct. 2017).

⁴ Senate Committee on Armed Services, Vietnam Veterans of America’s Statement for the Record, *Hearing to Receive a Briefing on Information Surrounding the Marines United Website*, 115th Cong. (Mar. 14, 2017).

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located in Montreal, Canada.⁵ Despite the domain being managed from Montreal, a majority of the women on this site appear to be in the U.S. military or have some relation to it due to account names, emblems, or clothing evident in photos.⁶

I respectfully request that you evaluate whether there are exploitation concerns or violations of law, military regulations, or policies associated with these sites and, if warranted, undertake a thorough investigation. I am forwarding additional background information compiled by VVA that may assist with your evaluation.

If you have any questions, please contact Hannah Berner of my staff at (202) 224-2627. Please send any official correspondence related to this request to Rina Patel at Rina_Patel@hsgac.senate.gov. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Claire McCaskill
Ranking Member

cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman

⁵ Whois Domain tool, Web Record for 'HotMilitaryGirls.com' (whois.domaintools.com/hotmilitarygirls.com) (accessed Oct. 3, 2018).

⁶ Kristofer Goldsmith, VVA - Notes - Suspicious Facebook Activity, Pages and Affiliated Websites (Oct. 2017).