



CONTINENTAL U.S. NORAD REGION

Continental United States NORAD Region

Office of Public Affairs

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 4, 2023

NORAD RESPONDS TO AN UNRESPONSIVE AIRCRAFT OVER THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. – In coordination with the Federal Aviation Administration, NORAD F-16 fighter aircraft responded to an unresponsive Cessna 560 Citation V aircraft over Washington, D.C., and northern Virginia on June 4, 2023.

The NORAD aircraft were authorized to travel at supersonic speeds and a sonic boom may have been heard by residents of the region.

During this event, the NORAD aircraft also used flares – which may have been visible to the public – in an attempt to draw attention from the pilot. Flares are employed with highest regard for safety of the intercepted aircraft and people on the ground. Flares burn out quickly and completely and there is no danger to the people on the ground when dispensed.

The civilian aircraft was intercepted at approximately 3:20 p.m. Eastern Time. The pilot was unresponsive and the Cessna subsequently crashed near the George Washington National Forest, Virginia. NORAD attempted to establish contact with the pilot until the aircraft crashed.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: For further information, please contact CONR Public Affairs at (850) 532-1649 or visit our website at <http://www.norad.mil>