

F-16 Fighter Jet Escorts Civilian Plane After Airspace Violation Near Trump's Golf Club

July 6, 2025

— Categories: Defence & Security



An unexpected drama unfolded in the skies over Bedminster, New Jersey, on Saturday afternoon when an F-16 United States fighter jet was dispatched to intercept a civilian aircraft that had strayed into restricted airspace above former United States President Donald Trump's golf club.

According to the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), the incident occurred around 2:39 p.m. local time. The airspace was temporarily restricted due to Trump's presence at the property, which is a standard security measure for current or former

presidents. Despite numerous warnings and notices issued to pilots, this was already the fifth unauthorized airspace incursion reported that day alone.

Military officials said the pilot of the general aviation aircraft did not respond to initial radio calls. To gain the pilot's attention, the F-16 conducted what is known as a "headbutt" maneuver, where the fighter jet flies in front of the intruding plane at a close distance, rocking its wings as a visual signal. Once the pilot became aware of the fighter jet, they followed instructions and safely exited the restricted zone without further incident.

NORAD emphasized that its mission is to protect the airspace of the United States and Canada and to respond swiftly to any potential threats. Although in this case there was no evidence of hostile intent, such incursions are taken seriously because even an innocent mistake could lead to confusion or danger.

"The pilot was escorted out safely, and no further action was necessary," NORAD said in a statement. "We remind all general aviation pilots to check all Notices to Airmen before flying, especially in areas where temporary flight restrictions are active."

The White House did not offer any immediate comment on the interception. However, the repeated violations in the Bedminster area have raised concerns among aviation authorities. Similar incidents have been reported in recent weeks, highlighting the challenges of keeping busy general aviation pilots informed about changing restrictions, particularly during weekends and holidays when more private aircraft are in the air.

While some pilots may simply overlook advisories, the stakes are high when flying near protected zones. Security protocols are designed to respond rapidly to any unknown aircraft to ensure the safety of people on the ground and in the skies.

Authorities are encouraging all pilots to stay updated on airspace restrictions through official channels, including Federal Aviation Administration briefings and online notices, to avoid unexpected encounters with military jets.

Saturday's interception ended without harm, but it served as a reminder that vigilance and preparation are essential in today's tightly controlled airspace.

[Download IPFS](#)