

Navy Recon Aircraft Approached by Venezuelan Fighter in Unsafe Manner



A Venezuelan fighter as it shadowed a U.S. EP-3 Aries II in international airspace over the Caribbean Sea on July 19. U.S. Southern Command

MIAMI, Fla. –

A U.S. Navy EP-3E Aries II aircraft, flying a mission in approved international

airspace on July 19, was approached in an unprofessional manner by a SU-30 Flanker

Venezuelan fighter aircraft, according to the U.S. Southern Command.

“After

reviewing video documentation, we have determined the Russian-made fighter

aggressively shadowed the EP-3 at an unsafe distance in international airspace

for a prolonged period of time, endangering the safety of the crew and

jeopardizing the EP-3 mission,” according to a July 21 release from Southern

Command.

A Venezuelan Su-30 fighter plane "aggressively shadowed" a U.S. reconnaissance aircraft operating over the Caribbean Sea, according to U.S. Southern Command, in a move the U.S. is calling "unprofessional." <https://t.co/pq9JV02Znj>
[pic.twitter.com/Vd2mjRyVtg](https://t.co/pq9JV02Znj)

– ABC News (@ABC) [July 22, 2019](#)

“The U.S.

routinely conducts regionally supported, multinationally recognized and

approved detection and monitoring missions in the region to ensure the safety

and security of our citizens and those of our partners. The EP-3 aircraft was

adhering to international standards and rules.”

“The Maduro regime

continues to undermine internationally recognized laws and demonstrate its

contempt for international agreements authorizing the U.S. and other nations to

safely conduct flights in international airspace,” according to the release.