

# US military nearly downed civilian airliner off Venezuela coast

The Grayzone's Max Blumenthal on the shockingly irresponsible conduct of the US military deployment against Venezuela as its forces jam GPS of civilian airliners and nearly down a Jet Blue flight filled with Americans. ||| The Grayzone ||| Find more reporting at <https://thegrayzone.com> Support our original journalism at Patreon: <https://patreon.com/grayzone> Facebook: <https://facebook.com/thegrayzone> Twitter: <https://twitter.com/thegrayzonews> Instagram: <https://instagram.com/thegrayzonews> Minds: <https://minds.com/thegrayzone> Mastodon: <https://mastodon.social/@thegrayzone> #TheGrayzone

## #Max

And it's very dangerous to have that many troops there. One of the things they're doing, because of the proliferation of drone warfare, is using jammers. And the jammers affect the GPS systems of flights. One out of five flights in the Caribbean is having its GPS system jammed, so the pilots have to actually navigate in a more manual way. Some of them have experienced trouble. This is also, I think, deliberate. It's how they managed to get Venezuela under a kind of aerial siege, in which only Venezuelan national airliners are flying into Venezuela. So airlines like Copa—like when we went to Venezuela, we flew Copa—they're not going in anymore. Venezuela is under a naval siege and an aerial siege, and civilian airliners are in peril.

## #Aaron

Yeah, I was going to say, at least one civilian flight on JetBlue almost collided with a U.S. military plane that had its transponder off. Right.

## #Max

Transponder.

## #Aaron

Yeah. Transponder. Sorry, it's transponder. So these secret military planes are flying around Venezuela to intimidate it, and they're turning off their transponders. This creates a dangerous situation where a JetBlue flight almost had a midair collision. Can you imagine if that had actually happened—if civilian passengers had died because the U.S. is trying to intimidate Venezuela into

regime change, and in doing so is endangering civilian passenger flights just in the region itself? I'm not even sure where the JetBlue flight was going. I think it was just in the Caribbean, not even going to Venezuela.

## #Max

Well, that's what the JetBlue pilot reported—that he was 20 seconds away from colliding with a U.S. military aircraft that had flown directly into his flight path as he was leaving Curaçao. He had to level off and discontinue his ascent, or he would have crashed directly into a U.S.—I think it was an in-air refueling plane—and you would have had over 200 deaths. That would have been the end of what Pete Hegseth calls Operation Southern Spear. It would have been a complete political catastrophe for Trump. It would have been the end of Hegseth.

I don't know how they would have lived that down. It would have been a massive crime—trying to steal, killing hundreds of Americans for the Gusano fantasies of Marco Rubio and to steal Venezuela's oil. And you know what kind of crime that would have been? A crime of capitalism. These are all crimes of capitalism. All the suffering Venezuela is experiencing comes from the capitalist system, and it's all going to be blamed on socialism. It'll all be blamed on socialism if they manage to force Venezuela into a recession through this siege and then trigger another migration wave.

But this is simply the essence of capitalism—one powerful government using the military as a private militia to steal resources. And what are they doing with the oil they're plundering from these ships, from the tankers and the other vessels they've seized? They're sending it directly into the U.S. Strategic Reserve. We're literally taking their oil and putting it in the Strategic Reserve, which Trump will presumably release during election season to lower oil prices and say, "Look, I'm powering the economy by straight-up stealing from Venezuela." And it's all socialism's fault that they're failing.

## #Aaron

Yes, and I'm sorry to sound like a broken record because I make this point a lot, but these are people like Mike Pompeo and Trump who all claim to worship the free market. Nobody intervenes in the so-called free market as much as they do—literally imposing sanctions that make an economy very difficult to function, stealing resources, making it hard for airlines to buy the parts they need to fly. I mean, no one intervenes in the free market more than the people who supposedly worship it.

## #Max

Yeah, it's definitely not free. And if you're under this system, you're not free to have a sovereign country.