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Federal employees, including FAA, received email encouraging them to resign a day after DC plane crash: report

By Natalie O'Neill

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Federal employees — including ones within the FAA — received a letter from the government urging them to find other jobs a day before and the day after the disastrous Washington, DC, plane crash.

The Office of Personnel Management, in an email sent just before 8:30 p.m.Thursday, urged federal workers to look for new jobs outside of government where they can be more productive, according to The New York Times.

The White House is offering buyouts to federal workers who don't want to return to the office pursuant to President Trump's orders, The Post has confirmed. The first email detailing the offer went to government workers on Tuesday.



The FAA's Office of Personnel Management said in an email to employees they can be more productive working in jobs outside the government following the crash. REUTERS

"We encourage you to find a job in the private sector as soon as you would like to do so," the email declared. "The way to greater American prosperity is encouraging people to move from lower productivity jobs in the public sector to higher productivity jobs in the private sector."

It went on to explain that if workers quit, they could take a second job or travel while still on taxpayers' payroll for months before leaving for good, even though federal workers have been told before that they cannot take a second job while still on the government's payroll.

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"We encourage you to find a job in the private sector as soon as you would like to do so," the email instructed FAA employees. REUTERS



The encouragement to resign and travel to a "dream destination" comes less than a day after the DC plane crash. REUTERS

The latest email came less than 24 hours after an American Airlines plane collided with a Black Hawk Helicopter Wednesday night — killing 67 people in the most deadly US plane crash in nearly a quarter century.

At the time, only one air traffic controller was managing the bustling airspace above the nation's capital, when two should have been on duty, authorities said.

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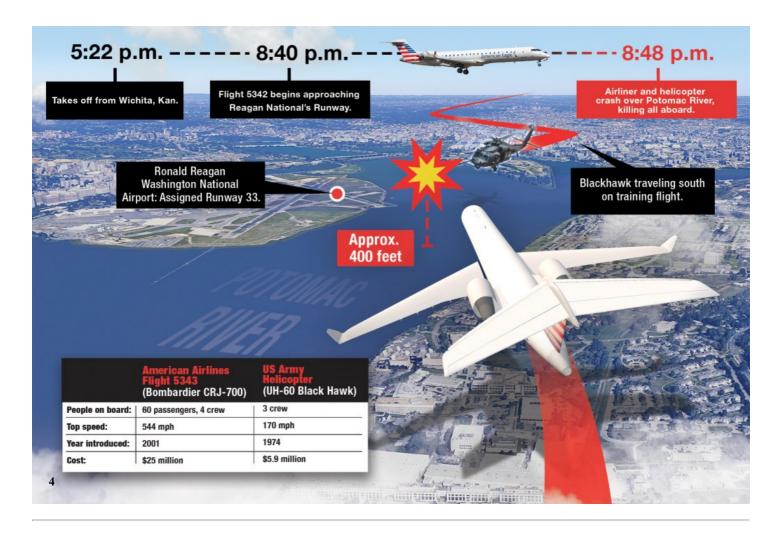
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DC chopper, plane crash live updates: No survivors expected after AA flight collides with military helicopter in deadliest US crash since 2009

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The tone and timing of the email was jarring for FAA employees — considering the recent tragedy, which may have been linked to staffing cutbacks, workers told the Times.

Other federal agencies including the Homeland Security Department, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Justice Department also received the email.

The FAA didn't immediately return The Post's request for comment Friday.

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