

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074
MINORITY (202) 225-5051
<https://oversight.house.gov>

August 7, 2023

The Honorable Carlos Del Toro
Secretary of the United States Navy
1200 Navy Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Secretary Del Toro,

We are deeply concerned and disappointed by the lack of response to our Questions for the Record (QFRs) submitted in conjunction with the hearing titled "Strengthening the Fleet: Challenges and Solutions in Naval Surface Ship Construction," held by the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability Subcommittee on National Security, the Border, and Foreign Affairs on May 11, 2023. As we mark **over three months** since the hearing, the absence of a response is alarming and undermines the trust between our institutions.

Below is the timeline of our efforts to engage with your office, presented in chronological order:

- May 11, 2023 – Hearing held.
- May 15, 2023 – Congressman Higgins delivers post-hearing letter sent to RDML Thomas Anderson and RDML Casey Moton – **No Response.**¹
- May 30, 2023 – All QFRs were received by the committee and compiled.
- May 30, 2023 – Committee transmitted QFRs to the Navy
- May 30, 2023 – LCDR Hammerer confirmed receipt of QFRs – he indicated he would send them to both RDML's offices.
- June 21, 2023 – Committee staff contacted LCDR Hammerer and asked for an update – **No response.**
- June 27, 2023 – Navy House Liaison Office confirmed that CAPT Kevin Smith relieved RDML Moton as the PEO of the Unmanned and Small Combatants Executive Office.
- June 28, 2023 – Congressman Higgins delivers letter to CAPT Kevin Smith – **No Response.**²
- June 29, 2023 – Committee staff spoke on the phone with LCDR Hammerer – He stated that he would check with the team on the status of answers.
- June 30, 2023 – Committee staff contacted LCDR Hammerer via email – LCDR stated that 17 of 39 questions had been answered.
- June 30, 2023 – Congressman Higgins' staff reached out to the Navy House Liaison Office – Stated they would check with the Pentagon. – **No follow-up.**
- July 18, 2023 – Committee staff contacted LCDR Hammerer and asked for an update – **No response.**

¹ See attached letter to RDML Thomas Anderson and RDML Casey Moton.

² See attached letter to CAPT Kevin Smith.

- July 20, 2023 – Committee staff called LCDR Hammerer and left a voicemail requesting an update – **No response.**
- July 21, 2023 – Congressman Higgins’ Office delivered a letter to Secretary Del Toro CCed Assistant Secretary Frederick Stefany, RDML Anderson, RDML Moton, and CAPT Smith – **No response.**³

Due to the lack of timely responses to our inquiries, we are left with no choice but to demand complete answers to all outstanding QFRs within **ten business days** of the delivery of this letter. Failure to comply with this request will result in the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability issuing appropriate subpoenas.

While we understand the complexity of the matters at hand, we expect and require your full cooperation. Thank you for your attention to this serious matter. We trust that you will treat this request with the urgency and respect it deserves.

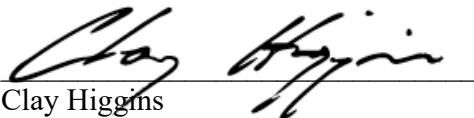
Respectfully,



James Comer
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Accountability



Glenn Grothman
Chairman
Subcommittee on National
Security, the Border, and Foreign
Affairs



Clay Higgins
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Accountability

The Honorable Robert Garcia, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Security, the Border, and Foreign Affairs

³ See attached letter to Secretary Del Toro.