

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>

July 16, 2024

The Honorable Lloyd Austin
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Austin:

The Committee on Oversight and Accountability (Committee) is continuing to investigate long-term problems regarding the reliability of the V-22 Osprey tiltrotor military aircraft (Osprey). Since the Committee's December 21, 2023, request for documents and information concerning the Osprey program's safety and performance, the Committee has encountered significant delays and hurdles to obtain necessary materials.¹

Materials DoD has produced to date have been limited to highly redacted documents already made public through Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. DoD has not followed through on promises to provide even these limited documents in unredacted form nor has it accepted the Committee's offer to review materials *in camera*.

DoD has also stated that it is refusing to produce any documented safety investigations to the Committee. In a recent hearing before the House Oversight and Accountability Committee's Subcommittee on National Security, the Border, and Foreign Affairs, Mr. Peter Belk, performing the duties of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Readiness, was questioned on whether DoD would provide the safety investigations to Members of this Committee. He did not commit to providing this information.

Osprey related crashes have killed more than sixty servicemembers since 1992 and the program has spent more than \$130 billion in taxpayer funds. DoD must be transparent with Congress and the American people to show that the Osprey program is safe and that it will bring significant advantages to combat operations. Therefore, the Committee requests the following documents and information as soon as possible, but no later than July 30, 2024:

1. All safety investigation reports for every class A Osprey mishap from 1991 to present, and;

¹ Letter from James Comer, Chair, H. Comm. on Oversight & Accountability, to Lloyd Austin, Sec'y, U.S. Dep't of Defense (Dec. 21, 2023).

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Page 2 of 2

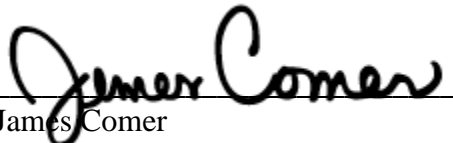
2. A comprehensive list of every class A Osprey mishap from 1991 to present including but not limited to mishaps that involve a loss of aircraft, loss of life, or more than \$2.5 million in damages. This list should include the date, location, and cause of every class A Osprey mishap.

The Committee reiterates our outstanding requests for information, and its willingness to make accommodations to review the requested documents and information. If DoD continues to fail to produce the requested documents by July 30, 2024, the Committee will consider additional measures, including use of the compulsory process, to gain compliance and obtain this critical material.

To arrange for delivery of responsive documents or any related follow-up questions, please contact the Committee on Oversight and Accountability Majority staff at (202) 225-5074. The Committee on Oversight and Accountability is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X.

Thank you in advance for cooperating with this inquiry.

Sincerely,



James Comer
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Accountability



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

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