

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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December 22, 2025

Mr. Platte Moring
Inspector General
U.S. Department of Defense
4800 Mark Center Drive
Alexandria, VA 22350

Dear Inspector General Moring:

The Subcommittee on Military and Foreign Affairs is continuing to investigate the U.S. military's use of airspace in the National Capital Region, following the fatal crash on January 29, 2025, between a U.S. Army Black Hawk helicopter and American Airlines flight 5342 near Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA) that killed sixty-seven people.¹ Based on the Subcommittee's investigative findings, detailed in the attached report, titled "The DCA Incident: Assessing the Military's Role in the National Airspace Tragedy," we request the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) Inspector General conduct a broad evaluation of the DoD's use of U.S. civilian airspace and its adherence to established aviation safety protocols.

The recent mid-air collision near DCA underscores the importance of ensuring that military aviation operations are fully compliant with federal safety standards and coordinated effectively with civilian authorities. Specifically, we ask that your evaluation:

1. Assess the extent and circumstances under which DoD aircraft – fixed-wing or rotary, and unmanned – operate in or near civilian-controlled airspace;
2. Examine compliance with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations, air traffic control procedures, and federal aviation standards;
3. Evaluate DoD's coordination mechanisms with FAA and civilian air traffic control to prevent conflicts in shared airspace;
4. Review incident reporting, risk management practices, and internal oversight responsibilities related to military aviation safety; and

¹ Samantha Gilstrap, *NTSB Provides Update on DCA Crash Investigation Involving Black Hawk Helicopter and Plane*, WUSA9 (February 26, 2025).

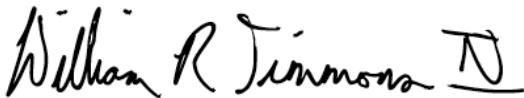
5. Determine whether lessons learned from prior aviation incidents involving DoD aircraft have been effectively incorporated into policy and practice.

An independent review by your office would provide Congress and the public with a clear understanding of how the Department manages its responsibilities in shared airspace and whether improvements are needed to strengthen safety, accountability, and public confidence.

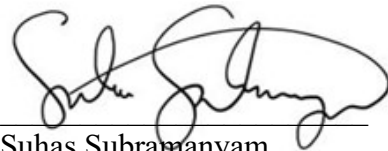
Thank you for your attention to this matter. We ask that your office keep Subcommittee staff apprised of your progress and work closely with them to appropriately scope and refine the parameters of this evaluation.

To ask any follow-up questions or questions related to the timing and sequencing of work, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-5074. The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform 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 for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of William R. Timmons in black ink, featuring a stylized 'W' and 'T'.

William Timmons
Chairman
Subcommittee on Military
and Foreign Affairs

Handwritten signature of Suhas Subramanyam in black ink, featuring a stylized 'S' and 'S'.

Suhas Subramanyam
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Military
and Foreign Affairs