

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2004

July 22, 2019

The Honorable Gene Dodaro
Comptroller General of the United States
U.S. Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

We write with concern regarding recent reports on a number of deaths occurring during vehicle rollovers in military training exercises. In the last two months, at least six servicemembers have been lost due to a rollover event in either the Army or the Marine Corps. While it is imperative that our servicemembers are trained at a level that ensures they are ready to deploy, fight, and win, it is essential that our Armed Forces conducts training in a manner that ensures our servicemembers are not needlessly lost during a training exercise.

Therefore, we respectfully request that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) conduct a study of trends in non-combat deaths, specifically those that occur during training. Among other issues your study may find relevant, we ask that your study include an analysis of the following issues:

1. For the prior ten fiscal years, the number of combat casualties and non-combat casualties that occurred during training accidents, including the number that occurred during mishaps involving vehicle rollovers;
2. A description and assessment of recent non-combat casualties and injuries resulting from mishaps involving vehicle rollovers, and any factors that may have contributed to the cause of the mishaps, such as deployment rates, the median service time of servicemembers, training, vehicle availability;
3. An assessment of the sufficiency and accuracy of record keeping of training mishaps, to include those reported in open sources; and

4. An evaluation of actions the Department of Defense (DOD) has taken to reduce or prevent the number of non-combat casualties and injuries, specifically related to vehicle rollovers, and whether further opportunities may exist to ensure safety and operational proficiency.

We believe the assessment of the above issues, and any recommendations GAO may have, will assist us as we conduct oversight on DOD and ensuring that our military is achieving the required levels of readiness.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and ask that you respond to our request for a study within 30 days of the date of this letter. If you have additional questions please contact Maia Estes or Jonathan Rayner, Office of Congressman Anthony Brown, at (202)-225-8699, maia.estes@mail.house.gov, or jonathan.rayner@mail.house.gov.

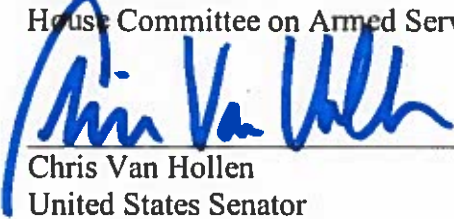
Sincerely,



Anthony G. Brown
Vice Chairman
House Committee on Armed Services




Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Elijah E. Cummings
Chairman
House Committee on Oversight and Reform



C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress