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ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515-6115

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October 30, 2007

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The Honorable David M. Walker
Comptroller General
U.S. Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Comptroller General Walker:

The V-22 Osprey has been in development since the mid-1980s. During the course of its troubled development, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and others have conducted numerous reviews of the program—reviews that highlighted concerns about the robustness of the aircraft's development, the realism of operational tests, the limitations identified during those tests, and even the soundness of the V-22's design.

The first squadron of MV-22s, the Marine Corps variant, has been deployed to Iraq, and the Osprey program is negotiating a multi-year procurement contract with the builders of the aircraft. Deployment of the V-22 to Iraq along with the establishment of U.S.-based operational units in Jacksonville, NC, provides an opportunity to assess the progress of the program. It is important to know whether the V-22 will perform as promised, and if it will, at what cost. Therefore, we request that you review the following issues on the V-22 program.

1. What is the current estimate of cost, schedule, and quantity for the program, and how do these estimates compare with original estimates?
2. Has the current V-22 design demonstrated that it has met its key performance parameters and other critical requirements?
3. What key testing, safety, and production quality issues remain open, and to what extent do they affect the V-22's ability to conduct its planned missions?
4. How is the V-22 performing in theater, especially regarding mission capability rates and logistics burden?

The Honorable David M. Walker
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Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this request. If you have any questions, please contact us or have your staff contact Steven C. Rangel of the Committee staff at (202) 226-2424.

Sincerely,



John D. Dingell
Chairman



Bart Stupak
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

cc: The Honorable Joe Barton, Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce

The Honorable Ed Whitfield, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations