

IKE SKELTON, MISSOURI, CHAIRMAN
JOHN SPRATT, SOUTH CAROLINA
SOLOMON P. ORTIZ, TEXAS
GENE TAYLOR, MISSISSIPPI
NEIL ABERCROMBIE, HAWAII
SILVESTRE REYES, TEXAS
VIC SNYDER, ARKANSAS
ADAM SMITH, WASHINGTON
LORETTA SANCHEZ, CALIFORNIA
MIKE McINTYRE, NORTH CAROLINA
ELLEN O. TAUSCHER, CALIFORNIA
ROBERT A. BRADY, PENNSYLVANIA
ROBERT ANDREWS, NEW JERSEY
SUSAN A. DAVIS, CALIFORNIA
JAMES R. LANGEVIN, RHODE ISLAND
RICK LARSEN, WASHINGTON
JIM COOPER, TENNESSEE
JIM MARSHALL, GEORGIA
MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO, GUAM
BRAD ELLSWORTH, INDIANA
PATRICK J. MURPHY, PENNSYLVANIA
HANK JOHNSON, GEORGIA
CAROL SHEA-PORTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE
JOE COURTNEY, CONNECTICUT
DAVID LOESACK, IOWA
JOE SESTAK, PENNSYLVANIA
GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, ARIZONA
NIKI TSONGAS, MASSACHUSETTS
GLENN NYE, VIRGINIA
CHELLIE PINGREE, MAINE
LARRY KISSELL, NORTH CAROLINA
MARTIN HEINRICH, NEW MEXICO
FRANK M. KRATOVIL, JR., MARYLAND
ERIC J.J. MASSA, NEW YORK
BOBBY BRIGHT, ALABAMA

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-6035

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

JOHN M. McHUGH, NEW YORK
ROSCOE G. BARTLETT, MARYLAND
HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON, CALIFORNIA
MAC THORNBERRY, TEXAS
WALTER B. JONES, NORTH CAROLINA
W. TODD AKIN, MISSOURI
J. RANDY FORBES, VIRGINIA
JEFF MILLER, FLORIDA
JOE WILSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
FRANK A. LoBIONDO, NEW JERSEY
ROB BISHOP, UTAH
MICHAEL TURNER, OHIO
JOHN KLINE, MINNESOTA
MIKE ROGERS, ALABAMA
TRENT FRANKS, ARIZONA
BILL SHUSTER, PENNSYLVANIA
CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS, WASHINGTON
K. MICHAEL CONAWAY, TEXAS
DOUG LAMBORN, COLORADO
ROB WITTMAN, VIRGINIA
MARY FALLIN, OKLAHOMA
DUNCAN HUNTER, CALIFORNIA
JOHN C. FLEMING, LOUISIANA
MIKE COFFMAN, COLORADO
THOMAS J. ROONEY, FLORIDA

ERIN C. CONATON, STAFF DIRECTOR

March 16, 2009

Mr. Gene Dodaro
Acting Comptroller General
U. S. Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20548

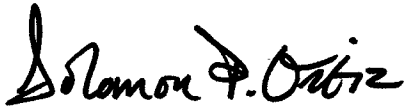
Dear Mr. Dodaro:

As a result of the high pace of ongoing operations, much attention has been focused on the current stress on our military forces. While most of this attention has been focused on the Army and Marine Corps, all the services have been affected by the increased tempo of operations since 9/11. During this period of increased operations, the Navy has undertaken a number of initiatives designed to improve fleet readiness while achieving cost savings. Because the cost of a ship's crew is the single largest cost incurred over the ship's lifecycle, many of these initiatives have led to changes in the ways the Navy trains its surface personnel and crews its ships. In view of these changes, which can affect the Navy's personnel, and the readiness of its ships, the committee requests that GAO review the training, size, composition, and capabilities of the Navy's ship crews. Specifically, we request that GAO:

- Evaluate current requirement, authorization, and on-hand personnel levels for selected ship types compared to historical data for the same or similar ship types, including underlying reasons for any differences,
- compare shipboard rank/rate distributions over time and analyze underlying reasons for any changes, and their impact on ship capabilities,
- evaluate qualification training for personnel in selected shipboard designators/ratings to determine any changes to formal off-ship training programs, including whether such changes have affected personnel availability and the amounts and types of on-the-job training that is required for personnel to achieve required qualifications, and
- evaluate to what, if any, extent requirements to provide personnel for Individual Augmentee positions and transition and training teams in support of ongoing operations are impacting the levels or composition of shipboard manning.

Should you have any questions concerning this request, please contact Vickie Plunkett (x53432), or Lynn Williams (x66164) on the Readiness Subcommittee staff, or Mike Higgins (x57560), or John Chapla (x56521) on the Military Personnel subcommittee staff.

Sincerely,



SOLOMON ORTIZ

Chairman

Subcommittee on Readiness



SUSAN DAVIS

Chairwoman

Subcommittee on Military Personnel



J. RANDY FORBES

Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Readiness



JOE WILSON

Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Military Personnel