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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0000

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April 4, 2007

The Honorable Michael W. Wynne
Secretary of the Air Force
1690 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20330-1670

Re: Combat Search and Rescue Replacement Vehicle (CSAR-X)

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As you of course know, I have long been committed to providing our military with the best possible capabilities at a fair price. Given the regrettable history of the Air Force's plan to update its aerial refueling fleet, it is critical that the Air Force procure Combat Search and Rescue Replacement Vehicles (CSAR-X) in a manner that befits the Air Force's second highest acquisition priority—behind only its current tanker recapitalization plan.

Unfortunately, recent developments in this program do not inspire confidence that this is the case. From the information available, I am concerned about the possibility that what arose from a requirement for medium-lift personal recovery vehicle resulted in a contract award for a system that provides a very different capability.

Mandatory Air Force policy requires Air Force organizations to use a formal capabilities-based approach to identify, evaluate, develop, field and sustain capabilities that compete for limited resources. Air Force Policy Directive 10-6 (May 6, 2006), in particular, directs that the Air Force use a capabilities-based process that is "traceable, repeatable, and defensible to identify Air Force-wide capability shortfalls, gaps, and potential tradespace study areas." Furthermore, Air Force Instruction 10-601 (July 31, 2006) requires that analyses supporting the decision-making process assess a capability based on the effect it seeks to generate and the associated risk of not having it. In this case, it is unclear to me what supporting analysis determined the need for a heavy-lift combat search and rescue helicopter or the risk of not having it. Accordingly, if this analysis was conducted, please provide it to the Committee, in addition to the following documents.

Given the foregoing and in furtherance of the Committee on Armed Services's oversight of CSAR-X, please provide the following documents relating to or associated with that program:

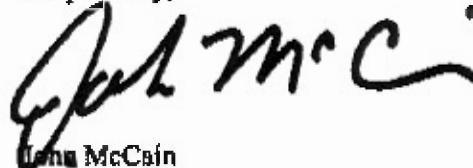
- Concept of Operations (CONOPs)
- Functional Needs Analysis (FNA)
- Functional Area Analysis (FAA)
- Post Independent Analysis (PIA)
- Joint Capabilities Document (JCD)
- Initial Capabilities Document (ICD)
- Functional Solution Analysis (FSA)
- All Requests for Information (RFI)
- All Draft Requests for Proposal (RFPs)
- Final RFP
- Analysis of Alternatives (AOA)
- Service Cost Estimate
- Independent Cost Estimate (ICE)
- System Requirements Documents (SRD)
- Capability Development Documents (CDD)
- Revision history reflecting changes to all of the aforementioned documents
- Press Release of the Award Announcement
- CSAR-X Contract

It is my hope that these documents will help the Committee track how, and on what basis, requirements, insufficiently related to the COCOM's original needs, may have been improperly added to this program—particularly through the use of "areas of special interest."

Please provide all of the requested items, to include contractor proprietary and source selection information, and a duplicate of those items to the Majority, by Thursday, April 19, 2007. To help the Committee assure that all contractor proprietary and source selection sensitive documents will be appropriately safeguarded, please label them accordingly—and precisely.

If you have any questions, your staff may contact Chris Paul, of the Minority staff, at (202) 224-7138, or Creighton Greene, of the Majority staff, at (202) 224-6115.

Respectfully,



Tom McCain
Ranking Member