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Congress of the United States
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Washington, DC 20515-3303

April 21, 2009

Rear Admiral Arthur J. Johnson
Commander, Naval Safety Center
375 A Street
Norfolk, VA 23511

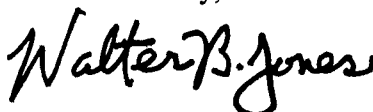
Dear Rear Admiral Arthur J. Johnson:

On February 20, 2009 the Marine Corps Deputy Commandant for Aviation included a copy of the attached memorandum for the record documenting my personal view of the April 8, 2000 MV-22 Osprey mishap in the Official Military Personnel Files (OMPFs) of the late Lieutenant Colonel Brow and Major Gruber. The letter and memo that the Marine Corps accepted into the OMPFs of these two pilots acknowledged that the pilots were not responsible for the accident. It is my understanding that your command maintains the records of naval aviation safety investigation reports which occurred after 1981. Therefore, I hereby request that you too include a copy of the attached memo in the record of the MV-22 mishap of April 8, 2000 which occurred in Marana, Arizona.

One of the main reasons for my request is to set the record straight and properly honor the sacrifice of these brave pilots who gave their lives in the service of their country. However, I am also concerned about inaccurate reports which characterize the cause of this mishap as "pilot error" and the impact this has on the surviving family members. For example, within the last thirty days, two instances where the MV-22 crash in Arizona was said to have been caused by pilot error were brought to my attention. Recently, a reporter with News Channel 12 in New Bern, NC reported on a story about V-22 Ospreys that were being grounded. The reporter mentioned that the crash in Arizona was caused by pilot error. I was able to speak with the reporter, who acknowledged that it was his understanding that pilot error was the cause of the crash based upon his research for the news story. I have enclosed a copy of the transcript from that story for you to read. In addition, a few weeks ago, Major Gruber's father brought a book called *Leathernecks* to my attention. On page 504 of the book, there is a reference to a crash caused by pilot error. I contacted the publisher of *Leathernecks*, Naval Institute Press, and they verified that the reference was made to the MV-22 crash in Arizona. I have enclosed a copy of page 504 of *Leathernecks* for your review.

I am most grateful that the Marine Corps deemed it necessary to include a copy of my memo in the personnel records of Lieutenant Colonel Brow and Major Gruber. I must request therefore that you include this memo in the record of the naval aviation safety investigation report of this mishap because I believe without a doubt that these findings are undisputable. Thank you for your attention to this letter and your service to our nation.

Sincerely,



Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress

