



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL SAFETY CENTER
375 A STREET
NORFOLK, VA 23511-4399

5100
Ser 055/0241
15 May 09

The Honorable Walter B. Jones
House of Representatives
Rayburn House Office Building, Room 2333
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Jones,

In response to your request that I include a copy of your Memorandum for the Record regarding the April 8, 2000 Osprey mishap in the official safety investigation report, I regret to inform you that I must respectfully decline to do so.

All safety investigations are conducted solely to determine root causes and identify corrective actions, not to assign blame or document accountability. Aviation safety investigations are conducted by a team of specialized investigators, including at least one professional aviation safety investigator. They are exceptionally adept at what they do, and they have access to all of the expertise and resources within the Department of the Navy in reaching their conclusions. Their process, which is tried and true after more than 50 years of experience, is closed to outside influences. It would be inappropriate to alter the official safety investigation report by appending your Memorandum for the Record.

Although I cannot grant your request to include a copy of your Memorandum for the Record in the official safety investigation report, I most certainly will retain it in my Commander's file. Your continuing interest in naval aviation safety is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

A. J. JOHNSON
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy
Commander, Naval Safety Center

Copy to:
Office of Legislative Affairs
Director, Navy Staff