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## COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-6035

ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

August 5, 2019

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PAUL ARCANGELI, STAFF DIRECTOR

The Honorable Gene L. Dodaro  
Comptroller General of the United States  
Government Accountability Office  
441 G Street NW  
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

We note with concern that the Army and Marine Corps have experienced a number of training mishaps in the past six months involving wheeled and tracked combat vehicles, several of which resulted in the injury or death of servicemembers. Therefore, we respectfully request that GAO conduct a review of training mishaps involving Army and Marine Corps tactical wheeled and tracked combat vehicles. This review should also include an assessment of the record keeping, training standards, range-safety, and material condition related to wheeled and tracked combat vehicles. Specifically, GAO should assess:

- 1) The extent to which the Army and Marine Corps keep records of mishaps involving tactical wheeled and tracked combat vehicles, to include mishaps where no injuries or damage to the vehicle or property occur;
- 2) For each training mishap that occurred in the past 10 years, the extent to which the Army and Marine Corps collected standard data, to include the type of training being conducted, the time of day, weather, and range conditions when the mishap occurred;
- 3) The extent to which mishaps occurred more frequently during limited visibility or during training with night vision devices, and whether an increased emphasis on more complex training tasks at higher echelons contributed to mishap rates;
- 4) The extent to which operators and crews assigned to tactical wheeled and tracked combat vehicles have received the recommended number of training hours to meet operational and safety standards, and how these training standards compare to those of international partners and allies;

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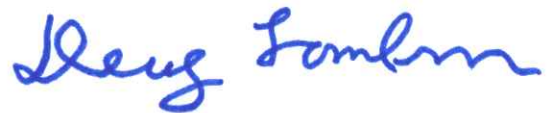
- 5) The extent to which the program of instruction has been reassessed to determine if the current training standards are sufficient to ensure operational and safety proficiency of tactical wheeled and tracked combat vehicle operators and crews;
- 6) The extent to which the Army and Marine Corps have processes to conduct range-safety inspections and surveys in training and maneuver areas before training events, and communicate the results of such inspections and surveys to installation and unit leadership and the tactical wheeled and tracked combat vehicle operators and crews conducting the training to improve range safety procedures;
- 7) The availability and mission capability rates for Army and Marine Corps tactical wheeled and tracked combat vehicles during fiscal years 2015 through 2019, and plans for improving the availability and mission capability rates of such vehicles;
- 8) The extent to which vehicle unavailability has impeded the ability of Army and Marine Corps units to meet training requirements or increased safety risk to meet training requirements; and
- 9) Such other issues the Comptroller General determines appropriate with respect to training, readiness, and safety of wheeled and tracked combat vehicle operations.

We believe the assessment of the above issues, and any recommendations GAO may have, will assist the committee with its oversight responsibilities and to help identify changes that may be necessary to help reduce the number of training mishaps involve tactical wheeled and tracked combat vehicles. Please contact the House Armed Services Committee staff if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



John Garamendi  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Readiness



Doug Lamborn  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Readiness