

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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<http://oversight.house.gov>

September 30, 2016

The Honorable J. Michael Gilmore
Director of Operational Test and Evaluation
U.S. Department of Defense
1700 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Mr. Gilmore:

We are writing to raise concerns and request a briefing on the Warrior Injury Assessment Manikin (“WIAMan”) program and associated contracts. The objective of WIAMan program, which was reported about earlier this year in the *New York Times*, is to build a better anthropomorphic test device (ATD)—or crash test dummy—to develop technologies that will better protect the warfighter in armored vehicles from the impact of improvised explosive devices.¹ This program seeks to assess the types and severity of injuries from such devices in order to defend the warfighter more effectively.

The Committee obtained information that raises concerns about the sufficiency of competition during various phases of the WIAMan procurement. The WIAMan project has been a multi-year effort that began in 2011 when the Department conducted a public session to outline initial research and development goals for potential contractors.² It is unclear when the project will be complete, but media accounts have reported the WIAMan is supposed to be ready for routine use in 2021.³ In the lifespan of the project, questions have arisen about how the Department awarded contracts.

To address these concerns, please provide a briefing for Committee staff as soon as possible, but no later than October 17, 2016. The briefers should be prepared to provide a status update on this project (including projected timeline for completing project phases) and to address the issues raised above, including the contracting history and strategy moving forward.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal investigative committee in the U.S. House of Representatives. Pursuant to House Rule X, the Committee has authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time.”

¹ *To Protect Soldiers from Bombs, Military Scientists Build a Better Dummy* by Mary Roach, N.Y. TIMES, May 30, 2016.

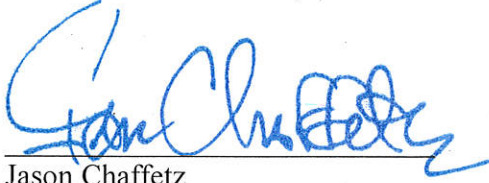
² Program for Warrior Injury Assessment Manikin, Industry Day (Mar. 2011), available at https://blastinjuryresearch.amedd.army.mil/docs/WIAMan_Project_Plan_Industry_Day_V3.pdf

³ *To Protect Soldiers from Bombs, Military Scientists Build a Better Dummy* by Mary Roach, N.Y. TIMES, May 30, 2016.

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Please contact Julie Dunne of the majority staff at (202) 225-5074 with any questions about this request. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

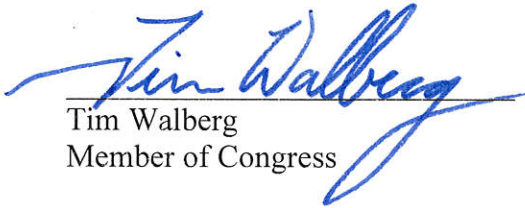
Sincerely,



Jason Chaffetz
Chairman



Mark Meadows
Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations



Tim Walberg
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings, Ranking Member

The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Government Operations