

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5268

To direct the Secretary of Defense to implement certain recommendations of the Comptroller General of the United States with respect to the mitigation and prevention of training accidents, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 17, 2021

Mr. BUCHANAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Defense to implement certain recommendations of the Comptroller General of the United States with respect to the mitigation and prevention of training accidents, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Preventing Future
5 Tragedies Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) According to a report from the Congres-
2 sional Research Service, between 2006 and 2019, 32
3 percent of deaths of members of the Armed Forces
4 killed while serving on active duty were the result of
5 military training accidents while only 16 percent of
6 such deaths during that same time period were indi-
7 viduals killed-in-action.

8 (2) In 2017 alone, almost four times as many
9 members of the Armed Forces died in training acci-
10 dents as were killed-in-action.

11 (3) The Government Accountability Office care-
12 fully studied military training accident data from
13 2010 through 2019 and made nine recommendations
14 to more clearly establish procedures and mechanisms
15 to help supervisors enhance vehicle safety and de-
16 velop performance criteria and measurable standards
17 for driver training programs.

18 **SEC. 3. IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPTROLLER GENERAL**
19 **RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO MITIGA-**
20 **TION AND PREVENTION OF TRAINING ACCI-**
21 **DENTS.**

22 (a) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The Secretary of the Defense
23 shall take such steps as may be necessary to carry out
24 the following with respect to the Army, Navy, and Marine
25 Corps:

1 (1) To develop more clearly defined roles for ve-
2 hicle commanders and establish mechanisms and
3 procedures for tactical vehicle risk management to
4 be used by first-line supervisors, including vehicle
5 commanders.

6 (2) To evaluate the number of personnel within
7 operational units who are responsible for tactical ve-
8 hicle safety and determine if these units are appro-
9 priately staffed, or if any adjustments are needed to
10 workloads or resource levels to implement oper-
11 ational unit ground-safety programs.

12 (3) To ensure that tactical vehicle driver train-
13 ing programs, including licensing, unit, and follow-
14 on training programs, have a well-defined process
15 with specific performance criteria and measurable
16 standards to identify driver skills and experience
17 under diverse conditions.

18 (4) To evaluate—

19 (A) the extent to which ranges and train-
20 ing areas are fulfilling responsibilities to iden-
21 tify and communicate hazards to units; and

22 (B) to the extent to which such responsibil-
23 ities are not being carried out, whether existing
24 solutions are adequate or if additional resources
25 should be applied to fulfill such responsibilities.

1 (b) CONSULTATION REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary
2 of the Army, the Secretary of the Navy, and the Com-
3 mandant of the Marine Corps shall jointly establish a for-
4 mal collaboration forum among Army, Navy, and Marine
5 Corps range officials through which such officials shall
6 share methods for identifying and communicating hazards
7 to units.

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