

**Opening Statement**  
**Ranking Member Ralph M. Hall**  
Investigations and Oversight Hearing on DP-2  
June 12, 2007

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are here today to discuss a research project funded through the Department of Defense called DP-2. The goal of this high-risk, high-reward research is to develop advanced vertical takeoff and landing technology that will greatly benefit our armed forces. Vectored lift capabilities are important to our soldiers, and any increase in system performance ultimately saves lives. The faster you can get in and out of an area; the less time you spend onsite; and the more capabilities you can bring to bear, the safer our troops will be. I think that we can all agree that developing technology that makes our troops safer is an important goal.

To put this project in context, the DP-2 program represents a fraction of the Vertical Take Off and Landing budget spent by the Department of Defense—the V-22 Osprey has been allocated \$11.3 billion to date, not including the science and technology funds. The DP-2 program, in contrast, has received \$63 million, or .5% of the V-22 budget. The project has received bipartisan support—the Armed Services Committee and the Appropriations Committee have provided funding since 1988, during both Democratic and Republican-Controlled Congresses.

The DP-2 project has faced many technical challenges, as should be expected for revolutionary technology. I look forward to hearing about some of those challenges today, as well as the potential benefits of the project to our troops on the ground.