

Congressional Reporting Requirement

(Study, Evaluate and Recommend)

The Senate Armed Services Committee requests the Secretary of Defense to study and evaluate the Army's current use of the UH-72A twin engine helicopter for Initial Entry Rotary Wing (IERW) pilot training and consider use of other single engine rotary wing helicopters. Moreover, use of a complex helicopter with advanced technology systems must be examined as it relates to the development of fundamental airmanship skills. The results shall be reported to the Senate and House Armed Service Committees by the close of Fiscal Year 2023.

The study and evaluation must address the Committee's interest in:

1. A thorough economic and cost analysis including operational readiness rates of the UH-72A IERW fleet as compared and contrasted with lower cost single engine helicopters based on current and projected IERW requirements.
2. Current and future helicopter costs and operating tempo of Army IERW.
3. Service life projection of UH-72A, its divestiture as a training aircraft, and a replacement strategy.
4. Reassignment of the UH-72A or other helicopters to the Army National Guard for homeland security/defense and disaster relief.
5. A human factor analysis of training IERW students in a complex helicopter with advanced technology systems focusing on adverse effects in the development of fundamental airmanship.
6. An analysis of aircraft mishaps (ground and airborne) involving Army aviators trained in the UH-72A during IERW.
7. A review of helicopters used by sister services for initial aviator training.
8. How savings from lower cost helicopters could advance other Army aviation requirements.
9. Recommendations the Army believes will improve IERW aircraft operating costs and improve training in fundamental airmanship.

Be prepared to brief the Senate and House Armed Services Committees.