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0		
9	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT	
10	SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA	
11	AMPED CAV individually as Suggessor in	CASE NO. 24CV0906 MMAMSB
12	AMBER SAX, individually, as Successor-in- Interest of John J. Sax, and as guardian ad	CASE NO.
	litem for the surviving children of John J.	COMPLAINT
13	Sax; AVERY RASMUSON, individually, as	JURY TRIAL DEMANDED
14	Successor-in-Interest of Seth D. Rasmuson,	JUNI IRIAL DEMIANDED
15	and as guardian ad litem for the surviving	
	child of Seth D. Rasmuson; EMILY	
16	BAXTER, individually and as Successor-in-	
17	Interest of Nathan E. Carlson; WAYLAND	
18	B. STRICKLAND, individually and as Successor-in-Interest of Evan A. Strickland;	
19	MICHELLE A. STRICKLAND, individually	
	and as Successor-in-Interest of Evan A.	
20	Strickland;	
21		
22	Plaintiffs,	
23		
24	ν .	
	BELL TEXTRON, INC.; THE BOEING	
25	COMPANY; ROLLS-ROYCE CORP.; and	
26	ROLLS-ROYCE NORTH AMERICA, INC.,	
27		
28	Defendants.	

-1-COMPLAINT

COMPLAINT

- 1. This case arises from the fatal crash of a U.S. Marine Corps V-22 "Osprey" aircraft with Bureau Number 168018 which was assigned callsign "SWIFT 11."
- 2. On June 8, 2022, SWIFT 11 suffered a catastrophic failure in-flight and a subsequent impact with terrain tragically killing Plaintiffs' decedents, who were the aircraft's crew during a training mission (the "Accident").

THE PARTIES

3. Plaintiff AMBER SAX is a citizen and resident of the State of California, and she is the widow and Successor-in-Interest (Declaration attached) of Captain John J. Sax, United States Marine Corps, deceased, and the natural mother and guardian ad litem of E.S. and E.S., minors.



John J. Sax

- 4. E.S., a minor, is the first-born natural child of Plaintiff AMBER SAX and Plaintiff's decedent Captain John J. Sax, deceased.
- 5. E.S., a minor, is second-born natural child of Plaintiff AMBER SAX and Plaintiff's decedent Captain John J. Sax, deceased, with the same initials as their first-born child.
- 6. Decedent Captain John J. Sax was, at the time of his passing, a citizen of the State of California.

7. Plaintiff AVERY RASMUSON is a citizen and resident of State of Montana, and she is the widow and Successor-in-Interest (Declaration attached) of Corporal Seth D. Rasmuson, United States Marine Corps, deceased, and the natural mother and guardian ad litem of R.R., a minor.



Seth D. Rasmuson

- 8. R.R., a minor, is the natural child of Plaintiff AVERY RASMUSON and Plaintiff's decedent Corporal Seth D. Rasmuson.
- 9. Decedent Corporal Seth D. Rasmuson was, at the time of his passing, a citizen of the State of California.
- 10. Plaintiff EMILY E. BAXTER is a citizen and resident of State of North Carolina, and she is the widow and Successor-in-Interest (Declaration attached) of Corporal Nathan E. Carlson, United States Marine Corps, deceased.



Nathan E. Carlson

- 11. Decedent Corporal Nathan E. Carlson was, at the time of his passing, a citizen of the State of California.
- 12. Plaintiff WAYLAND B. STRICKLAND is a citizen and resident of State of New Mexico, and he is the natural father and Successor-in-Interest (Declaration attached) of Lance Corporal Evan A. Strickland, United States Marine Corps, deceased.



Evan A. Strickland *1*

- 13. Plaintiff MICHELLE A. STRICKLAND is a citizen and resident of State of New Mexico, and she is the natural mother and Successor-in-Interest (Declaration attached) of Lance Corporal Evan A. Strickland, United States Marine Corps, deceased.
- 14. Decedent Lance Corporal Evan A. Strickland was, at the time of his passing, a citizen of the State of California.
- 15. Defendant BELL TEXTRON, INC. ("BELL") is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware with a principal place of business located at 3255 Bell Flight Blvd., Fort Worth, Texas 76118.
- 16. Defendant BELL is registered to do business in the State of California with Secretary of State File Number 1112059.
- 17. Defendant BELL conducts substantial and not isolated business in this State and District, and it maintains a registered agent in California as follows: The Corporation Company, 555 Capital Mall, Suite 1150, Sacramento, California 95814.
- 18. Defendant THE BOEING COMPANY ("BOEING") is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware with a principal place of business located at 929 Long Bridge Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22202.
- 19. Defendant BOEING is registered to do business in the State of California with Secretary of State File Number 367504.

- 20. Defendant BOEING conducts substantial and not isolated business in this State and District, and it maintains a registered agent in California as follows:

 CSC Lawyers Incorporating Service, 2710 Gateway Oaks Drive, Sacramento,

 California 95833.
- 21. Defendant ROLLS-ROYCE CORPORATION ("RRC") is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware with a principal place of business located at 450 South Meridian Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 462205.
- 22. Defendant RRC is registered to do business in the State of California with Secretary of State File Number 1867640.
- 23. Defendant RRC conducts substantial and not isolated business in this State and District, and it maintains a registered agent in California as follows: CSC Lawyers Incorporating Service, 2710 Gateway Oaks Drive, Sacramento, California 95833.
- 24. Defendant ROLLS-ROYCE NORTH AMERICA, INC. ("RRNA") is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware with a principal place of business located at 1900 Reston Metro Plaza, Suite 400, Reston, Virginia 20190.
- 25. Defendant RRNA is registered to do business in the State of California with Secretary of State File Number 2342808.

- 26. Defendant RRNA conducts substantial and not isolated business in this State and District, and it maintains a registered agent in California as follows: CSC Lawyers Incorporating Service, 2710 Gateway Oaks Drive, Sacramento, California 95833.
- 27. Defendants RRC and RRNA are referred to collectively herein as Defendant ROLLS.
- 28. Defendants BELL, BOEING, and ROLLS are referred to collectively herein as "Defendants" unless otherwise specified.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 29. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction of this matter pursuant to Article I, § 8, cl. 17 of the United States Constitution, because the incident occurred in a federal enclave, namely Range 2512 which is located on land that lies beneath the airspace of Restricted Area 2512. The incident occurred in one of two areas designated for live aerial gunnery training, specifically the area called Inky Barley. (See *Willis v. Craig*, 555 F2d 724, 726 (9th Cir. 1977); *Celli v. Shoell*, 40 F.3d 324, 328 (10th Cir. 1994).)
- 30. The incident occurred within Range 2512, which is a federal enclave located wholly within Imperial County within the State of California. Range 2512 is operated, controlled, maintained, and secured by the Federal Government, through the Department of the Navy.

- 31. This Court also has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332 because there is complete diversity of citizenship between the Parties.
- 32. This Court also has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332 because the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000 exclusive of interest and costs.
- 33. This Court has personal jurisdiction over all Defendants, and each of them individually, by virtue of California Code of Civil Procedure 410.10 consistent with the Due Process clause of the United States Constitution because all Defendants, and each of them individually, have purposefully availed themselves of California's benefits, the claims stated herein arise out of or relate to Defendants' contacts with the forum, and the exercise of jurisdiction over Defendants by this Court comports with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice, because Defendants:
 - a. are registered to do business in California as alleged in paragraphs 21 through 27;
 - b. operate, conduct, engage in, or carry on a business in this state or have an office in this state, and employ California residents who work in this state;

- c. breached a contract in this state by failing to perform acts required by the contract to be performed in this state, and Plaintiffs and their decedents are third-party beneficiaries of said contracts;
- d. placed defective products that caused harm in this state into the stream of commerce, and they have the requisite minimum contacts here such that they should fairly anticipate being hauled into court here;
- e. committed tortious acts and/or omissions that resulted in the wrongful deaths of service members in this state;
- f. contracted with the U.S. Government to deliver products, goods, and/or services to California in connection with military aircraft in general and V-22 Osprey aircraft in particular to military bases within California including Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton California, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, California, Naval Air Station North Island California, Naval Air Station Point Mugu California, and Edwards Air Force Base California;
- g. sent their respective employees and/or agents who are technical representatives "TECHREPS" for military aircraft in general and V-22 Osprey aircraft in particular to military bases within California including Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton California, Marine Corps Air

Station Miramar California, Naval Air Station North Island California, Naval Air Station Point Mugu California and Edwards Air Force Base California;

- h. maintain a network of multiple authorized dealers, maintenance, support, and service centers within California to sell and service Defendants' products in-state;
- i. targeted California through advertising and marketing efforts, including attending and participating in aviation trade shows within the state, and have sold their products in California as a result of said efforts; and/or
- j. litigated multiple lawsuits in California courts as both a plaintiff and defendant over the years.
- 34. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2) because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred in this District near Glamis, Imperial County, California.
- 35. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(c)(2) because all Defendants, and each of them, are deemed to reside here and are subject to the Court's personal jurisdiction here.
- 36. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(c)(2) because all Defendants, and each of them, have the capacity to sue and be sued here.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

A. BACKGROUND OF THE V-22 "OSPREY" AIRCRAFT

- 37. The V-22 Osprey aircraft is a land- and sea-based, tiltrotor, multi-mission aircraft operated by the United States Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force.
- 38. The V-22 Osprey carries a crew of between three and five crew members, depending upon the mission assigned.
- 39. The V-22 Osprey does not have ejection seats or parachutes to facilitate crew egress in the event of a catastrophic emergency.
- 40. Rather, in the event of a catastrophic emergency the crew must engage in a forced landing on land or water.
- 41. The V-22 Osprey's tilting "proprotors" allow the aircraft to takeoff or land vertically, like a helicopter with rotors, but fly horizontally in forward flight like an airplane with propellers.



Photo of V-22 in vertical flight



Photo of V-22 in forward flight

- 42. The complex moving engine and proprotor system has a transmissiontype system that is supposed to provide redundancy and power to both proprotors in the event that one engine fails.
- 43. The vertical flight characteristics of the V-22 Osprey are supposedly advantageous over a traditional airplane because they supposedly allow for takeoff and landing without a runway or airport.
- 44. The forward flight characteristics of the V-22 Osprey are supposedly advantageous over a traditional helicopter because they supposedly allow for faster transit.
- 45. However the aircraft, as fielded, has failed and continues to fail to meet the government's safety and reliability specifications and requirements and the aircraft is not safe in the vertical operating mode, horizontal operating mode, or any transitional or other operating mode in between.

- 46. On Thursday, September 28, 2023 the United States Department of Justice announced that The Boeing Company resolved "allegations that it violated the False Claims Act by submitting false claims and making false statements in connection with contracts with the U.S. Navy to manufacture the V-22 Osprey, a tiltrotor military aircraft." (Exhibit A, Dept. of Justice Press Release Sept. 23, 2023).
- 47. On December 31, 2023 the United States House of Representatives' Committee on Oversight and Accountability sent a letter to the Secretary of Defense summarizing the safety and reliability problems with the Osprey and requested eight categories of documents related to Osprey safety. (Exhibit B, Letter, Dec. 21, 2023).

B. BACKGROUND OF THE DEFENDANTS

- 48. Defendants BELL and BOEING are the general contractors that jointly design, manufacture, and assemble V-22 Osprey aircraft in or near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Amarillo, Texas.
- 49. Defendant ROLLS is the contractor that designs, manufactures, and assembles, V-22 Osprey engines, which are model AE1107C turboshaft engines, and related components and systems which provide power to both proprotors, in or near Indianapolis, Indiana.

- 50. The ROLLS AE1107C engine, originally designed as the Allison T406 engine, has several variants, is a commercially available aircraft engine, and is not unique to military operations.
- 51. Defendant ROLLS provides its aircraft engines and their component parts to various locations in California.
- 52. Defendants BELL, BOEING, and ROLLS supply, maintain, troubleshoot, and repair V-22 Osprey aircraft, engines, and their component parts in California.
- 53. Defendants BELL, BOEING, and ROLLS maintain a regular presence in California through their TECHREPS who assess, maintain, troubleshoot, and repair V-22 Osprey aircraft, engines, and their component parts and/or assist with their assessment, maintenance, troubleshooting, and repair.

C. RELEVANT AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS BACKGROUND

54. The V-22 Osprey is designed, manufactured, and produced by Defendants BELL and BOEING to perform its mission in all weather conditions, during the day and at night, and it is specifically designed, manufactured, and produced to conduct flight operations in very close proximity to the ground and/or water.

- 55. The ROLLS engine output power is controlled by a Full Authority Digital Engine Control ("FADEC") and that engine power is transferred to the proprotors by a torque shaft through a clutch assembly and gearboxes.
- 56. The FADEC can automatically command an engine shutdown without authority or command from the pilot.
- 57. A clutch assembly failure due to internal slippage results in a Hard Clutch Engagement ("HCE") which results in severe damage to the drive system components on the affected side.
- 58. The internal slippage in the clutch assembly is caused by a faulty clutch component known as an Input Quill Assembly that does not meet the government's specifications for operation, durability, endurance, or reliability.
- 59. The BELL/BOEING design, manufacture, production, and/or assembly of the V-22 Osprey aircraft includes a system that is meant to automatically transfer power from one engine to both proprotors in the event that one engine fails.
- 60. The system described above is called the Interconnect Drive System (ICDS).
- 61. The ICDS concept is not unique to the Osprey and has been used in other applications safely for years.
- 62. However, the Osprey's ICDS is flawed, unsafe, and does not meet the government's specifications for safety and/or reliability.

63. The Osprey's ICDS also lacks redundancy, contributes to catastrophic systems failure, and grossly fails to meet specifications, because it allows a HCE on one side to initiate a HCE on the other side which results in the assured loss of the aircraft and occupants with no corrective action available to the brave military pilots and crew, who are along for the ride to their deaths.

D. THE ACCIDENT AT ISSUE IN THIS COMPLAINT

- 64. While on a training mission during the day with good weather within the Continental United States, specifically Southern California, on June 8, 2022, SWIFT 11 suffered a single HCE that, due to the Osprey's lack of compliance with specifications, cascaded into a catastrophic dual HCE event and an uncontrollable asymmetric thrust condition.
- 65. SWIFT 11 tragically impacted the ground at 12:14 p.m. on territorial lands owned by the United States federal government, specifically at Target 68 (Inky Barley) within Range 2512.
- 66. SWIFT 11's catastrophic mechanical failure and crash was not caused by the pilots or aircrew.
- 67. SWIFT 11's catastrophic mechanical failure and crash was not caused by improper maintenance.
- 68. The components that failed on SWIFT 11 were in the same condition on the day of the accident as the day they left Defendants' factories and/or control.

- 69. There were no prior indications or warnings to the pilots or aircrew of Swift 11 that a dual HCE event would occur.
- 70. Due to the Osprey's lack of compliance with government specifications, the SWIFT 11's pilots and crew were powerless to counteract the aircraft's uncontrollable asymmetric thrust condition where there was a sudden loss of thrust on the right proprotor and positive thrust on the left proprotor.
- 71. Due to the Osprey's lack of compliance with government specifications, SWIFT 11's right engine FADEC shut down the right engine without command from the pilot during the dual HCE event.
- 72. Due to the ICDS's lack of redundancy and compliance with government specifications, power was not transferred from the operational left engine to the inoperative right proprotor.
- 73. Due to their defective products, breaches of contracts, breaches of warranties, wrongful actions and omissions, the defendants named herein caused the Accident and the tragic deaths of Plaintiffs' decedents, five fine young United States Marines.

COUNT I – STRICT LIABILITY (Manufacturing Defect) Plaintiffs v. All Defendants

74. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each prior and subsequent allegation as though fully set forth herein.

- 75. At all times material all Defendants, and each of them, were in the business of designing, developing, manufacturing, assembling, testing, servicing, distributing, supplying, and/or selling the airframe, engines, propellers, and component parts of V-22 Osprey aircraft, including SWIFT 11, and providing accompanying product support, airworthiness materials, maintenance materials, operating instructions and procedures, and abnormal/emergency procedures.
- 76. At all times material all Defendants, and each of them, are liable to Plaintiffs under the theory of Strict Liability in that:
 - a. SWIFT 11, the entire aircraft, was defective and unreasonably dangerous because it did not meet the government's specifications for operation, durability, endurance, or reliability;
 - b. SWIFT 11, the entire aircraft, was defective and unreasonably dangerous because it failed to conform to the design criteria of the product by allowing a dual HCE;
 - c. SWIFT 11, the entire aircraft, was defective and unreasonably dangerous because it failed to conform to its design criteria by allowing a single HCE to result in a catastrophic and uncontrollable condition;
 - d. SWIFT 11, the entire aircraft, was defective and unreasonably dangerous because it failed to conform to its design criteria by allowing a single engine failure to result in a catastrophic and uncontrollable condition;

- e. SWIFT 11, the entire aircraft, was defective and unreasonably dangerous because it failed to conform to its design criteria by allowing an ICDS failure to result in a catastrophic and uncontrollable condition;
- f. the input quill assembly\assemblies onboard SWIFT 11 were defective and unreasonably dangerous because they did not meet the government's specifications for operation, durability, endurance, or reliability;
- g. the input quill assembly\assemblies onboard SWIFT 11 were defective and unreasonably dangerous because it/they failed to conform to its/their design criteria by allowing internal slippage to result in an HCE;
- h. the clutch assemblies onboard SWIFT 11 were defective and unreasonably dangerous because they did not meet the government's specifications for operation, durability, endurance, or reliability;
- i. the clutch assemblies onboard SWIFT 11 were defective and unreasonably dangerous because an internal slippage resulted in an HCE;
- j. the ICDS onboard SWIFT 11 was defective and unreasonably dangerous because it did not meet the government's specifications for operation, durability, endurance, or reliability;

- k. the ICDS onboard SWIFT 11 was defective and unreasonably dangerous because it failed to conform to its design criteria by allowing an asymmetric thrust condition when a single engine failed;
- l. the ICDS onboard SWIFT 11 was defective and unreasonably dangerous because it failed to conform to its design criteria by allowing a single HCE to result in a catastrophic and uncontrollable condition;
- m. the engines onboard SWIFT 11 were defective and unreasonably dangerous because they did not meet the government's specifications for operation, durability, endurance, or reliability;
- n. the engines onboard SWIFT 11 were defective and unreasonably dangerous because the FADEC commanded that one engine shut down and the other remain running during a dual HCE event;
- o. the defect and unreasonably dangerous conditions in the aircraft, engines, ICDS, clutch assemblies, and input quill assemblies caused the deaths of Plaintiffs' decedents and Plaintiff's damages;
- p. the defect and unreasonably dangerous condition in the aircraft, engines, ICDS, clutch assemblies, and input quill assemblies existed at the time the system left Defendants' possession and was supplied to the government;

- q. the defect and unreasonably dangerous condition in the aircraft, engines, ICDS, clutch assemblies, and input quill assemblies were not substantially changed on the day of the Accident;
- r. the entire airplane was defective and unreasonably dangerous due to the flaw in the systems and components that were integrated into it; and/or
- s. the engine/clutch assembly/ICDS interface was defective and unreasonably dangerous due to the flaw in the input quill assembly that was integrated into them.
- 77. As a direct and or proximate result of the defective and unreasonably dangerous condition of the aircraft, engines, FADECs, ICDS, clutch assemblies, and/or input quill assemblies, all Plaintiffs, and each of them, have suffered pecuniary and non-pecuniary damages exceeding \$75,000.00.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs, and each of them, respectfully request judgment in their favor against all Defendants, and each of them, for all damages, costs, and expenses allowable under the law.

COUNT II – STRICT LIABILITY (Design Defect) Plaintiffs v. All Defendants

78. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each prior and subsequent allegation as though fully set forth herein.

- 79. At all times material all Defendants, and each of them, were in the business of designing, developing, manufacturing, assembling, testing, servicing, distributing, supplying, and/or selling the airframe, engines, propellers, and component parts of V-22 Osprey aircraft and SWIFT 11 and providing accompanying product support, airworthiness materials, maintenance materials, operating instructions and procedures, and abnormal/emergency procedures.
- 80. At all times material all Defendants, and each of them, are liable to Plaintiffs under the theory of Strict Liability in that:
 - a. SWIFT 11, the entire aircraft and all of its component parts, was defective and unreasonably dangerous because it was designed with a flaw that allowed a dual HCE event to occur;
 - b. SWIFT 11, the entire aircraft and all of its component parts, was defective and unreasonably dangerous because it did not perform as safely as an ordinary pilot would expect when used as intended because it was designed with a flaw that allowed a dual HCE event to occur;
 - c. SWIFT 11, the entire aircraft and all of its component parts, was defective and unreasonably dangerous because it was designed with a flaw that allowed an uncontrollable asymmetric power condition to occur;
 - d. SWIFT 11, the entire aircraft and all of its component parts, was defective and unreasonably dangerous because it did not perform as safely as

an ordinary pilot would expect when used as intended because it was designed with a flaw that allowed an uncontrollable asymmetric power condition to occur;

- e. SWIFT 11, the entire aircraft and all of its component parts, was defective and unreasonably dangerous because it was designed with a flaw that allowed a single HCE to result in a catastrophic and uncontrollable condition;
- f. SWIFT 11, the entire aircraft and all of its component parts, was defective and unreasonably dangerous because it did not perform as safely as an ordinary pilot would expect when used as intended because it was designed with a flaw that allowed a single HCE to result in a catastrophic and uncontrollable condition;
- g. the engines and FADECs onboard SWIFT 11 were defective and unreasonably dangerous because they were designed with a flaw that allowed an engine shutdown to occur without command from the pilot;
- h. the engines, FADECs onboard SWIFT 11 were defective and unreasonably dangerous because they did not perform as safely as an ordinary pilot would expect when used as intended because it was designed with a flaw that allowed an engine shutdown to occur without command from the pilot;

- i. the ICDS onboard SWIFT 11 was defective and unreasonably dangerous because it was designed with a flaw and without redundancy that allowed a catastrophic asymmetric thrust condition;
- j. the ICDS onboard SWIFT 11 was defective and unreasonably dangerous because it did not perform as safely as an ordinary pilot would expect when used as intended because it was designed with a flaw and without redundancy that allowed a catastrophic asymmetric thrust condition;
- k. the defects and unreasonably dangerous condition in the aircraft, engines, ICDS, and/or other systems caused the crash of SWIFT 11, the deaths of Plaintiffs' decedents, and Plaintiffs' damages;
- l. the defects and unreasonably dangerous condition in the aircraft, engines, ICDS, and/or other systems existed at the time those items left Defendants' possession and was supplied to the government; and/or
- m. the defect and unreasonably dangerous condition aircraft, engines, ICDS, and/or other systems was not substantially changed on the day of the Accident.
- 81. As a direct and proximate result of the defective and unreasonably dangerous condition of the aircraft, engines, ICDS, and/or other systems, Plaintiffs, and each of them, have suffered pecuniary and non-pecuniary damages exceeding \$75,000.00.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs, and each of them, respectfully request judgment in their favor against all Defendants, and each of them, for all damages, costs, and expenses allowable under the law.

COUNT III – STRICT LIABILITY (Failure to Warn) Plaintiffs v. All Defendants

- 82. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each prior and subsequent allegation as though fully set forth herein.
- 83. At all times material all Defendants, and each of them, were in the business of designing, developing, manufacturing, assembling, testing, servicing, distributing, supplying, and/or selling the airframe, engines, propellers, and component parts of V-22 Osprey aircraft and SWIFT 11 and providing accompanying product support, airworthiness materials, maintenance materials, operating instructions and procedures, and abnormal/emergency procedures.
- 84. At all times material all Defendants, and each of them, are liable to Plaintiffs under the theory of Strict Liability in that:
 - a. SWIFT 11, the entire aircraft and all of its component parts, was defective and unreasonably dangerous because it lacked a suitable warning that a catastrophic loss of control would occur;
 - b. SWIFT 11, the entire aircraft and all of its component parts, was defective and unreasonably dangerous because it lacked a suitable warning that an HCE and/or dual HCE event would occur;

- c. SWIFT 11, the entire aircraft and all of its component parts, was defective and unreasonably dangerous because they lacked a suitable warning that an uncontrollable asymmetric power condition would occur;
- d. SWIFT 11, the entire aircraft and all of its component parts, was defective and unreasonably dangerous because they lacked a suitable warning that a single HCE would result in a catastrophic and uncontrollable condition;
- e. the engines and FADECs onboard SWIFT 11 were defective and unreasonably dangerous because they lacked a suitable warning that an engine shutdown could occur without command from the pilot;
- f. the ICDS onboard SWIFT 11 was defective and unreasonably dangerous because it lacked a suitable warning that it was designed without redundancy; and/or
- g. the ICDS onboard SWIFT 11 was defective and unreasonably dangerous because it lacked a suitable warning that it could cause a catastrophic asymmetric thrust condition.
- 85. As a direct and proximate result of the lack of suitable warnings regarding the aircraft, engines, ICDS, and/or other systems, Plaintiffs, and each of them, have suffered pecuniary and non-pecuniary damages exceeding \$75,000.00.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs, and each of them, respectfully request judgment in their favor against all Defendants, and each of them, for all damages, costs, and expenses allowable under the law.

COUNT IV – NEGLIGENCE Plaintiffs v. All Defendants

- 86. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each prior and subsequent allegation as though fully set forth herein.
- 87. At all times material all Defendants, and each of them, had legal duties to use reasonable care in the design, manufacture, sale and/or supply the aircraft, engines, propellers, systems, and component parts of V-22 Osprey aircraft and SWIFT 11.
- 88. At all times material all Defendants, and each of them, breached their legal duties and failed to use reasonable care in the design, manufacture, sale, supply, and upkeep of the aircraft, engines, propellers, systems, and component parts of SWIFT 11 in that:
 - a. Defendants failed to properly and adequately design aircraft, engines, FADECs, transmission, clutch, ICDS, and other systems and their component parts to work together;
 - b. Defendants failed to properly integrate the airframe, engines, FADECs, transmission, clutch, ICDS, and other systems and their component parts to work together as intended;

- c. Defendants failed to properly and adequately manufacture aircraft, engines, FADECs, transmission, clutch, ICDS, and other systems and their component parts that operated as intended and as designed;
- d. Defendants designed a system or parts of a system that allowed an HCE event to occur;
- e. Defendants manufactured and/or supplied a system or parts of a system that allowed an HCE event to occur;
- f. Defendants designed a system or parts of a system that allowed a catastrophic asymmetric thrust condition;
- g. they manufactured and/or supplied a system or parts of a system that allowed a catastrophic asymmetric thrust condition;
- h. Defendants fielded a system or parts of a system with a single point of failure without adequate redundancy or safeguards;
- i. Defendants fielded a system or parts of a system with a single point of failure without adequate warnings, instructions, or emergency procedures;
- j. Defendants failed to properly analyze and/or test the aircraft, engines, FADECs, transmission, clutch, ICDS, and other systems and their component parts;

- k. Defendants failed to properly troubleshoot known problems with the aircraft, engines, FADECs, transmission, clutch, ICDS, and other systems and their component parts;
- l. Defendants failed to adequately correct known defects in the aircraft, engines, FADECs, transmission, clutch, ICDS, and other systems and their component parts;
- m. Defendants failed to adequately monitor the performance of the aircraft, engines, FADECs, transmission, clutch, ICDS, and other systems and their component parts to ensure that they worked together properly;
- n. Defendants failed to adequately monitor the performance of the aircraft, engine, FADECs, transmission, clutch, ICDS, and other systems and their component parts to ensure that they operated properly;
- o. Defendants failed to properly and adequately take all reasonable steps to provide the flight crew with redundancy and backup systems in the event of a system malfunction;
- p. Defendants failed to provide appropriate operating instructions, operating limitations; operating procedures; and emergency procedures for an asymmetric thrust condition;
- q. Defendants failed to timely, accurately, and truthfully apprise the government and military service members of the dangers in the aircraft,

engines, FADECs, transmission, clutch, ICDS, and other systems and their component parts about which they knew or reasonably should have known about;

- r. Defendants failed to timely correct the dangers in the aircraft, engine, transmission, clutch, ICDS, and other systems and their component parts about which they knew or reasonably should have known;
- s. Defendants failed to include warnings that a reasonably prudent manufacturer, assembler, supplier, or seller would include about the aircraft's catastrophic loss of control;
- t. Defendants failed to include warnings that a reasonably prudent manufacturer, assembler, supplier, or seller would include about a dual HCE event;
- u. Defendants failed to include warnings that a reasonably prudent manufacturer, assembler, supplier, or seller would include about an uncontrollable asymmetric power condition;
- v. Defendants failed to include warnings that a reasonably prudent manufacturer, assembler, supplier, or seller would include about a single HCE event that would cause a catastrophic and uncontrollable condition;

- w. Defendants failed to include warnings that a reasonably prudent manufacturer, assembler, supplier, or seller would include about an engine shutdown that was not commanded by the pilot;
- x. Defendants failed to include warnings that a reasonably prudent manufacturer, assembler, supplier, or seller would include about the lack of redundancy in the ICDS and other systems; and/or
- 89. Defendants failed to include warnings that a reasonably prudent manufacturer, assembler, supplier, or seller would include about the ICDS' propensity to cause a catastrophic asymmetric thrust condition. As a direct and proximate result of the defendants' individual and/or collective breaches of duties, Plaintiffs, and each of them, have suffered damages pecuniary and non-pecuniary damages exceeding \$75,000.00.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs, and each of them, respectfully request judgment in their favor against All Defendants, and each of them, for all damages, costs, and expenses allowable under the law.

COUNT V – NEGLIGENT MISREPRESENTATION Plaintiffs v. All Defendants

- 90. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each prior and subsequent allegation as though fully set forth herein.
- 91. At all times material all Defendants, and each of them, had a pecuniary interest in their design, manufacture, sale, supply, repair, troubleshooting,

maintenance, technical representation, airworthiness assessments, and reporting to

the government about V-22 Osprey aircraft, engines, FADECs, transmission, clutch,

At all times material all Defendants, and each of them, had a superior

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knowledge than the government had about the V-22 Osprey aircraft, engines, FADECs, transmission, clutch, ICDS, and other systems and their component parts. 93. At all times material all Defendants, and each of them, supplied information to the government knowing that the government would justifiably rely on their information as guidance for the acquisition and operation of V-22 Osprey

component parts including those on SWIFT 11.

ICDS, and other systems and their component parts.

By virtue of the defendants' position of superior knowledge about the 94. V-22 Osprey aircraft, engines, FADECs, transmission, clutch, ICDS, and other systems and their component parts, the government justifiably relied upon their false statements, information, and/or misrepresentations.

aircraft, engines, FADECs, transmission, clutch, ICDS, and other systems and their

95. At all times material all Defendants, and each of them, had legal duties to make truthful statements, to supply truthful information, and to use reasonable care and competence in communicating information to the government and to service members about the design, operation, and safety of the aircraft, engines, FADECs, transmission, clutch, ICDS, and other systems of SWIFT 11.

- 96. At all times material all Defendants, and each of them, breached their legal duties and failed to make truthful statements and/or provided false information without reasonable grounds for believing them to be true and failed to use reasonable care and competence in communicating information to the government and to service members in that:
 - a. Defendants failed to truthfully, properly, adequately, and timely apprise the government and service members about the lack of safety in the aircraft, engines, FADECs, transmission, clutch, ICDS, and other systems in V-22 Osprey aircraft and SWIFT 11;
 - b. Defendants supplied false information about the safety of the aircraft, engines, FADECs, transmission, clutch, ICDS, and other systems in V-22 Osprey aircraft and SWIFT 11;
 - c. they failed to use reasonable care in their communications to the government and service members about the safety of the aircraft, engines, FADECs, transmission, clutch, ICDS, and other systems in V-22 Osprey aircraft and SWIFT 11;
 - d. Defendants failed to truthfully, properly, adequately, and timely apprise the government and service members about the propensity for and likelihood of clutch slippage/failure, dual HCE events, catastrophic

asymmetric thrust events, and uncommanded engine shutdowns in V-22 Osprey aircraft and SWIFT 11;

- e. Defendants supplied false information about the propensity for and likelihood of clutch slippage/failure, HCE and dual HCE events, catastrophic asymmetric thrust events, and uncommanded and engine shutdowns in V-22 Osprey aircraft and SWIFT 11;
- f. Defendants failed to truthfully, properly, adequately, and timely apprise the government and service members about the lack of redundancy that allowed HCE and dual HCE events and catastrophic asymmetric thrust events in V-22 Osprey aircraft and SWIFT 11;
- g. Defendants supplied false information about the lack of redundancy that allowed HCE and dual HCE events and catastrophic asymmetric thrust events in V-22 Osprey aircraft and SWIFT 111;
- h. Defendants failed to use reasonable care in their communications to the government about the lack of redundancy that allowed HCE and dual HCE events and catastrophic asymmetric thrust events in V-22 Osprey aircraft and SWIFT 11;
- i. after previous reports of clutch slippage/failure and HCE events in V-22 Osprey aircraft Defendants failed to truthfully, properly, adequately, and timely apprise the government and service members about the true nature

of the problem, the grossly unsafe condition that existed in V-22 Osprey aircraft; and the true risk that the problem would cause grave harm including loss of life;

- j. after previous reports of clutch slippage/failure and HCE events in V-22 Osprey aircraft Defendants supplied false information about the true nature of the problem, the grossly unsafe condition that existed in V-22 Osprey aircraft; and the true risk that the problem would cause grave harm including loss of life;
- k. after previous reports of clutch slippage/failure and HCE events in V-22 Osprey aircraft Defendants supplied false information about the true nature of the problem, the grossly unsafe condition that existed in V-22 Osprey aircraft; and the true risk that the problem would cause grave and/or catastrophic harm including loss of life; and/or
- 1. after previous reports of clutch slippage/failure and HCE events aircraft Defendants failed to use reasonable care in their communications to the government and service members about the true nature of the problem, the grossly unsafe condition that existed in V-22 Osprey aircraft; and the true risk that the problem would cause grave and/or catastrophic harm including loss of life.

97. As a direct and proximate result of the defendants' individual and/or collective breaches of duties, their misrepresentations and/or their negligent supply of false information, Plaintiffs, and each of them, have suffered pecuniary and non-pecuniary damages exceeding \$75,000.00.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs, and each of them, respectfully request judgment in their favor against All Defendants, and each of them, for all damages, costs, and expenses allowable under the law.

COUNT VI – FRAUDULENT MISREPRESENTATION Plaintiffs v. All Defendants

- 98. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each prior and subsequent allegation as though fully set forth herein.
- 99. At all times material all Defendants, and each of them, had legal duties to make truthful statements to the government and to service members about the design, operation, and safety of V-22 Osprey aircraft, engines, FADECs, transmission, clutch, ICDS, and other systems and their component parts.
- 100. At all times material all Defendants, and each of them, intentionally and/or recklessly made false statements of material fact as follows:
 - a. Defendants failed to truthfully, properly, adequately, and timely apprise the government and service members about the lack of safety in the aircraft, engines, FADECs, transmission, clutch, ICDS, and other systems in V-22 Osprey aircraft and SWIFT 11;

- b. Defendants failed to truthfully, properly, adequately, and timely apprise the government and service members about the propensity for and likelihood of clutch slippage/failure, HCE and dual HCE events, catastrophic asymmetric thrust events, and uncommanded engine shutdowns in V-22 Osprey aircraft and SWIFT 11;
- c. Defendants failed to truthfully, properly, adequately, and timely apprise the government and service members about the lack of redundancy and single point of failure in the ICDS that allowed HCE and dual HCE events and catastrophic asymmetric thrust events in V-22 Osprey aircraft and SWIFT 11; and/or
- d. after previous reports of clutch slippage/failure and HCE events in V-22 aircraft Defendants failed to truthfully, properly, adequately, and timely apprise the government and service members about the true nature of the problem, the grossly unsafe condition that existed in V-22 aircraft; and the true risk that the problem would cause grave and/or catastrophic harm including loss of life.
- 101. All Defendants, and each of them individually, knew that the material facts that they made were false when they made those statements.

- 102. All Defendants, and each of them individually, intentionally and/or recklessly made false statements of material fact intending that the government and that service members would rely upon those misrepresentations.
- 103. The government actually relied on the defendants' intentionally and/or recklessly false statements and the government fielded an unsafe and unairworthy aircraft and allowed service members to fly in those unsafe and unairworthy aircraft.
- 104. Service members, including Plaintiffs' decedents actually relied on the defendants' intentionally and/or recklessly false statements and they actually flew in unsafe and unairworthy aircraft.
- 105. The government's and Plaintiffs' decedents' reliance upon the defendants' intentional and/or reckless false statements was a direct and proximate cause of the crash of SWIFT 11 and the deaths of Plaintiffs' decedents.
- 106. As a direct and proximate result of the defendants' individual and/or collective intentional and/or reckless acts, Plaintiffs, and each of them, have suffered pecuniary and non-pecuniary damages exceeding \$75,000.00.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs, and each of them, respectfully request judgment in their favor against all Defendants, and each of them, for all damages, costs, and expenses allowable under the law including punitive damages for intentional and/or reckless misconduct.

COUNT VII- BREACH OF IMPLIED WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY

Plaintiffs v. All Defendants

107. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each prior and subsequent allegation as though fully set forth herein.

108. At all times material all Defendants were merchants that were in the business of selling and/or supplying goods to the United States government and the military.

109. There existed at the time of this Accident a warranty of merchantability that was implied from the contracts that were entered into between the United States government and these defendants and/or between the defendants themselves regardless of any writing to eliminate or limit that warranty.

110. The warranty of merchantability was breached by these defendants because SWIFT 11 was not of fair or average quality of other aircraft made by competitors, its engines, transmissions, clutches, ICDS, and other systems were not of fair or average quality of those made by competitors and SWIFT 11 was in this substandard and unmerchantable condition at the time of its initial sale and/or supply.

111. As a direct and proximate result of the defendants' breach of the warranty of merchantability, SWIFT 11 crashed, Plaintiffs, and each of them, have suffered pecuniary and non-pecuniary damages exceeding \$75,000.00.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs, and each of them, respectfully request judgment in their favor against all Defendants, and each of them, for all damages, costs, and expenses allowable under the law.

COUNT VIII – BREACH OF IMPLIED WARRANTY OF FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE

Plaintiffs v. All Defendants

- 112. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each prior and subsequent allegation as though fully set forth herein.
- 113. At all times material all Defendants were merchants that were in the business of selling and/or supplying goods and specifically aircraft to the United States government and the military.
- 114. At all times material the United States government and the military knew that all Defendants were skilled in the provision of aircraft, engines, transmissions, clutches, ICDS, and other systems and that is why these defendants were awarded contracts for the provision of SWIFT 11 and its component parts.
- 115. At all times material the United States government and the military relied upon all Defendants to provide aircraft, engines, transmissions, clutches, ICDS, and other systems that were fit for their intended purpose which was safe flight.
- 116. There existed at the time of this Accident a warranty of fitness for a particular purpose that was implied from the contracts that were entered into

between the United States government and these defendants and/or between the defendants themselves regardless of any writing to eliminate or limit that warranty.

- 117. The warranty of fitness for a particular purpose was breached by these defendants because SWIFT 11 was not fit for the specific purpose intended which was safe flight.
- 118. As a direct and proximate result of the defendants' breach of the warranty of fitness for a particular purpose, SWIFT 11 crashed, Plaintiffs, and each of them, have suffered pecuniary and non-pecuniary damages exceeding \$75,000.00..

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs, and each of them, respectfully request judgment in their favor against all Defendants, and each of them, for all damages, costs, and expenses allowable under the law.

COUNT IX-BREACH OF CONTRACT Plaintiffs v. All Defendants

- 119. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference each prior and subsequent allegation as though fully set forth herein.
- 120. The United States government and the military entered into valid, performance-only contracts with these defendants for the design, manufacture, maintenance, repair, upkeep, troubleshooting, and supply of V-22 Osprey aircraft, engines, FADECs, transmission, clutch, ICDS, and other systems and their component parts including for the supply of SWIFT 11 and its systems.

- 121. Plaintiffs do not have a copy of the contracts, but they have sufficient information to form a reasonable belief that such contracts exist from the press releases, internet pages, advertisements, and news stories from and about these defendants.
- 122. The performance-only contracts did not specify the precise manner of design, construction, manufacture, maintenance, repair, upkeep, troubleshooting, or supply of the V-22 Osprey engines, FADECs, transmission, clutch, ICDS, and other systems and their component parts.
- 123. The purpose of the contracts was to provide the government and military with engines, FADECs, transmission, clutch, ICDS, and other systems and their component parts that would provide a safe, airworthy and superior all-weather, land- and sea-based multi-mission airborne platforms.
- 124. The design, manufacture, testing, and systems integration of engines, FADECs, transmission, clutch, ICDS, and other systems and their component parts were the responsibility of these defendants pursuant to the contracts.
- 125. One material objective of the contracts was the provision of an aircraft that was airworthy and safe for flight.
- 126. It was the clear and/or manifest intention of the contracting parties that the contracts included material provisions for the safety, airworthiness, fitness, suitability, and merchantability of the V-22 Osprey engines, FADECs, transmission,

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clutch, ICDS, and other systems and their component parts which primarily and directly benefited the aircrew who flew and who fly in the plane.

- Plaintiffs' decedents were V-22 Osprey aircrew and were third-party beneficiaries of the contracts between these defendants and the United States government.
- 128. It was the objective, purpose and specific intention of the parties to the contracts that the beneficiaries of the contracts were the flight crew of the V-22 Osprey aircraft, the flight crew of SWIFT 11, and Plaintiffs' decedents.
- The defendants breached their contracts for the creditor beneficiaries Plaintiffs' decedents by failing to meet their obligations as set forth herein because SWIFT 11 was unsafe, defective, lacked adequate instructions and/or warnings.
- The defendants breached their contracts for the creditor beneficiaries Plaintiffs' decedents by failing to meet their obligations as set forth herein because SWIFT 11 was designed, manufactured, supplied, fielded, troubleshot, repaired, maintained, and upkept by these defendants with a lack of reasonable care as required by the contracts.
- The defendants breached their contracts for the creditor beneficiaries 131. Plaintiffs' decedents by failing to meet their obligations as set forth herein because the defendants intentionally, recklessly and/or negligently provided false information about the safety, airworthiness, and reliability of V-22 Osprey aircraft,

engines, FADECs, transmission, clutch, ICDS, and other systems and their component parts.

132. As a direct and proximate result of these defendants' breaches of their contracts, SWIFT 11 crashed, Plaintiffs' decedents lost their lives, and Plaintiffs, and each of them, have suffered pecuniary and non-pecuniary damages exceeding \$75,000.00.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs, and each of them, respectfully request judgment in their favor against all Defendants, and each of them, for all damages, costs, and expenses allowable under the law.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

- 1. For general damages according to proof;
- 2. For special damages according to proof;
- 3. For personal property damages according to proof;
- 4. For pre-death pain, suffering, and disfigurement pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 377.24;
- 5. For costs of the decedent's funeral, burial, and related expenses according to proof;
- 6. For prejudgment interest as allowed by law;
- 7. For costs incurred herein; and

8. For such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper. Dated: May 23, 2024 By: /s/ Timothy A. Loranger Timothy A. Loranger tloranger@wisnerbaum.com Ari S. Friedman afriedman@wisnerbaum.com Adam M. Foster afoster@wisnerbaum.com WISNER BAUM LLP 11111 Santa Monica Blvd. Ste. 1750 Los Angeles, CA 90025 Telephone: (310) 207-3233 Attorneys for Plaintiffs

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL 1 2 Plaintiffs hereby respectfully demand that a jury trial be conducted with 3 respect to all issues and claims. 4 5 Dated: May 23, 2024 By: /s/ Timothy A. Loranger Timothy A. Loranger 6 tloranger@wisnerbaum.com 7 Ari S. Friedman afriedman@wisnerbaum.com 8 Adam M. Foster 9 afoster@wisnerbaum.com WISNER BAUM LLP 10 11111 Santa Monica Blvd. Ste. 1750 11 Los Angeles, CA 90025 Telephone: (310) 207-3233 12 Attorneys for Plaintiffs 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

EXHIBIT A



PRESS RELEASE

The Boeing Company to Pay \$8.1 Million to Resolve False Claims Act Allegations

Thursday, September 28, 2023

For Immediate Release

Office of Public Affairs

The Boeing Company, headquartered in Arlington, Virginia, has agreed to pay \$8,100,000 to resolve allegations that it violated the False Claims Act by submitting false claims and making false statements in connection with contracts with the U.S. Navy to manufacture the V-22 Osprey, a tiltrotor military aircraft.

The settlement announced today resolves allegations that from approximately 2007 through 2018, Boeing failed to comply with certain contractual manufacturing specifications in fabricating composite components for the V-22 at its facility in Ridley Park, Pennsylvania. Specifically, the government contends that Boeing failed to perform required monthly testing on autoclaves used in the composite cure process and was not in compliance with additional requirements related to the testing.

"The government expects contractors to adhere to contractual obligations to which they have agreed and for which they have been paid," said Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Brian M. Boynton, head of the Justice Department's Civil Division. "Today's settlement demonstrates our commitment to hold accountable contractors who violate such obligations and undermine the integrity of the government's procurement process."

"All government contractors have a responsibility to follow the obligations and protocols set forth by their contracts," said U.S. Attorney Jacqueline C. Romero for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. "This office is committed to accountability and protection from false claims as shown in cases such as this."

"Maintaining the integrity of the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) supply chain is a top priority for the DoD Office of Inspector General's Defense Criminal Investigative Service (DCIS)," said Special Agent in Charge Patrick J. Hegarty of the DCIS Northeast Field Office. "The DoD expects its contractors to adhere to contract specifications and provide quality products to the U.S. military. We are committed to working with our law enforcement partners to investigate allegations of contractors circumventing required testing protocols and submitting false claims during the DoD procurement process."

"The integrity of the military procurement process, and ultimately warfighter safety and our national security, demand that our contractors comply strictly with manufacturing requirements, including protocols for equipment testing," said Special Agent in Charge Greg Gross of the Navy Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) Economic Crimes Field Office. "NCIS and our partners remain committed to rooting out any noncompliance with manufacturing specifications that threatens warfighter readiness."

The civil settlement includes the resolution of claims brought under the *qui tam* or whistleblower provisions of the False Claims Act by former employees of Boeing who worked in composites fabrication and autoclave operations with the V-22 program. Under the *qui tam* provisions, a private party can file an action on behalf of the United States and receive a portion of any recovery. The *qui tam* case is captioned *U.S. ex rel. Roath et al. v. The Boeing Company*, No. 16-cv-6547 (E.D. Pa.). The Relators will receive \$1,539,000 in connection with the settlement.

The resolution obtained in this matter was the result of a coordinated effort between the Justice Department's Civil Division, Commercial Litigation Branch, Fraud Section, and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, with assistance from the DCIS, Naval Criminal Investigative Service, as well as subject matter experts from the Defense Contract Management Agency and the Naval Air Systems Command.

This matter was handled by Trial Attorney Amy Likoff of the Civil Division and Assistant U.S. Attorneys Joel Sweet and David Degnan for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

The claims resolved by the settlement are allegations only and there has been no determination of liability.

Settlement

Updated September 29, 2023

Topic

FALSE CLAIMS ACT

Components

<u>Civil Division</u> <u>USAO - Pennsylvania, Eastern</u>

Press Release Number: 23-1071

Related Content

PRESS RELEASE

Cape Cod Hospital to Pay \$24.3 Million to Resolve False Claims Act Allegations Concerning Its Failure to Comply with Medicare Rules for Cardiac Procedures

Cape Cod Hospital, based in Hyannis, Massachusetts, has agreed to pay \$24.3 million to resolve False Claims Act allegations that it knowingly submitted claims to Medicare for transcatheter aortic valve...

May 16, 2024

PRESS RELEASE

Kabbage Inc. Agrees to Resolve Allegations That the Company Defrauded the Paycheck Protection Program

The Justice Department announced today that now-bankrupt financial technology company Kabbage Inc., doing business as KServicing, has agreed to resolve allegations that it violated the False Claims Act (FCA) by...

May 13, 2024

PRESS RELEASE

False Claims Act Complaint Filed Against International Student Recruiting Firm for Federal Student Aid Programs Submissions

The Justice Department announced today that it has filed a complaint under the False Claims Act (FCA) against Study Across the Pond LLC (SATP) and its principal, John Borhaug. SATP...

May 7, 2024

Office of Public Affairs

U.S. Department of Justice 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington DC 20530

Office of Public Affairs Direct Line 202-514-2007

Department of Justice Main Switchboard 202-514-2000

EXHIBIT B

JAMIE RASKIN, MARYLAND

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY
2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225–5074 MINORITY (202) 225–5051 https://oversight.house.gov

December 21, 2023

The Honorable Lloyd Austin Secretary U.S. Department of Defense 1000 Defense Pentagon Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Secretary Austin:

The Committee on Oversight and Accountability is investigating long-term problems regarding the reliability of the V-22 Osprey tiltrotor military aircraft (Osprey). Considering the recent Osprey crash off the shore of Yakushima, Japan, in addition to other crashes during the lifetime of this airframe, the Committee remains concerned about safety and performance issues surrounding the Osprey program. Further concern is warranted because the Department of Defense (DoD) grounded its entire fleet of Ospreys to mitigate risks. It is crucial for the safety of our servicemembers to ensure transparency, accountability, and a thorough understanding of the steps DoD) is taking to mitigate any further mechanical risks. The Committee is requesting documents and information to better understand the Osprey program's performance, safety, and oversight.

Since 1992, there have been over a dozen Osprey crashes that have killed over fifty servicemembers.³ According to the Department of Defense Inspector General (DoD IG), the Osprey has been plagued with reduced visibility and engine failure.⁴ There have also been several Osprey crashes due to faulty gearboxes.⁵ Over nine years of attempts to redesign the U.S. Navy's version of the aircraft to prevent engine failure, crash casualties continue.⁶ The DoD IG also claimed that Osprey redesign may not, "correct long-standing problems with the V-22."⁷ And while, statistically, the Osprey is not considered as dangerous as some other military

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¹ Press Briefing, Dep't of Defense, Deputy Pentagon Press Secretary Ms. Sabrina Singh Holds a Press Briefing (Nov. 30, 2023).

² Haley Britzky, US military grounds Osprey fleet after crash off coast of Japan kills 8 US airmen, CNN (Dec. 6, 2023).

³ Oren Libermann, Heather Chen, Brad Lendon, Angus Watson and Tara Subramaniam, *US Marines Identify 3 killed in Osprey aircraft crash in Australia*, CNN (Aug. 28, 2023).

⁴ U.S. Dep't of Defense Office of Inspector Gen., DODIG-2020-006, Evaluation of the V-22 Engine Air Particle Separator, 3 (Nov. 7, 2019).

⁵ Matthew Adams, Faulty Clutch Caused 2022 Osprey Crash that Killed 5 Marines, Investigation Finds, AVIATION PROS (July 24, 2023).

⁶ Supra n. 4 at Title Page.

⁷ *Id*.

The Honorable Lloyd Austin December 21, 2023 Page 2 of 4

aircraft, the Committee remains alarmed that most fatalities involving the aircraft have happened during training exercises, not combat operations.⁸

The American taxpayer has invested heavily in the Osprey program. Each unit cost approximately \$120 million to procure, and DoD has purchased over 450 Ospreys, spending billions of dollars in sustainment, operations, and maintenance. The Committee is keen to understand the rationale behind such a significant expenditure and how DoD balances these costs while ensuring military capabilities and readiness.

The Committee has done extensive examination of the Osprey program in the past. ¹⁰ In 2009, the Committee held a hearing on the future of the Osprey program. ¹¹ Prior to the hearing DoD failed to provide substantial documents and information and stonewalled the Committee's oversight. ¹² In the years since that hearing, additional reports from government watchdogs revealed problems in the Osprey program, ¹³ yet our servicemembers remain in harm's way without resolution of known mechanical issues.

The Committee recognizes the significant advantages the Osprey can bring to combat. The Osprey's turboshafts can rotate ninety degrees, switching from a helicopter-like flight mode to a horizontal airplane-like configuration, and can carry twenty-four combat troops twice as fast and five times farther than previous helicopters. We also recognize the economic impact of the Osprey program, consisting of more than 500 U.S.-based suppliers, employing over 27,000 people across 44 states. However, if the same tiltrotor technology is planned for use in civilian aircraft or in future military aircraft, additional oversight is needed to ensure public safety.

Given the gravity of the loss of servicemembers' lives, increasing costs, and the future economic impact and innovative applications of Osprey program technology, the Committee requests documents and information to shed light on aspects of the program's safety and performance. Please provide the following documents and information as soon as possible, but no later than January 4, 2024:

⁸ *Supra* n. 3.

⁹DEP'T OF DEFENSE, DD-A&T(Q&A)823-212, V-22 OSPREY JOINT SERVICES ADVANCED VERTICAL LIFT AIRCRAFT (V-22), 15 (Dec. 2019).

¹⁰ Press Release, H. Comm. On Oversight and Gov't Reform, Towns, Issa Postpone Hearing on the Future of the V-22 Osprey (May 21, 2009).

¹¹ *Id*.

¹² *Id*.

¹³ Supra n. 4; Gov't Accountability Office, GAO-09-692T, V-22 Osprey Aircraft: Assessments Needed to Address Operational Cost Concerns and Define Future Investments, (June 23, 2009).

¹⁴ See MV-22 Osprey available at https://www.military.com/equipment/mv-22-osprey

¹⁵ See 22 Fast Facts on the Bell Boeing V-22 Osprey, BOEING (June 30, 2023) available at https://www.boeing.com/features/2023/06/22-fast-facts-on-the-bell-boeing-v-22-osprey.page

¹⁶ Jeremy Bogaisky, *After 24 Years, The Civilian Version of the Marines' V-22 Osprey Tiltrotor is Finally Nearing Takeoff,* FORBES (Mar. 9, 2020).

¹⁷ See Bell V-280 Valor available at https://www.bellflight.com/products/bell-v-280

The Honorable Lloyd Austin December 21, 2023 Page 3 of 4

- 1. All documents and communications detailing safety records specific to the Osprey program, including but not limited to incident reports, accident investigations, and any corrective actions taken by DoD in response to safety concerns;
- 2. All documents and communications related to the maintenance and reliability of Osprey aircraft, including but not limited to maintenance logs, reports on component failures, and measures taken to address reliability issues;
- 3. All documents regarding the training and professional development protocols for Osprey pilots and maintenance crews;
- 4. All documents and communications detailing incidents or accidents involving Osprey aircraft, including but not limited to information on the circumstances of the incident or accident, findings of investigations, and actions taken to prevent similar incidents;
- 5. All documents and communications detailing the performance evaluations of Osprey aircraft including assessments of its capabilities, limitations, and any modifications or upgrades made to improve performance;
- 6. Any independent assessment or review conducted by a third party since 2009 in DoD's possession;
- 7. All documents detailing the costs associated with the Osprey program, including but not limited to acquisition costs, maintenance expenses, and any budgetary considerations; and
- 8. All documents and communications regarding DoD's plans for the future of the Osprey program, including but not limited to any planned upgrades, modifications, or changes in operational use.

To arrange for the delivery of responsive documents or ask any related follow-up questions, please contact the Committee on Oversight and Accountability Majority staff at (202) 225-5074. Attached are instructions for producing the documents and information to the Committee. The Committee on Oversight and Accountability is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate "any matter" at "any time" under House Rule X.

Thank you in advance for cooperating with this inquiry.

The Honorable Lloyd Austin December 21, 2023 Page 4 of 4

Sincerely,

James Comer Chairman

Committee on Oversight and Accountability

cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member Committee on Oversight and Accountability

DECLARATION OF AMBER SAX AS SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST

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Plaintiff Amber Sax, as the surviving spouse and Successor in Interest of the Estate of John J. Sax, deceased, declares as follows:

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1. The Decedent's full name is John Jeremy Sax;

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2. The decedent John J. Sax sustained severe injuries and died on or around June 8, 2022, at or near the unincorporated community of Glamis, County of Imperial, State of California.

No proceeding is now pending in California for administration of the Estate 3. of Decedent John J. Sax.

- 4. The undersigned Declarant is Decedent's surviving spouse and Successorin-Interest as defined by California Code of Civil Procedure § 377.11 and succeed to the Decedent's interest in the action or proceeding.
- 5. Decedent John J. Sax died intestate without issue. Declarant Amber Sax is the spouse of Decedent John J. Sax.
- 6. No other person has a superior right to commence the action or proceeding or to be substituted for the Decedent in the pending action or proceeding.
- Attached hereto as Exhibit "A" is a true and correct copy of the Certificate 7. of Death of John J. Sax.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

day of May, 2024 at Lincolr (city)

Case 3:24-cv-00906-MMA-MSB Document 1 Filed 05/23/24 PageID.57 Page 57 of 72

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

CERTIFICATION OF VITAL RECORD

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

COUNTY OF IMPERIAL

EL CENTRO, CALIFORNIA

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I DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF THE ORIGINAL RECORD AS FILED IN THIS OFFICE.

DATE ISSUED___

NOV 2 1 2022



STEPHEN W. MUNDAY, M.D., M.P.H., M.S. LOCAL REGISTRAR IMPERIAL COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

This copy is not valid unless prepared on engraved border, displaying the date, seal and signature of the Local Registrar.

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1 DECLARATION OF EMILY E. BAXTER AS SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST 2 3 Plaintiff Emily E. Baxter, as the surviving spouse and Successor in Interest of the 4 Estate of Nathan E. Carlson, deceased, declares as follows: 5 1. The Decedent's full name is Nathan Eric Carlson: 6 2. The decedent Nathan E. Carlson sustained severe injuries and died on or 7 around June 8, 2022, at or near the unincorporated community of Glamis, County of 8 Imperial, State of California. 9 3. No proceeding is now pending in California for administration of the Estate 10 of Decedent Nathan E. Carlson. 11 The undersigned Declarant is Decedent's surviving spouse and Successor-12 in-Interest as defined by California Code of Civil Procedure § 377.11 and succeed to the 13 Decedent's interest in the action or proceeding. Decedent Nathan E. Carlson died intestate without issue. Declarant 14 5. 15 Emily E. Baxter is the spouse of Decedent Nathan E Carlson. 16 No other person has a superior right to commence the action or proceeding 17 or to be substituted for the Decedent in the pending action or proceeding. 18 7. Attached hereto as Exhibit "A" is a true and correct copy of the Certificate 19 of Death of Nathan E. Carlson. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the 20 21 foregoing is true and correct. 22 Executed this 20th day of May, 2024 at Holly Ridge (city) 23

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DECLARATION OF EMILY BAXTER
AS SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST

Case 3:24-cv-00906-MMA-MSB Document 1 Filed 05/23/24 PageID.60 Page 60 of 72

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

COUNTY OF IMPERIAL EL CENTRO, CALIFORNIA

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I DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF THE ORIGINAL RECORD AS FILED IN THIS OFFICE.

NOV 2 1 2022

STEPHEN W. MUNDAY M.O., M.P.H., M.S. LOCAL REGISTRAR IMPERIAL COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

This copy is not valid unless prepared on engraved border, displaying the date, seal and signature of the Local Regist

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

COUNTY OF IMPERIAL EL CENTRO, CALIFORNIA

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CERTIFIED COPY OF VITAL RECORDS STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF IMPERIAL

I DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF THE ORIGINAL RECORD AS FILED IN THIS OFFICE.

NOV 2 1 2022 S. C



STEPHEN W. MUNDAY, M.D., M.P.H., M.S. LOCAL REGISTRAR IMPERIAL COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

This copy is not valid unless prepared on engraved border, displaying the date, seal and signature of the Local Regist

DECLARATION OF AVERY RASMUSON AS SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST

Plaintiff Avery Rasmuson, as the surviving and Successor in Interest of the Estate of spouse, deceased, declares as follows:

The Decedent's full name is Seth Dean Rasmuson;

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- The decedent Seth D. Rasmuson sustained severe injuries and died on or around June 8, 2022, at or near the unincorporated community of Glamis, County of Imperial, State of California.
- No proceeding is now pending in California for administration of the Estate of Decedent Seth D. Rasmuson.
- The undersigned Declarant is Decedent's surviving spouse and Successorin-Interest as defined by California Code of Civil Procedure § 377.11 and succeed to the Decedent's interest in the action or proceeding.
- Decedent Seth D. Rasmuson died intestate without issue. Declarant Avery Rasmuson is the spouse of Decedent Seth D. Rasmuson.
- No other person has a superior right to commence the action or proceeding or to be substituted for the Decedent in the pending action or proceeding.
- Attached hereto as Exhibit "A" is a true and correct copy of the Certificate of Death of Seth D. Rasmusson.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 21st day of May, 2024 at Belgrade, Montana (eity) (state)

Avery Rasmuson

DECLARATION OF AVERY RASMUSON AS SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST Case 3:24-cv-00906-MMA-MSB Document 1 Filed 05/23/24 PageID.64 Page 64 of 72

CERTIFICATION OF VITAL RECORD

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH COUNTY OF IMPERIAL

EL CENTRO, CALIFORNIA

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STATE OF GALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF IMPERIAL

I DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF THE ORIGINAL RECORD AS FILED IN THIS OFFICE.

DATE ISSUED_

NOV 2 1 2022



STEPHEN W. MUNDAY, M.D., M.P.H., M.S. LOCAL REGISTRAR IMPERIAL COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

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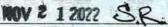
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CERTIFIED COPY OF VITAL RECORDS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF IMPERIAL

I DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF THE ORIGINAL RECORD AS FILED IN THIS OFFICE.

DATE ISSUED



STEPHEN W. MUNDAY M.D. M.P.H., M.S. LOCAL REGISTRAR IMPERIAL COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

COUNTY OF IMPERIA

EL CENTRO, CALIFORNIA

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DATE ISSUED

JOINT DECLARATION OF WAYLAND B. AND MICHELLE A. STRICKLAND AS SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST

We, Wayland B. Strickland and Michelle A. Strickland, declare as follows:

- We are over the age of 18 years. We have personal knowledge of the facts contained in this declaration, and if called as a witness, we could and would testify competently to the truth of the facts stated herein.
- We are the parents of Evan Alexander Strickland, who died on June 8, 2022, at or near the unincorporated community of Glamis, County of Imperial, State of California.
- No proceeding is now pending in California for administration of the Estate of Decedent Evan A. Strickland.
- We are the successors in interest to Evan A. Strickland, as defined in Section 377.11 of the code of Civil Procedure and succeed to their interest in the above-entitled proceeding.
- No other person has a superior right to commence the above-entitled proceeding or be substituted for Evan A. Strickland in the above-entitled proceeding.
- A certified copy of the death certificate for Evan A. Strickland is attached hereto as Exhibit "A' and incorporated herein by reference.
- Wayland B. Strickland and Michelle A. Strickland each declare under penalty
 of perjury under laws of the State of California that the foreign is true and correct.

Executed this 20 day of May, 2024 at Peralta, New Mexico. (city) (state)

Wayland B. Strickland

Executed this 20 day of May, 2024 at Peralta . New Mexico (city) (state)

Michelle A. Strickland

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Case 3:24-cv-00906-MMA-MSB Document 1 Filed 05/23/24 PageID.69 Page 69 of 72

₹ CERTIFICATION OF VITAL RECORD.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

COUNTY OF IMPERIAL

EL CENTRO, CALIFORNIA

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CERTIFIED COPY OF VITAL RECORDS STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF IMPERIAL

I DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF THE ORIGINAL RECORD AS FILED IN THIS OFFICE

DATE ISSUE

NOV 2 1 2022



STEPHEN W MUNKAY, M D , M PH , M S LOCAL REGISTRAR IMPERIAL COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

COUNTY OF IMPERIAL

EL CENTRO, CALIFORNIA

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LOCAL REGISTRAR IMPERIAL COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

COUNTY OF IMPERIAL

EL CENTRO, CALIFORNIA

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IYSICIAN OR CORONER	12 ADDRESS-ST	TREET and NUMBER		81E)	13 City	- 10				14 STATE	16 ZIP CODE	
	328 APPLE	STILL ROAD			EL CEN	IKO				CA,	92244-1040	

CERTIFIED COPY OF VITAL RECORDS STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF IMPERIAL

I DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF THE ORIGINAL RECORD AS FILED IN THIS OFFICE

THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY O

NOV 2 1 2022



STEPHEN W MUNDAY, M.D., M.PH., M.S. LOGAL REGISTRAR IMPERIAL COUNTY, CALIFORNIA