

Cites concerns over deficient procurement standards and the risk they pose to the brave men and women who defend our freedoms

WASHINGTON – Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28) recently issued a letter to Department of Defense Acting Inspector General Lynne M. Halbrooks calling for a review of testing and procurement standards for Advanced Combat Helmets (ACH). Slaughter cited strong concerns over ballistic testing procedures and standards that place military personnel in grave danger.

"Government employees and contractors have shared concerns with my office that a recent modification to the standard for ballistic testing for ACHs would allow up to 17 penetrations out of 240 test shots," said Slaughter. " I am concerned that a standard that allows 17 penetrations puts contractors above the need to produce effective and consistent equipment for the men and women of the military."

Since 2006, Slaughter has been a leading advocate in the effort to ensure the highest possible standard for combat body armor. She has worked tirelessly with the Department of Defense (DoD) and called for periodic, extensive reviews of body armor and other equipment which are vital to the safety of armed forces. Slaughter's ongoing efforts have led to multiple DoD reports that outlined dangerous flaws in equipment testing and, ultimately have resulted in equipment recalls, an effort that has saved countless lives.

"In 2010, the Department was forced to recall 44,000 ACHs after it was determined the helmets did not meet service standards due to questionable manufacturing processes," said Slaughter. "In the field, a penetration to a combat helmet could result in a fatality or extremely serious injury, which is why the Department should continue to take testing and performance concerns seriously. Our goal should always be the most effective equipment possible and as such, I strongly urge you to review ballistics testing procedures currently in place to ensure we are meeting this goal."

[To view the full letter from Rep. Slaughter to Acting Inspector General Lynne M. Halbrooks, click here.](#)