

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 24, 2019

The Honorable Jeffrey A. Rosen
Deputy Attorney General
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Room 4400
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Rosen,

We were troubled to learn that the U.S. Marshal's Service (USMS) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) have recently spent more than \$120,000 on contracts for medical training exercises that apparently involve so-called "live tissue training" (LTT).^{1,2} LTT involves intentionally wounding live animals—usually stabbing, burning and shooting pigs and goats, and sometimes even dogs—and then having trainees crudely attempt to repair the damage.

The use of animals for this training is expensive, obsolete, unnecessary and opposed by most Americans. Following pressure from me and my colleagues in Congress, medical experts and taxpayers, the Department of Defense (DOD) has begun to significantly scale back LTT in favor of human simulation. It admits that animal use is "outdated and cost-prohibitive" and "live tissue training options are not anatomically accurate."^{3,4} Studies by the Air Force,⁵ Navy,⁶ Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences,⁷ and other DOD-supported researchers⁸ have determined that simulation produces learning outcomes equivalent or superior to LTT.

In light of this, we are interested in learning the following about the DOJ's use of LTT:

1. What DOJ personnel are being trained using LTT? Please specify titles and positions.
2. How much has DOJ spent on LTT each year from FY17 to FY19?
3. Please list all contracts for LTT from FY17 to FY19, including:
 - Contract number
 - Vendor
 - Cost
 - Training date/s
 - Location
 - Number of trainees/Trainee role/s within DOJ
 - Number of animals used/Species of animals used
4. Please list all injuries inflicted on the animals for DOJ LTT.
5. Please describe specific efforts undertaken by DOJ, if any, to evaluate human simulation as a replacement for LTT.

¹ DOJ contract # 15M70119PA3100023: <https://www.usaspending.gov/#/award/80521415>

² DOJ contract # 15F06719P0002656: <https://www.usaspending.gov/#/award/81645394>

³ Defense Health Agency 2016 stakeholder report: <https://health.mil/Reference-Center/Reports/2017/06/08/Defense-Health-Agency-2016-Stakeholder-Report>

⁴ Defense Health Agency (DHA) SBIR/STTR Programs May 2017 presentation: <https://www.sbir.gov/sites/default/files/Master%20Health%20Technologies.National%20SBIR.pptx>

⁵ Hall, Andrew B., Ramon Riojas, and Danny Sharon. "Comparison of self-efficacy and its improvement after artificial simulator or live animal model emergency procedure training." *Military medicine* 179.3 (2014): 320-323.

⁶ Booth-Kewley, Stephanie, et al. *Perceived strengths and weaknesses of highly realistic training and live tissue training for Navy corpsmen*. Naval Health Research Center San Diego United States, 2015.

⁷ Goolsby, Craig, et al. "Systematic review of live tissue versus simulation education for prehospital trauma providers." *Military medicine* 182.9-10 (2017): e1824-e1833.

⁸ American College of Chest Physicians. "Synthetic Training Models Provide Equivalent Physiologic Stress Response in Learners." *PR Newswire*, 4 Oct. 2018. Available at: <https://www.prnswire.com/news-releases/synthetic-training-models-provide-equivalent-physiologic-stress-response-in-learners-300724615.html>

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Julian Sham (Rep. Lieu) at julian.sham@mail.house.gov or Chelsea Blink (Rep. Cartwright) at chelsea.blink@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Ted W. Lieu in blue ink, written over a horizontal line.

Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Matt Cartwright in blue ink, written over a horizontal line.

Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress