

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Additional Estimates 2025 - 2026**

**Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts**

**Departmental Question Number:** SQ26-000167

**Division/Agency Name:** Agency - Australian Transport Safety Bureau

**Hansard Reference:** Written, (18 February 2026)

**Topic:** ATSB - Defence Accident-Incident Investigations

**Senator Steph Hodgins-May asked:**

Context:

Support to defence accident/incident investigations since its establishment (1 July 1999).

1. How many defence aviation accident/incident investigations has the ATSB supported?
  - a. What type of support was provided?
2. How many defence ground vehicle accident/incident investigations has the ATSB supported?
  - a. What type of support was provided?
3. How many defence maritime accident/incident investigations has the ATSB supported?
  - a. What type of support was provided?
4. What arrangements are in place for the ATSB to support a Defence accident/incident investigation?
  - a. Does the ATSB receive any financial compensation for rendering support to a Defence investigation?

**Answer:**

1. Five:  
ATSB investigation AE-2023-002 - *Technical assistance to the Defence Flight Safety Bureau in support of MRH-90 Taipan helicopter accident, near Lindeman Island, Queensland on 28 July 2023*; AE-2025-002 - *Technical assistance to the Defence Flight Safety Bureau investigation of ARH Tiger helicopter hard landing, Timber Creek, Northern Territory, on 16 July 2025*. Support provided was onsite assistance during the underwater recovery phase, assistance with the download of the onboard flight recorder, laser scanning of an exemplar aircraft, participation in a safety factor review.  
[https://www.atsb.gov.au/publications/investigation\\_reports/2025/report/ae-2025-002](https://www.atsb.gov.au/publications/investigation_reports/2025/report/ae-2025-002)  
Active ATSB investigation AO-2025-051 - *Near collision involving Piper PA- 28, VH-TKX, and 2 military aircraft, near Tindal Airport, Northern Territory, on 28 August 2025*.

This is also being investigated in parallel by the Defence Flight Safety Bureau (DFSB). Mutual support has been provided by both agencies in collecting relevant evidence as the occurrence involved both a civil and military aircraft.

[https://www.atsb.gov.au/publications/investigation\\_reports/2026/report/ao-2025-051](https://www.atsb.gov.au/publications/investigation_reports/2026/report/ao-2025-051)

ATSB investigation 200401909 - *Animation of Recorded Radar and Flight Data for the Directorate of Flying Safety*. In 2004, the Directorate of Flying Safety Australian Defence Force (DFS-ADF) requested assistance from the ATSB to produce a computer animation of the flight paths of the aircraft involved in the 12 February 2004 Blackhawk S-70-A helicopter accident being investigated by DFS-ADF.

[https://www.atsb.gov.au/publications/investigation\\_reports/2004/air/200401909](https://www.atsb.gov.au/publications/investigation_reports/2004/air/200401909)

ATSB investigation 200608049 *Sikorsky S-70A, A25-221, near Fiji*. In 2006, the Department of Defence requested ATSB assistance in the recovery of data from the Flight Data Recorder.

[https://www.atsb.gov.au/publications/investigation\\_reports/2006/air/air200608049](https://www.atsb.gov.au/publications/investigation_reports/2006/air/air200608049)

2. None.

3. One.

ATSB investigation 200502004: *RAN Sea King Accident N16-100 'Shark 02', Nias Island, Indonesia*. The Department of Defence Aircraft Accident Investigation Team (AAIT) requested assistance from the ATSB in the analysis of the audio recovered from the recorder.

[https://www.atsb.gov.au/publications/investigation\\_reports/2005/air/air200502004](https://www.atsb.gov.au/publications/investigation_reports/2005/air/air200502004)

4. The arrangement is via a current Memorandum of Understanding between the ATSB and the DFSB. [https://www.atsb.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-08/DFSB-ATSB%20MoU%202022%20200914\\_signed.pdf](https://www.atsb.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-08/DFSB-ATSB%20MoU%202022%20200914_signed.pdf)

a. No.