

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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December 12, 2025

The Honorable Gene L. Dodaro  
Comptroller General of the United States  
Government Accountability Office  
441 G Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Comptroller General Dodaro:

We write to request that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) review the Department of Defense's acceptance of a "gifted" Boeing 747-8KB luxury airplane from the government of Qatar for use as a temporary Air Force One by President Trump.<sup>1</sup> The Air Force is reportedly modifying the jet as an "executive airlift" and not a "presidential transport," seemingly indicative of alternative requirements for security, communications, or defensive systems.<sup>2</sup>

President Trump's personal interest in the luxury jet, paired with the lack of transparency surrounding the Administration's actions, give rise to concerns of public corruption, self-enrichment, and compromised security.<sup>3</sup> We are therefore requesting that GAO address the following questions:

1. What are the conditions of the transfer of the 747-8KB aircraft from Qatar to the Department of Defense and what is the intended use of the aircraft?
  - a. Under which legal authorities was the transfer of the aircraft from Qatari to U.S. control conducted?
  - b. Will the U.S. Air Force carry the aircraft on its property books?
2. What is the acquisition plan, including costs, schedule, scope of work, and contract performance, for the modification of the Qatari aircraft and/or any

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<sup>1</sup> *Trump's Plan to Accept Free Air Force One Replacement from Qatar Raises Ethical and Security Worries*, AP (May 13, 2025) (online at <https://apnews.com/article/donald-trump-qatar-air-force-one-2ef13d87b71185bde547abe6840b098c>); *Trump's New Plane: Take A Peek Inside the Boeing 747-8 Private Jet*, AeroTime (May 12, 2025) (online at [www.aerotime.aero/articles/trump-air-force-one-boeing-747-8-private-jet](http://www.aerotime.aero/articles/trump-air-force-one-boeing-747-8-private-jet)).

<sup>2</sup> *US Issues Update on Trump's Air Force One Jet Gift*, Newsweek (Sept. 17, 2025) (online at [www.newsweek.com/us-update-trump-jet-gift-qatar-2131007](http://www.newsweek.com/us-update-trump-jet-gift-qatar-2131007)).

<sup>3</sup> *The Inside Story of Trump's Search for a New Air Force One*, New York Times (May 21, 2025) (online at [www.nytimes.com/2025/05/19/us/politics/trump-air-force-one-qatar-jet.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2025/05/19/us/politics/trump-air-force-one-qatar-jet.html)).

subsystems for its intended use, and what are the associated impacts on existing Air Force One acquisition programs for a new presidential aircraft (VC-25B)?

- a. To what extent is the modification of the Qatari aircraft coordinated with the program for the existing 747-8/VC-25B aircraft being modified at Boeing-San Antonio since 2020?
  - b. What is the status of each program and its respective cost, schedule, and performance?
  - c. What is the contract structure for each program?
  - d. What are the sources of funding for the Qatari aircraft, its modification, and its operation (including sustainment)? Which program line items carry the necessary funds, and how is the department managing the program in relation to the existing VC-25B program?
3. What is DOD's planned process, timeline, and risk management strategy for configuring the aircraft to meet the appropriate technical, security, and operational standards and requirements?
- a. What standards is the Qatari aircraft being configured or modified to meet and how do such standards compare to VC-25B criteria as they existed prior to any attempt by the current Trump Administration to modify such them?
  - b. What is DOD's plan to ensure that all relevant certifications (Authority to Operate, etc.) are achieved to operate the aircraft in its intended role?
  - c. What are the intended variations (if any) from the requirements/standards for Special Air Mission aircraft used to support the President and other officials?
  - d. What waivers are required to deviate from existing standards and what is the process for requesting and approving such waivers?
  - e. What are the implications and risks of any variations from the standards, and how does the Air Force plan to assess and manage those risks?
4. What is the intended operational lifespan of the aircraft and associated sustainment plan?
- a. What is the intended operational lifespan of the aircraft in the configuration of a Special Air Mission aircraft?

- b. What plans exist for use or disposal of the aircraft after the end of President Trump's presidential term, including plans to transfer the aircraft out of Department of Defense possession? What are the conditions of any existing ownership transfer plans, and under what legal authorities would the transfer be made?
- c. What is the lifecycle/sustainment plan for the aircraft, including estimated maintenance and operation costs? To what extent do the sustainment needs of this aircraft differ from those of existing and planned Air Force One fleet aircraft?
- d. To what extent do existing DOD depot maintenance and other logistics resources have the capacity for maintaining the aircraft?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Garcia', written over a horizontal line.

Robert Garcia  
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Chairman