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The Honorable Donald Norcross
Ranking Member, HASC Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces
2216 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Subj: F-47 and F-35 Outcome-based Metrics, Technical Performance Incentives, and Digital Engineering

Dear Ranking Member Norcross:

Please markup the NDAA for FY 2026 to provide oversight of the use of outcome-based metrics and technical performance incentives in the F-47 and F-35 contracts and the effectiveness of digital engineering (DE). This letter augments my letter, Subj: Oversight of F-35 C2D2 Major Subprogram's Outcome-based Metrics, dated February 4, 2024.

Besides adding the F-47 contract, please request that GAO review, for both programs, the extent to which:

1. Technical performance incentives are tied to schedule progress to achieve key performance parameters and key system attributes (DoDI 5000.85).
2. Those performance criteria and metrics are clear, measurable, and included in contract documentation (PGI 216.401.e).
3. Contractor performance incentives relate to specific performance areas of milestones, such as delivery or test schedules, quality controls, maintenance requirements, and reliability standards (PGI 216.402-2)
4. Contracting officers use those criteria to measure contract performance (PGI 216.401-71).
5. The Earned Value Management reports are based on those metrics to provide a disciplined, structured, objective, and quantitative method to integrate technical, cost, and schedule objectives into a single cohesive contract baseline plan called a performance measurement baseline for tracking contract performance (See DoDI 5000.85).
6. The four DE Capability Elements in DoDI 5000.97 DE are contractually required and used by the program manager (My letter to former USD(A&S) La Plante, Sub: DE Acquisition Policy and Congressional Oversight Issues, June 25, 2024): DE ecosystem, digital models (including digital twins), digital threads, and digital artifacts).

Yours truly,



Paul J. Solomon

CC:

Hon. Pete Hegseth, USD	Hon. Tammy Duckworth, SASC
Hon. Glen Grothman, HOAC	Hon. Adam Smith, HASC
Hon. Ken Calvert, HAC	Hon. Mike Rogers, HASC
Hon. Robert J. Wittman, HASC	Hon. Ro Khana, HASC
Hon. Roger Wicker, SASC	Hon. Joni Ernst, SASC
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Steven Morani, DoD	Hon. Jim Jordan, HCOA
Jon Sindreu, WSJ	Anthony Capaccio, Bloomberg News