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September 12, 2023

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

Subj: Updated Request for Oversight of F-35 C2-D2 Oversight Issues including F-35 Block 4 Modernization Expected Costs

This is an update to my letters to you dated August 8 and 11. It cites the latest schedule slips to TR-3 software and also cites TR-2 and TR-3 cost and schedule reporting issues that I had raised with Sen. McCain as early as January 2015. These issues have not been resolved.

Latest TR-3 Status

As reported by *Defense News*, the F-35 JPO and Lockheed Martin said the first fighters upgraded with new capabilities “may not be delivered until at least April 2024, and possibly as late as next June...This means the delivery of fighters with a slate of improvements known as Technology Refresh 3, or TR-3, will be at least a year behind schedule.”

In fact, TR-3 includes deferred TR-2 deficiencies including mission data load development and weapon delivery accuracy events.

Your Action

The latest slips provide more reason for you to take the recommended actions in the preceding letters:

Aug. 8, Subj: F-35 C2-D2 Oversight Issues Omitted from House Version of NDAA Sec. 219

Aug.11, GAO Assessment of Reported F-35 Block 4 Modernization Expected Costs

Also, for more justification, please read the attached letter to Lt. Gen. Schmidt, Subj: Block 4 Issues, Outcome-Based Metrics, and Systems Engineering Transformation, dated Aug. 14. This letter and the cited letters may be downloaded from www.pb-ev.com at the Acquisition Reform tab.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul J. Solomon". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a light pink rectangular highlight.

Paul J. Solomon

CC:

Hon. William La Plante USD(A&S)
Hon. Heidi Shyu, (USD(R&E))
Hon. Andrew Hunter, AF Asst. Sec. for AT&L
Hon. Jack Reed, Chair, SASC
Hon. Adam Smith, Ranking Member HASC
Hon. Tammy Duckworth, SASC
Hon. Joni Ernst, SASC
LTG Schmidt, F-35 JPO
Jon Ludwigson, GAO
Shelby Oakley, GAO
Anthony Capaccio, Bloomberg News
Stephen Losey, Defense News