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The Honorable Gregory Kausner
USD(A&S)
1010 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1010

Chairman Adam Smith, HASC

Subject: Revision to Letter dated August 10, Further Refined Amendment to NDAA to Assess Agile Practices on F-35 Block 4 Software Development

Dear Undersecretary Kausner and Chairman Smith:

This letter augments the letter dated August 10 which included the following excerpt:

Please consider submitting an amendment to the NDAA which addresses the product backlog in addition to the technical debt, as follows.

1. Specify the Software Engineering Institute (SEI) as the preferred FFRDC.
2. Request SEI to assess the following when Agile practices are used on the F-35 program and other programs to acquire SW that is embedded in weapon systems and other military-unique hardware systems:
 - Does the contractor maintain traceability in requirements decomposition from the source requirement (e.g., feature) to lower-level requirements (e.g., user story) as well as from the road map to the prioritized backlog?
 - Are metrics identified and tracked that are used to impact decision making? Do the metrics allow traceability from the road map through releases and items in the product backlog?
 - The extent to which award/incentive fee criteria are used that are dependent on:
 - a. Achieving the goals and features of each software iteration and increment in the Product Roadmap (or backlog) on a timely basis and
 - b. Reducing the total open deficiencies in the technical debt, especially Type I or critical deficiencies.

Please augment the scope of the SEI assessment above, as follows:

3. The Lockheed Martin F-35 Contract, F-35 FoM Phase 2.1 C2D2 N00019-18-C-1004, includes DFARS Clause 252.234-7002 – Earned Value Management System. Request SEI to assess the following:
 - Are the metrics that are identified and tracked for decision making used as base measures of earned value?
 - Is reported earned value consistent with achieving the goals and features of each software iteration and increment in the Product Roadmap (or backlog)?

- Is the reported earned value schedule variance consistent with the open deficiencies in the technical debt, especially Type I or critical deficiencies?
- Is the reported earned value schedule variance consistent with the growth in the product backlog that is caused by failure to achieve the goals and features of each software iteration and increment?



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