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December 7, 2023

The Honorable Robert J. Wittman
Chairman, HASC TAL Subcommittee
2055 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC, 20515-4601

Subj: Questions for F-35 Acquisition Program Update Hearing on Dec. 12

Please consider asking the following questions at the subject hearing:

1. Does the F-35 program adhere to published best practices that include clear articulation of the capabilities required in the Minimum Viable Product (MVP), focused testing, comprehensive characterization of the product, and full delivery of the specified operational capabilities?
2. Does the program use outcome-based metrics and continually assess the value of what was delivered against user needs?
3. Has Lockheed Martin been paid award or incentive fees that are based on verified technical and schedule performance including progress towards meeting the exit criteria of the MVP.
4. How much have the number of open Class 1 and Class 2 deficiencies decreased during the last year? How many are open now? How many are on the critical path towards completion of TR-3 and Block 4?

Background Letters

The following letters provide background for the questions.

To	Subject	Date
Heidi Shyu	Continuing Failures in Using Agile Methods on F-35 Block 4 Modernization	February 2, 2022
Donald Norcross	F-35 C2-D2 Oversight Issues Omitted from House Version of NDAA Sec. 219	Aug. 8, 2023
Donald Norcross	GAO Assessment of Reported F-35 Block 4 Modernization Expected Costs	Aug. 11, 2023
Lt. Gen. Michael Schmidt	F-35 Lightning II Joint Program Office (JPO) 200 12th St S Arlington, VA 22202 Subject: Block 4 Issues, Outcome-Based Metrics, and Systems Engineering Transformation	Aug. 14, 2023
Tammy Duckworth	GAO Report and Need to Revise NDAA Sec. 815, Earned Value Management	July 21, 2023
Adam Smith	Proposed Chair Markup for NDAA for FY 2023 Regarding Industry/DoD Differences on Award Fee Incentives Guidance	June 4, 2023

This letter and other cited letters may be downloaded from www.pb-ev.com.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul J. Solomon". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Paul J. Solomon

CC:

Hon. Donald Norcross, HASC

Hon. Adam Smith, HASC

Hon. Tammy Duckworth, SASC

Hon. William La Plante USD(A&S)

Hon. Heidi Shyu, (USD(R&E))

Hon. Andrew Hunter, AF Asst. Sec. for AT&L

Jon Ludwigson, GAO

Shelby Oakley, GAO

Anthony Capaccio, Bloomberg News

Stephen Losey, Defense News