



## JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER PROGRAM

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JUN 5 2009

Dear Committee Members,

In the months following your March 2009 visit to Lockheed Martin Aeronautical Company in Fort Worth, Texas, there have been positive program signals related to a number of the issues we touched upon during my briefing. I find these developments quite encouraging and I am pleased to share the following information with you.

In recent Statements to the U.S. Congress, the United States Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps very clearly expressed the importance of the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) and their commitment to the program. For example, the U.S. Navy proposed adding funding to purchase 24 more JSF aircraft, as the Super Hornet program of record ends in 2012. Similarly, the U.S. Air Force proposed increasing JSF production, as the F-22 production program of record ends in 2011.

Also Secretary Gates in his May 2009 Congressional Statement signaled strong support for the JSF program by his request to increase the near term JSF production rate to the U.S. fighter aircraft inventory.

JSF Partners are also increasing their commitment to the program. As you know, Italy, Norway and Australia have down-selected JSF, and last month, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands joined the U.S. in the third Low Rate Initial Production (LRIP) contract for 17 aircraft.

In total, we now have 31 operational JSF aircraft on contract (LRIP 1, 2 and 3), and I am pleased to note that all of these have been awarded below budget. This is indeed remarkable and looks very promising for the future cost trend of the program as we proceed down the learning curve.

Also, countries outside the partnership are showing noteworthy interest in JSF. At this time, Israel and Singapore are underway to realize their plans of buying 135 JSF aircraft. Further, numerous other countries have expressed genuine interest in acquiring the aircraft. Procurement by these nations may increase JSF aircraft production to over 5,000 aircraft. These cost benefits are not yet included in our budget calculations nor reflected in our cost estimates per aircraft unit. Increased production also increases industrial participation opportunities for the Partners and the long term savings potential for JSF users in cooperative sustainment and follow on development during the next 25-30 years.

I hope that you find this information helpful as you continue your deliberations regarding Denmark's fighter replacement program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David R. Heinz".

David R. Heinz, BGen, USMC  
Program Executive Officer

cc:  
Minister of Defence Søren Gade