



**JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER PROGRAM**  
200 12<sup>TH</sup> STREET SOUTH, SUITE 600  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22202-5402



JAN 11 2012

His Excellency The Minister of Defence  
Mr S.J.S. Hillen (in person)  
P.O. Box 20701  
2500 ES The Hague  
The Netherlands

Dear Minister Hillen,

The F-35 Joint Program Office (JPO) is pleased to offer supplemental information on the F-35A Lightning II as may be helpful for The Netherlands Ministry of Defence. As Program Executive Officer, I remain confident that the F-35A Lightning II will satisfy tactical aviation requirements of the Government of The Netherlands, the United States and all of our partners. Given the number of questions recently posed to the F-35 JPO from the U.S. media, I want to ensure that your government continues to receive sufficient program information and that you equally share a high level of confidence in the F-35 Program.

Throughout 2011, this program benefitted from reviews by various U.S. Government entities, some of which generated recent media articles that may appear to be disclosing new information about the F-35. In fact, the technical and programmatic issues are all well known, and appropriate U.S. Government resources are properly arranged to dependably deliver Block 3 capability to The Netherlands.

Specifically, the Technical Baseline Review (TBR), completed in November 2010, identified the technical subjects contained in recent media articles. These technical issues were all addressed in the 2011 restructuring of the program. The TBR showed the need for a new Integrated Master Schedule (IMS). In response, the JPO and Lockheed Martin created a robust IMS in 2011.

We conducted a rigorous Schedule Risk Assessment (SRA) of the IMS in September 2011 to assess the program high-risk areas from a schedule perspective. This ensured the IMS has sufficient time planned for development and testing. In addition, the JPO completed an Integrated Baseline Review (IBR) in December 2011 to measure resourcing against the restructured program plan. The serial combination of the TBR, IMS, SRA, and IBR validated the restructured and properly resourced program. We have resilience and realism in the integrated test plan ahead of us that gives me confidence the F-35 can dependably complete its development.

I trust this information is helpful and underscores my commitment to ensuring The Netherlands has all the necessary information to sustain your most valuable support. I look forward to continuing and strengthening the relationship the JPO has with The Netherlands.

Sincerely,

DAVID J. VENLET  
Vice Admiral, US Navy  
Program Executive Officer