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January 7, 2026

The Honorable Robert J. Wittman  
Vice Chair, HASC  
2055 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC, 20515-4601

Subj: Use of Digital Engineering and Outcome-based Metrics on LGM-35A Sentinel Program

Dear Vice Chairman Wittman:

My previous letters recommended oversight and legislation regarding digital engineering (DE) and outcome-based metrics on the F-35 Block 4, LGM-35A Sentinel, and Collaborative Combat Aircraft Increment 1 (CCA) programs. Letters on these topics are cited below.

December 20, 2021: My letter to Dep. Sec. Hicks, cited the NDAA for FY 2022, Sec. 1646. The provision required the SAF to submit matrices related to the GBSD's EMD goals... Elements...include...technical maturity, design maturity, and software maturity (including key events and **metrics**).

June 2025: Letter to you cited the GAO report on Sentinel software which found that program office and contractor have yet to finalize software development metrics and are replanning the delivery schedule.

April 3, 2024: Letter to USD LaPlante, Subj: Outcome-based Metrics for LGM-35A Sentinel; Same Failures and Needs as F-35 TR-3/Block 4 (to which you were copied), included my request that he review the Sentinel program to ensure that it has the objective to "Use Outcome-based Metrics that Work to Build a Product that Works (not a Statement of Work)."

January 3, 2026: In a letter to you, Subj: Use of DE and Outcome-based Metrics on CCA, I requested that you ask questions to determine if:

1. All DE capability elements are integrated.
2. Outcome-based metrics are finally being used to manage the program.
3. There is a digital thread between those metrics, the digital models, and the digital artifacts.
4. "Botched metrics" are still used (especially, Earned Value Management metrics).

September 2025: A Northrop Grumman spokesman stated, "Our...team has made *substantial progress* under the EMD contract, maturing Sentinel's design and reducing risk as we prepare for production and deployment of this essential, national security capability." However, the spokesman did not quantify how much progress was made or even if the design was on schedule.

Four years have passed and still no metrics. Please ask the CCA questions during your Sentinel oversight.

Yours truly,



Paul Solomon

CC:

Hon. Adam Smith, HASC  
Hon. Mike Rogers, HASC  
Hon. Roger Wicker, SASC  
Russell Vought, Director, OMB  
Hon. SON John Phelan  
Hon. Gen. Saltzman, U.S. Space Force  
Hon. Pete Hegseth, Sec. of War  
Anthony Capaccio, Bloomberg News

Hon. Mike Turner, HASC  
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