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February 18, 2026

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

Subj: Use of Digital Engineering (DE) and Outcome-based Metrics on LGM-35A Sentinel Program, Part 2

Dear Vice Chairman Wittman:

You stated that you will “work to ensure the Fiscal Year 2027 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) translates this Strategy into measurable capability.” This letter includes recommended oversight actions.

It augments my letter, dated January 7, 2026, regarding the F-35 Block 4, LGM-35A Sentinel, and Collaborative Combat Aircraft Increment 1 programs. Please include oversight of the Air Force’s transformed acquisition strategy for Sentinel and the program restructure in your work.

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**).

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 (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).”

June 17, 2024: Subj: More Reason to Limit F-35 Procurements – DE and Outcome-based Metrics; GAO found shortcomings on the Sentinel program which reportedly uses DE but still lacks metrics. Don’t let the program managers off the hook and settle for digital twins. Get certification of a DE ecosystem with outcome-based metrics.

In hearings and GAO assessments this year and in the markup of the NDAA for FY 2027, please cover the following issues. Some were raised in my letter to you, Subj: Use of DE and Outcome-based Metrics on CCA, dated January 3, 2026. Determine if the Air Force’s transformed acquisition strategy and program restructure includes the following:

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. Verification of the above during Integrated Baseline Reviews, if the DFARS earned value management system clause is not rescinded.

The letters may be downloaded from [www.pb-ev.com](http://www.pb-ev.com).

Yours truly,



Paul Solomon

CC:

Hon. Adam Smith, HASC

Hon. Mike Turner, HASC

Hon. SecAF Meink

Hon. David Norquist NDIA

Hon. Roger Wicker, SASC

Hon. SecWar Pete Hegseth

Hon. Russell Vought, Director, OMB

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