



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

JAN 26 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Review of F-35 Joint Strike Fighter program

The F-35 Joint Strike Fighter (F-35) program is a critical acquisition program that warrants a detailed assessment to reduce associated program costs. To that end, I direct the following review of the F-35 program.

The Deputy Secretary of Defense shall oversee a review of the F-35 program to determine opportunities to significantly reduce the cost of the F-35 program while meeting requirements. In parallel, the Deputy Secretary of Defense will oversee a review that compares F-35C and F/A-18E/F operational capabilities and assesses the extent that F/A-18E/F improvements (an advanced Super Hornet) can be made in order to provide a competitive, cost effective, fighter aircraft alternative.

This review should begin immediately with the results and recommendations made available to inform upcoming budget decisions.

*John Mattis*

