



UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

096783

~~4-17-22~~  
~~74-0948~~  
096783

PROCUREMENT AND SYSTEMS  
ACQUISITION DIVISION

JAN 14 1974

B-168664



The Honorable  
The Secretary of Defense

Dear Mr. Secretary:

During our review of the F-15 aircraft program we noted several problem areas which we believe should be brought to your attention prior to the Defense Systems Acquisition Review Council (DSARC) meeting scheduled in January 1974 and before a decision is made to exercise the fiscal year 1974 option for F-15 aircraft.

The F-15 is nearing the completion of the major development efforts and with few exceptions, has met program milestones. However, certain offensive and defensive systems that are integral components of the total F-15 weapon system have not completed development as scheduled and will not be available for F-15s initially delivered to the Tactical Air Command (TAC). The systems that will not be available are the Tactical Electronic Warfare System (TEWS), the AIM-7F Sparrow medium range missile, the AIM-9L Sidewinder short range missile, and the GAU-7/A caseless ammunition gun. When considered collectively, the nonavailability of these systems will probably limit the capability of the F-15 to fully perform its air superiority mission as presently defined by the Air Force.

We are aware that a recent Program Decision Memorandum reduced the fiscal year 1975 and 1976 procurement quantity from 144 for each fiscal year to 72 and 90, respectively. Additionally, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees have directed that the fiscal year 1974 procurement be reduced to 62 aircraft.

In view of the slippage in development of major components for the F-15 weapon, which in turn impacts on the overall capability of the aircraft as well as increasing concurrency, you may wish to reevaluate the options available to the Department of Defense when the DSARC meets in January 1974.

We have not attempted to determine what the impact of a further change in aircraft delivery quantities might be on costs, overall schedule, training requirements or other factors. A reevaluation of options available, as we suggest, would, of course, have to include full consideration of such matters.

~~701818~~ / 096783

2  
Officials in the F-15 System Program Office advised us that the Air Force has already given careful consideration to the nonavailability of the systems discussed above and that the Air Force has had numerous discussions with your staff as well as principal staff members of the various congressional committees. 35

6214  
Copies of this letter are being provided to the Chairmen, Senate and House Armed Services and Appropriations Committees, the Secretary of the Air Force, the Director, Defense Research and Engineering, and the System Program Officer. 3050

Sincerely yours,



R. W. Gutmann  
Director