



F-35 LIGHTNING II JOINT PROGRAM OFFICE
200 12th Street South, Suite 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202-5402



The Honorable Thom Tillis
United States Senate
185 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

NOV 19 2015

Dear Senator Tillis:

The F-35 Lightning II Joint Program Office (JPO) in partnership with the United States Air Force and United States Navy recently evaluated the 2008 Depot Source of Repair (DSOR) decision that designated Fleet Readiness Center East (FRC-E) Cherry Point in North Carolina as the future location for F-35B Vertical Lift System depot repair. This review was fiscally prudent and in alignment with Department of Defense (DoD) Directive 4151.18 Maintenance of Military Materiel.

It is DoD policy to periodically review field and depot maintenance workloads to identify opportunities for consolidation, regionalization, public-private partnerships, or other types of integrated support arrangements that may yield significant economies of operation while sustaining or improving responsiveness.

The joint Air Force, Navy, and F-35 JPO team completed its analysis of the F-35B Vertical Lift System depot repair assignment in October 2015. On 5 November 2015, the F-35 Director of Logistics and Sustainment met with the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition Technology and Logistics and representatives from Headquarters United States Marine Corps and Headquarters United States Air Force and, after close scrutiny of the DSOR analysis and operational needs of the F-35B fleet, reaffirmed the 2008 DSOR decision to assign F-35B Vertical Lift System depot repair to FRC-E Cherry Point.

I appreciate your interest and support to the F-35 Lightning II program and the men and women who fly and maintain the F-35.

A similar letter has been sent to Senator Burr, Congressman Jones, and Congressman Butterfield.

VJR

Sincerely,

CHRISTOPHER C. BOGDAN
Lieutenant General, USAF
Program Executive Officer