



Submission No 30

Inquiry into Australian Defence Force Regional Air Superiority

Contact Person: Mr Andrew Russell

2006 July 09, Sunday

Andrew Russell



Federal Government Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Inquiry into Australian Defence Force Regional Air Superiority

The Secretary of the Committee,

I am a proud citizen of Australia and I am concerned about the future planning that is being implemented by the Australian Government to purchase F-35 Joint Strike Fighter aircraft as a replacement for the F-111 and FA-18 aircraft.

After reading several articles on the Internet about the F-35 JSF, Russian Sukhoi fighter and the F/A-22 Raptor, it appears odd that the main focus by the Australian Govt and the Defence Dept is to purchase F-35 JSF's to protect our country, when they are clearly not able to do this properly because of the large geographical area to be protected by inadequate equipment.

It is an even bigger worry when our neighbouring countries have ordered and taken possession of Russian Sukhoi fighters that can dominate F-35 JSF's.

Another worrying fact is the F-35 JSF has one engine, are we guaranteed 100% reliability non engine failure, I remember hearing disturbing news reports on the single engine mirage fighters when they crashed due to engine failure during the 60's and 70's, the F-111 and F/A-18 have the security of twin engines. Our people of the defence force deserve the best and safest equipment at all times, no half measures should taken when they are protecting Australian territory and performing peacekeeping duties, the obvious choice is to purchase F/A-22 Raptors that can dominate the Russian Sukhoi and give us genuine air superiority which the F-35 cannot.

I hope our Government is looking at all avenues in securing the best and the right options for our defence and are not going for the cheaper option, just to save a dollar. So far I have seen two news articles on Australian TV about plans to purchase the F-35 JSF, with very little information to back their suitability for Australia, I feel we are being kept isolated from these important issues and the public need to be kept informed well before any decisions are made.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Russell