

From : Air Vice Marshal B J Graf AO BSc BE [Aero] [ Retd ]

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

REVIEW OF THE PAPER 'THE F-22 AND THE EVOLVED F-111 FORCE MIX OPTION  
VERSION 5

I write as a retired member of the Royal Australian Air Force with almost 40 years service having retired at the end of 1993 with the rank of Air Vice Marshal. I was an aeronautical engineer, a pilot and a test pilot. As an engineer at one time I filled all of the senior engineer posts in the air force at that time including:

*Assistant Chief of the Defence Force - Material Air Force* - responsible for all major air related capital acquisitions.

*Assistant Chief of the Air Force – Engineering* - the Air Force's senior engineer responsible for all aspects of air force technical equipment including air worthiness policy and the fleet fatigue management.

*Senior Engineering Staff Officer [ Support Command ]* - responsible for the ongoing airworthiness of air force and army aircraft and support of all technical equipment.

In addition as a senior staff officer in Air Force and defence I had exposure to strategic and regional issues relevant to the analysis developed in the above referenced paper. In all I consider I have an appropriate background and experience to make a credible assessment of this paper

A detailed assessment of the discussion paper *The F-22A and Evolved F-111 Force Mix Option - Issue 5* has been made with particular reference to reviewing the reference material to test the information presented. I found the paper well structured and logically set out covering firstly the strategic background and then mapping the current and future distribution of airpower in our region. This section was well researched and gave an excellent overview of the status quo. It then developed the thesis that the current Australian Air Force force-structure and that planned did not meet the threat developing from the Russian sourced fighter aircraft and weapons being deployed into our region. In particular our choice of the Super Hornet and the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter were judged inappropriate and more costly than the alternative proposal - the title of the paper - *The F-22A and Evolved F-111 Force Mix Option*. The conclusion drawn then is that the F-22A and the Evolved F-111 are the only viable options for us to field a superior force against the potential rivals in the region. This option is then discussed in detail and the case made that it is a far better and cheaper choice and that it is both technically sound and practically achievable. I was impressed with the detailed arguments in this section and in particular

the assessment of the superiority of the F-22 and the potential of the Evolved F-111.

With my background in the maintenance of the airworthiness the F-111 I support the conclusion that the evolved F-111 is both technically feasible and highly desirable. In addition the ability of the F-111 to continue in service to allow the full potential of any evolution is fully covered and I support this position. The F-111 airframe properly managed will last well past the 2010 withdrawal date now set by Air Force.

I believe that a compelling case for the *F-22A and Evolved F-111 Force Mix Option* has been made. There are cogent reasons supporting this position and the paper sets these out in a logical way and it is supported by many credible references. The proposal is both technically sound and achievable. It should form the basis of a fundamental review of Australia's air superiority force structure decisions.

I commend this proposal to Defence and Government as the input to the current review of defence aerospace major capital procurement decisions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. J. Graf'. The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

B J GRAF