



DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1010

January 14, 2008

The Honorable J. Phillip Gingrey MD
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1011

Dear Representative Gingrey:

Thank you for your recent letter concerning the Department's plan for F-22 procurement. This correspondence is in response to your letter.

The Department has examined in depth the mix of tactical aviation forces and capabilities needed to execute the National Military Strategy. The evaluation shows that investing in 5th generation fighters for all three services by buying the more modern F-35 provides more effective capability to the joint force commander than concentrating investments in a single service by buying more F-22s. The current multiyear program procures sufficient numbers of F-22s to deal with projected needs.

That said, the Department is planning to keep the F-22 production line open by requesting additional F-22s in an FY09 GWOT request to replace war-related losses of current aircraft. If these funds are appropriated, then the F-22 line could be extended beyond the current multiyear.

The Department would be pleased to brief the Congress on these issues, including the Department's rationale for the programmed number of F-22s and the studies that underpin this decision.

Again, thank you for your interest in this important security issue.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert England", written in a cursive style.

