

## **F-15EX**

The fiscal year 2020 President's budget requests \$1,050,000,000 for 8 F-15EX fighters, the first new fighter jet procured by the Air Force in more than a decade. While the Committee understands the Air Force's need to maintain fighter capacity and mitigate problems associated with legacy F-15C/D aircraft that are approaching the end of their service life, the Committee continues to have questions about the sole-source acquisition strategy and program base line for F-15EX. Further, the Committee understands that the two aircraft will deliver in fiscal year 2022 and be used to integrate and test U.S.-only communications and electronic warfare software and hardware. Accordingly, the Committee recommends transferring \$364,400,000 from Aircraft Procurement, Air Force to Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Air Force for the procurement of two test aircraft and half of the requested amount for non-recurring engineering.

The Committee understands that the last six aircraft are not scheduled to deliver until the end of fiscal year 2023. Further, the Committee was provided different rationale and justifications from Air Force leadership, the Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation office, and the F-15 program office on the inclusion of F-15EX in the fiscal year 2020 President's budget request. Therefore, the Committee directs that of the funds provided in Aircraft Procurement, Air Force for the remaining F-15EX aircraft, no more than \$37,200,000 for long-lead materials may be obligated until the Secretary of the Air Force provides to the congressional defense committees, and such committees approve, a report detailing: a comprehensive review of options to address the Air Force fighter capacity shortfall; an approved program acquisition strategy; an acquisition program baseline; a test and evaluation master plan; a lifecycle sustainment plan; and a post-production fielding strategy.