

# After Shocking Failures, F-35 Could be Long Gone by New Defense Chief

By [Sputnik](#)

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*The world's most advanced and expensive multi-role fighter program could come short of the US Department of Defense (DOD) and Pentagon hopes, as years of weak development saw cost overruns and perpetual delays.*

Problems with design and computer systems made the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter program even more frustrating; for thirteen years Pentagon has defended its position on the F-35, but it looks like now could be the right time to shift priorities.

Let's look the truth in the eye: the overall cost of developing and purchasing the jets amounts to \$400 billion while operating and maintenance costs are skyrocketing upwards of \$1.5 trillion. And why have we not seen any positive outcomes yet?

For the cost of the U.S. Military Complex's F-35 Air-Not-Superiority fighter, we could've established a 24 astronaut capable lunar base.— Enough, Pluto! (@ROCKETDRAG) [July 10, 2015](#)

The Lockheed-Martin F-35 was billed as the US Department of Defense's "focal point for defining affordable next generation strike aircraft weapon systems for the Navy, Air Force, Marines, and our allies."

Moreover, [the most expensive weapon in history](#) lost to a 1970s-designed F-16 during a mock aerial dogfight last January.

The Pentagon claimed that they would need exactly 2,443 combat F-35s, plus 14 development aircraft, to restrain and battle with potential military rivals like China. The question asks itself: the US, country with alternate number enemies from without, which sees threats lurking in almost from every corner, shouldn't it reconsider the role F-35 plays in its defense?

Marine Corps commandant General Joseph F. Dunford, the next chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff nominee, told the Senate Armed Services Committee that the F-35 development and purchasing plan is under review.

"Until the analysis is complete, we need to pursue the current scheduled quantity (2,443 aircraft) buy to preclude creating an overall near-term tactical fighter shortfall," said Dunford.

"The jet fighter lacks the sensors, weapons and speed that allow a warplane to reliably

detect and shoot down other planes in combat. At least not compared to modern Chinese- and Russian-made jets-the planes the F-35 is most likely to face in battle in some future war,” said War is Boring report.

Australian Navy Cancels Order for F-35B Joint Strike Fighter  
<http://t.co/xQMl5T7hjd> <http://t.co/1DgjyxGSmo> [#auspol](#)  
[pic.twitter.com/sWQUQcltoE](http://pic.twitter.com/sWQUQcltoE)— Ian56 (@Ian56789) July 12, 2015

Recently the Australian military [canceled](#) plans to purchase the F-35B Joint Strike Fighter landing aircraft.

The United Kingdom’s former defense chief, Nick Harvey, criticized the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, saying “You could argue it was already one of the biggest white elephants in history a long time ago.”

US military and intelligence officials expressed concern over [Russia’s PAK-FA fighter jet](#) noting “It has greater agility with its combination of thrust vectoring, all moving tail surfaces, and excellent aerodynamic design, than does the F-35.”

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