



OPERATIONAL TEST
AND EVALUATION

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MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDER, AIR FORCE OPERATIONAL TEST AND
EVALUATION CENTER
COMMANDER, OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION
FORCE

SUBJECT: Readiness for Formal Entry into F-35 Initial Operational Test and Evaluation

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide my guidance regarding the adequacy of proposed F-35 Initial Operational Test and Evaluation (IOT&E) formal entry criteria. To ensure an operationally relevant and production-representative test of the F-35, formal IOT&E must be conducted with F-35 software version 30R02, Level 4 mission data files, Autonomic Logistics Information System software version 3.0, and the same Air-to-Air Range Infrastructure (AARI) software version throughout formal IOT&E.

The currently fielded operationally-representative software version 30R00, which I approved for Pre-IOT&E Increment 2 test activities, was adequate and relevant to conduct the evaluation of two-ship missions involving lower-end threats. However, software version 30R02, which is fielding within the next two months, provides the next instantiation of operationally relevant and production-representative aircraft software that will better support the required testing to adequately address the remaining mission areas (e.g., Strategic Attack/Air Interdiction, Offensive Counter Air, Destruction and/or Suppression of Enemy Air Defenses, and Electronic Attack). With that, I direct software version 30R02 must be used in formal IOT&E.

Additionally, to ensure consistency of test data collection, the same version of AARI software should be used throughout formal IOT&E. As stated in the 30 March 2018 approval memorandum for Pre-IOT&E Increment 2 activities, early test activities must not supersede the necessary actions to meet the remaining readiness criteria for formal IOT&E, including AARI. Software version 30R00 has deficiencies with AARI that are addressed in software version 30R02. AARI must be functioning adequately to ensure test results are accurate, understandable, and defensible. Changing AARI software versions in the midst of IOT&E could potentially result in inconsistencies in data collection and affect the validity and adequacy of the test and evaluation.



The DOT&E point of contact for the F-35 program is Mr. Art McGettrick. He can be reached at (703) 697-1038 or at garvin.a.mcgettrick.civ@mail.mil.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert F. Behler', followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Robert F. Behler
Director

cc:
USD (A&S)
USD (R&E)
ASN (RDA)
SAF/AQ
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