

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM
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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

Majority (202) 225-5051
Minority (202) 225-5074

April 21, 2009

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

The House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee in the U.S. House of Representatives. Under Rules X and XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee is investigating government-wide vulnerabilities related to information security, particularly in the area of cyber security.

Today, *The Wall Street Journal* reported that computer spies may have infiltrated the Department of Defense's Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) Program, which is reportedly the most expensive weapons program ever managed by the Department.¹ Citing both current and former government officials as a source, the article reports that cyber attackers were able to copy data related to the design and electronics system of the F-35 Lightning II by infiltrating the computer systems of contractors involved with the JSF Program.² Further, the article reports that these attacks may have originated from a foreign source.


If true, these allegations are serious and potentially far-reaching. Given the potential national security implications of this matter, we hereby request that the Department provide Committee staff with a briefing regarding the events alleged in the above article. After receiving this briefing, the Committee may request additional briefings and/or information from the Department.

¹ "Computer Spies Breach Fighter-Jet Project," *The Wall Street Journal* (April 21, 2008), p. A1.

² See *id.*

To arrange the briefing, please have your staff contact Christopher Knauer or Kevin Barstow with the Majority staff at (202) 225-5051 and Christopher Bright with the Minority staff at (202) 225-5074. In the meantime, if you have any questions related to this request, please do not hesitate to contact us directly or have your staff contact Committee staff. The allegations raised in this article are serious and we appreciate your understanding of the urgency of this request.

Sincerely,



Edolphus Towns
Chairman



Darrell Issa
Ranking Member