



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE MATERIEL COMMAND

20 October 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIRMAN, SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

FROM: AFMC/CC

Headquarters Air Force Materiel Command
4375 Chidlaw Road
Wright-Patterson AFB, OH 45433-5006

SUBJECT: URGENT - Contractor Accountability Crisis Requires Immediate Congressional Intervention

1. **CLASSIFICATION: SECRETNOFORN**

2. **1. PURPOSE:** This memorandum requests **URGENT** Congressional intervention regarding a critical contractor accountability crisis involving Stark Industries that poses unprecedented challenges to Department of Defense acquisition oversight and national security.

3. **2. IMMEDIATE CONCERNS:**

4. Within the last 90 days, we have documented multiple serious incidents involving Mr. Anthony Stark, CEO of Stark Industries, our largest and most technically capable defense contractor (\$47.3 billion in active contracts):

- a. **16 October 2025:** Unauthorized flight operations in restricted airspace using personal powered armor, violating 14 FAA regulations and 7 DoD security protocols
- b. **3 October 2025:** Improper handling of classified information during Congressional testimony, followed by unauthorized demonstration of classified reactor technology
- c. **28 September 2025:** International incident created by personal delivery of munitions to forward operating base, violating airspace of three allied nations
- d. **Ongoing:** Persistent security clearance irregularities involving AI systems with apparent access exceeding most O-6 level commanders

5. **3. THE FUNDAMENTAL DILEMMA:**

6. Mr. Stark simultaneously represents:

- a. Our **most capable** contractor (exceptional technical performance, ahead of schedule, under budget)

- b. Our **most essential** contractor (multiple critical weapons systems dependent on Stark-proprietary technology)
- c. Our **most non-compliant** contractor (23 requested meetings: 0 attended by Mr. Stark personally, 2 attended by holographic projection)
- d. An **ungovernable single point of failure** in national defense architecture

7. **Traditional remedies such as contract termination or debarment would cause MORE harm to national security than the compliance issues themselves.** We cannot fire him. He knows we cannot fire him. He reminds us frequently.

8. **4. FAILED CORRECTIVE MEASURES:**

- 9. We have exhausted available administrative remedies:
 - a. 6 formal written warnings (acknowledged with jokes)
 - b. 11 security violation reports (closed as “technically compliant” after legal review)
 - c. 3 contract cure notices (Mr. Stark fixed issues before we finished writing them)
 - d. 4 suspension of access credentials (bypassed via “alternative entry methods”)

10. **Current acquisition oversight mechanisms are fundamentally inadequate for contractors who can literally fly away from accountability.**

11. **5. URGENT REQUEST FOR CONGRESSIONAL ACTION:**

- 12. The Air Force respectfully requests the Senate Armed Services Committee immediately:
- 13. **a.** Schedule emergency oversight hearing on contractor accountability in advanced technology programs
- 14. **b.** Review legal authorities for managing contractors possessing unique mission-critical capabilities
- 15. **c.** Consider emergency legislation establishing special compliance framework for “strategic individual contractors”
- 16. **d.** Provide guidance on balancing operational necessity against accountability requirements when traditional remedies are counterproductive

17. **6. NATIONAL SECURITY IMPACT:**

18. **TIME-SENSITIVE:** Multiple critical weapons programs (IRON WING, JERICHO, ARC REACTOR) are at risk if this situation is not resolved. The Department of Defense has never before encountered a contractor who is simultaneously indispensable and ungovernable.

19. We need Congressional help immediately.

20. 7. RECOMMENDATION:

21. Request emergency closed session briefing with Senate Armed Services Committee within 15 days to discuss:

- a. Full classified incident timeline
- b. Technical dependency analysis
- c. Proposed legislative solutions
- d. Alternative accountability frameworks

22. The United States Air Force has successfully managed difficult contractors for 77 years. This situation is beyond our current legal and regulatory authorities to resolve.

23. CLASSIFICATION: SECRETNOFORN

MICHAEL T. HARRIS, General, USAF
Commander, Air Force Materiel Command

3 Attachments:

- 1. Classified Incident Report (Delivered Under Separate Cover)
- 2. Technical Dependency Analysis
- 3. 187-Page Detailed Incident Timeline