



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE MATERIEL COMMAND  
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, OHIO

20 October 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIRMAN, SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

FROM: AFMC/CC

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

SUBJECT: URGENT - Critical Contractor Accountability Crisis Requiring Immediate Congressional Action

1. PURPOSE: This memorandum urgently requests immediate Congressional intervention regarding an unprecedented contractor accountability crisis that threatens both defense acquisition integrity and national security readiness.

2. CRITICAL SITUATION: Air Force Materiel Command faces an extraordinary dilemma involving Stark Industries, holder of \$47.3 billion in active DoD contracts across 17 critical defense programs. The contractor simultaneously represents our most capable defense partner and our most ungovernable compliance challenge.

3. KEY FACTS:

a. Contract Performance: Technically superior products consistently delivered ahead of schedule and under budget across all major programs including advanced propulsion, precision munitions, and power generation systems.

b. Compliance Record: Multiple serious violations in past 90 days including unauthorized flight operations in restricted airspace, classified information handling issues, international airspace violations affecting three allied nations, and repeated security protocol breaches.

c. Traditional Remedies Ineffective: Attempted administrative actions including formal warnings, security violation reports, contract cure notices, and credential suspensions have proven ineffective. Contractor demonstrates ability and willingness to circumvent standard oversight mechanisms.

d. Strategic Dependency Risk: Multiple critical weapons systems now dependent on contractor-proprietary technology with single-point-of-failure vulnerability. Contractor is sole individual with complete understanding of enabling technologies essential to national defense architecture.

e. Accountability Gap: Existing acquisition regulations lack framework for managing contractors who possess unique mission-critical capabilities while demonstrating persistent compliance

challenges. Standard remedies such as contract termination or debarment would cause greater harm to national defense than current situation.

4. IMMEDIATE PROBLEM: We cannot effectively oversee this contractor using existing authorities, yet we cannot remove this contractor without compromising critical national security capabilities. Current situation is unsustainable and sets dangerous precedent for future acquisition programs.

5. REQUESTED ACTIONS: We urgently request the Senate Armed Services Committee conduct immediate oversight hearing on contractor accountability in advanced technology programs, review legal authorities for managing strategic individual contractors, and consider emergency legislation establishing special compliance framework to address this capability-compliance gap.

6. TIMELINE: Situation requires immediate attention. Additional serious incidents are likely without intervention. Recommend Congressional action within 30 days.

7. Air Force Materiel Command stands ready to provide full briefing, documentation, and technical support for Congressional review. This matter demands urgent leadership attention at the highest levels of government.

MICHAEL T. HARRIS, General, USAF  
Commander

3 Attachments:

1. Detailed Incident Timeline
2. Technical Dependency Analysis
3. Regulatory Violation Summary