



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

6/6/19

His Excellency Hulusi Akar
Minister of National Defense
Ministry of National Defense
Republic of Turkey
Ankara

Dear Mr. Minister:

It was a pleasure to welcome you to the Pentagon in April and to receive your phone call on May 28, 2019. I appreciate our discussions, and I thank you for your letter of April 6, 2019. The United States greatly values the U.S.-Turkey dialogue and our strategic partnership. We were disappointed, however, to learn that Turkey sent personnel to Russia for training on the S-400 system. If Turkey procures the S-400, as we discussed during our call on May 28, 2019, our two countries must develop a plan to discontinue Turkey's participation in the F-35 program. While we seek to maintain our valued relationship, Turkey will not receive the F-35 if Turkey takes delivery of the S-400. You still have the option to change course on the S-400.

In advance of our June 2019 meeting in Brussels, I have attached a summary of actions the United States will take to suspend Turkey's participation in the F-35 program by July 31, 2019. This timeline will enable many, but not all, Turkish F-35 students currently in training to complete their courses prior to departing the United States by July 31, 2019. We have also informed the Ministry of National Defense that we do not recommend starting any new training programs for Turkish personnel on the F-35 in the United States as we anticipate they would be recalled in the near future.

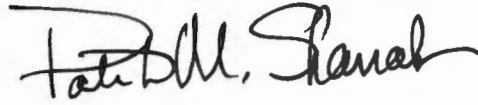
To facilitate an orderly cessation of Turkish participation in the programmatic management activities of the F-35 program, we will not plan for Turkish participation in the annual F-35 Chief Executive Officer Roundtable on June 12, 2019 and planned updates to the program's governing documents will proceed without Turkey's participation.

All actions taken on the F-35 are based on risks the S-400 presence in Turkey would have and they are separate from Russia-related Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) sanctions. There is strong bipartisan U.S. Congressional determination to see CAATSA sanctions imposed on Turkey if Turkey acquires the S-400.

In addition to threatening the security of platforms like the F-35, Turkey's procurement of the S-400 will hinder your nation's ability to enhance or maintain cooperation with the United States and within NATO, lead to Turkish strategic and economic over-dependence on Russia, and undermine Turkey's very capable defense industry and ambitious economic development goals. Pursuing this path will cause a loss in jobs, gross domestic product, and international trade. President Trump committed to boost bilateral trade from \$20 billion currently to more

than \$75 billion, however that may be challenging if the United States imposes CAATSA sanctions.

I would like to ensure that we manage this matter in a respectful way, to preserve other aspects of our deep security cooperation. I look forward to your response and our continued discussion as we chart our course ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick M. Shanahan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "S".

Patrick M. Shanahan
Acting

Attachment:
As stated

UNCLASSIFIED

Unwinding Turkey's Participation in the F-35 Program

Pilot and Maintainer Training

There are currently 42 students attending F-35 training in the U.S. at Luke Air Force Base and Eglin Air Force Base:

- 18 are scheduled to complete training in June
- 12 are scheduled to complete training in July
- 10 are scheduled to complete training in August
- 2 are scheduled to complete training in September

Turkish personnel in F-35 training can remain in the U.S. through July 31, 2019. This will allow for minimal disruption to your personnel since a majority will complete their training and the remainder will have sufficient time to be reassigned.

All Turkish personnel, including 2 instructor pilots, in the U.S. related to the F-35 program will be required to depart the country July 31, 2019. At this point, all Invitational Travel Orders (ITOs) and/or Common Access Cards (CACs) will be cancelled, and Turkish Air Force personnel will be prohibited from entering Luke AFB or Eglin AFB and applicable buildings.

No new F-35 training: There were 34 students scheduled to begin F-35 training later this year (20 students in June 2019; 14 student between July-November 2019). This training will not occur because we are suspending Turkey from the F-35 program; there are no longer requirements to gain proficiencies on the systems.

Cooperative Project Personnel (CPP) at Joint Program Office

- Turkey will reassign its personnel from the Joint Program Office (JPO) no later than July 31, 2019. At this point, all Invitational Travel Orders (ITOs) and/or Common Access Cards (CACs) will be cancelled, and Turkish Air Force personnel will be prohibited from entering JPO facilities.
- **No participation in the F-35 CEO Roundtable:** To facilitate the future absence of Turkish participation in F-35 programmatic activities, Turkey will not participate in the annual CEO Roundtable on June 12, 2019.

Production, Sustainment, Follow-on Development (PSFD) MOU

- The F-35 Partnership requires a planned update to the PSFD MOU. The U.S. will lead negotiations of that update with all Partners except Turkey. The U.S. must plan on an F-35 program absent of our Turkish Partner's participation.

F-35 Workshare

- **Suspension of F-35 equipment to Turkey:** The U.S. will continue to suspend indefinitely F-35 material deliveries and activities, including AT-5 and AT-6 aircraft.
- **F-35 Workshare Assignments:** Turkey will receive no new workshare in the F-35 program. Its current workshare will be transitioned to alternate sources as they are qualified and come to rate production.