



**Subcommittee on National Security,
Emerging Threats and International Relations**

Christopher Shays, Connecticut
Chairman

B-372 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone: 202-225-2548
Fax: 202-225-2382

****MEDIA ADVISORY****

For Immediate Release
April 7, 2003

Contact: Robert Briggs

**Congressman Christopher Shays to Hold April 11 Hearing on the Runaway
Costs Now Imperiling the Next Generation of Fighter Aircraft – the Troubled
F/A-22 Raptor Program**

(Washington, DC) -- Congressman Christopher Shays (CT-4), Chairman of the Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats and International Relations, will convene an oversight hearing on the causes and implications of growing schedule delays and mushrooming cost of the Department of Defense F/A-22 Raptor program. The Subcommittee hearing, "Controlling Costs in Tactical Fighter Aircraft Programs," will convene Friday, April 11th, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 210, Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C.

David M. Walker, U.S. Comptroller General and head of the U.S. General Accounting Office, will provide testimony on the recent GAO findings concerning the F/A-22 Raptor program. Michael Wynne, Principal Deputy, Under Secretary of Defense, and Dr. Marvin Sambur, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, will testify for the Department of Defense. Other witnesses include Eric Miller, Project On Government Oversight; Christopher Hellman, Center for Defense Information; and Steven Ellis, Taxpayers for Common Sense

Chairman Shays, said, "Due to spiraling costs, this aptly-named Raptor attack fighter program now is in grave danger of devouring itself. The ever-increasing costs of the F/A-22 allow for the purchase of ever-fewer aircraft. In fact, the mushrooming price-tag for this next generation of stealthy aircraft may result in it being not only invisible to enemy radar, but equally invisible at our own airstrips and hangers."

The estimated production costs of the F/A-22 Raptor continue to exceed the 1998 cost production cap imposed by Congress. Two program reviews over the last 6 years identified \$17.7 billion in estimated cost growth. According to the General Accounting Office, the Defense Department has not fully informed Congress about either the potential cost of the production program or about the quantity of aircraft that can be procured within the existing production cost limit.

(more)

Initially, the F/A-22 program was slated to build 750 aircraft. However, if the estimated production costs for the F/A-22 continue to rise while the congressionally-set cost limit for production is maintained, the Air Force will only be able to procure between 220 and 276 F/A-22s.

Shays said, “Clearly, the Department of Defense has to do a significantly better job in effectively and efficiently managing the F/A-22 program.”

WITNESSES

Panel One

The Honorable David M. Walker
Comptroller General of the United States
U.S. General Accounting Office

Panel Two

Mr. Michael W. Wynne
Principal Deputy, Under Secretary of Defense
Department of Defense

Dr. Marvin Sambur
Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Acquisition)
Department of the Air Force
Department of Defense

Accompanied by

General Thomas Owen, USAF
F/A-22 Raptor Program Office
Department of the Air Force
Department of Defense

Panel Three

Mr. Eric Miller
Senior Defense Investigator
Project On Government Oversight

Mr. Christopher Hellman
Senior Analyst
Center for Defense Information

Mr. Steven Ellis
Vice President of Programs
Taxpayers for Common Sense

###