

United States General Accounting Office

**GAO**

Briefing Report to the Chairman  
Committee on Armed Services,  
House of Representatives

February 1986

# MISSILE DEVELOPMENT

## Status of Advanced Medium Range Air-To-Air Missile (AMRAAM) Certification







United States  
General Accounting Office  
Washington, D.C. 20548

National Security and  
International Affairs Division

B-221734

February 18, 1986

The Honorable Les Aspin  
Chairman, Committee on  
Armed Services  
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This briefing report is in response to your December 1985 request for an interim report on the development status of the Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM), particularly as it relates to the certification requirements contained in the Defense Authorization Act, 1986. As you know, the act requires the Secretary of Defense to certify by March 1, 1986, that (1) the AMRAAM design is complete, (2) system performance has not been degraded from the original development specification, (3) the maximum practical number of cost reduction design changes have been incorporated into the flight test program and qualified before production, (4) a fixed price contract not to exceed \$556,580,480 has been entered into for research, development, test, and evaluation, (5) total production cost, for a minimum 17,000 missiles, will not exceed \$5.2 billion in fiscal year 1984 dollars, and (6) the missiles procured will perform in accordance with the development specification. If certification is not made, the act states that the AMRAAM program shall be terminated.

To determine the overall program status, we met with and obtained data from Air Force officials in Washington, D.C., and the AMRAAM Joint System Project Office (JSPO) at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. We also visited and obtained data from the AMRAAM development contractor--Hughes Aircraft Company at Canoga Park, California, and Tucson, Arizona and the second source contractor--Raytheon Company at Bedford, Massachusetts. We conducted our work from November 1985 through January 1986.

As agreed with your office, we did not request official agency comments on this report. However, the views of Air Force, JSPO, and contractor officials were obtained and incorporated where appropriate.

A summary of our observations on the status of each certification requirement follows.

#### DESIGN COMPLETION

The AMRAAM program manager and Air Force officials state that AMRAAM's design is essentially complete based on the Critical Design Review held