

Excerpt from January 2022 letter by Paul Maillet on F-35 purchase finalization

As a former air force Colonel and former CF18 engineering fleet manager, I am writing to express my deep disappointment for the F35 announcement to select the F35 for the Air Force. I do understand that the ministerial task is to bring the political and public context to military affairs, but certainly not to be subordinate to everything powerful military interests demand.

I will state for the record that we will very, very much regret the day we made this decision. We are buying a fighter, the type of which, even the Ukraine war will rarely commit to the close battlefield due to the growing overwhelming sophistication of air defenses. Drones and missiles are the current and future to the close ground attack mission. This is what the F35 was designed for. Throwing an F35 into such a dense battle space is suicide.

What you have bought is the most expensive squadron of the USAF in history. It can only be effective as part of a US war. The Canadian Air Force in its air war structure could not use a fraction of the sensor fusion capabilities of the aircraft. We cannot afford even a fraction of the surrounding space based and US battle management structure and support capacities, needed around this aircraft. We can do sovereignty surveillance and control with a far, far less expensive fighter

And as an Engineer, I believe we are buying an aircraft with serious outstanding deficiencies and with a horrendously complex computer backbone, which may never be reconciled to anyone's satisfaction. We will simply get the latest Block upgrade with many ongoing upgrades to pay for. This is a money drain that will go down in history. It is like buying a car that is not fully designed or in which the salesman has the gall to state that we will not initially get what they bid on and we are paying for, if we ever do.

As I said before this aircraft is designed only to kill people and destroy infrastructure. What did we learn from our participation in Libya and Iraq? We have killed civilians which although we claimed was unintentional, but it was 100% foreseeable. Public opinion was very clear on this. No more.

Is 2.1 trillion dollars of military expenditure in 2022 not enough to feel secure. Where NATO spends more than half of that and 3 times the budgets of China and Russia combined. Is that not enough?

What we could do for peace with 70 billion dollars? Killing capacities are never good for the Canadian economy. There are no words.

I had hoped for so much more.

Paul Colonel Retired