



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS AIR COMBAT COMMAND
LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, VIRGINIA

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER
205 DODD BOULEVARD SUITE 100
LANGLEY AFB VA 23665-2788

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Fellow Airmen


Thank you for your tremendous efforts in overcoming the many challenges that have confronted our F-15 fleet over the past two months. I appreciate the professionalism and calm resolve displayed during this very difficult period. Now, I'd like to bring you up to speed on where we are and the way ahead.

The MO ANG F-15 Accident Investigation Board (AIB), and detailed engineering analysis by AF and industry experts, have provided a clear sight picture of the health of our F-15 fleet. From our AIB, we know that a fatigue crack caused the failure of the upper right longeron resulting in the in-flight break-up of that aircraft. It was also determined that this particular longeron was not manufactured to blueprint specifications. The AIB findings prompted a series of TCTO inspections of the entire F-15 fleet. These inspections found 9 other aircraft with longeron cracks and set aside approximately 40% of the fleet for further investigation due to longerons not meeting specifications.

Based on these findings and recommendations from our engineering experts, I have returned to operational status those, and only those, F-15s that have passed all inspections and have longerons that meet blueprint specifications.

This is an important step for our F-15 community, our Air Force, and our Nation. Defending America's skies is a serious and often dangerous business, but that's what we're called upon to do. My obligation to you is to ensure you have the tools to perform the mission, and perform it safely. We have been deliberative in our investigation and analysis of the fleet, and I'm confident in the rigor with which we determined the airworthiness of those aircraft returning to flight. This portion of the fleet is safe to fly. It will be at least a few more weeks before a determination is made regarding the remaining aircraft. Rest assured that no jet will be cleared for flight until it passes all inspection criteria.

I ask you to remain focused and vigilant as we move forward. It is your unwavering dedication that continues to make our Air Force the world's greatest. I am proud to serve with you.


JOHN D.W. CORLEY
General, USAF
Commander