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# WEEKLY UPDATE

*A Message From Jeff Babione*

*Issued June 9, 2016*



It's confirmed! We received word today the Denmark Parliament confirmed the government's recommendation to procure 27 F-35As for delivery beginning in 2021. This is tremendous news and a tribute to everyone involved for their years of dedicated hard work to the program. Denmark becomes the 7th partner nation to approve the purchase of the F-35. CONGRATULATIONS everyone!



## Mountain Home Deployment



This week, eight F-35As and 160 people from Hill AFB depart for rigorous operational testing at Mountain Home AFB, Idaho. This marks the first time Hill's operational F-35s will travel to a non-F35 base for training. The F-35A pilots and maintainers from Hill will push the aircraft to their limits to simulate deployed operations.

"Mountain Home is an ideal location for our first off-base exercise because it allows us to fully test the deployment capability of the unit and the aircraft while remaining close enough to Hill for home station support if needed," said Lt. Col. Curtis Pitts, commander of the 419<sup>th</sup> Operations Group, detachment 1.

"We're going to do our best to stress our entire system while at Mountain Home," said Maj. Luke Harris, deployment project officer and F-35A pilot with the 34<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron. "Our biggest focus areas are the number of sorties we can generate, loading and employing our weapons, and finding any unique issues with the F-35A."

This deployment involved support from our Lockheed Martin team at Hill to make it happen. I am confident in the team's ability to ensure the F-35A is ready for operational use.

## Team Luke Appreciation

Friday, the 56th Fighter Wing at Luke hosted an appreciation event to thank the F-35 industry team for its support of the mission. Australian, Norwegian, and Italian senior-ranking officers, followed by Brig. Gen. Pleus, 56th Fighter Wing Commander, thanked our industry team for its hard work and dedication. Gen. Pleus called the team the Wing's "Civilian Airmen." Thanks to the 56th Fighter Wing and the International Partners for hosting this first-ever event. Having our customer recognize us for the support we provide is an exceptional honor. Keep up the great work!



## Meeting Our Goals



Our combined production and delivery operations teams are doing outstanding work to not let a little, well, a lot of rain, stand in the way of reaching our delivery goals. Hill AFB recently accepted their 12th F-35A, giving them the full complement of jets needed to enable them to declare IOC. The team also delivered AF-96 to Luke AFB and marked the first F-35 delivery equipped with updated block 3i software. These deliveries exemplify the total team effort needed to deliver on our priorities this year and fulfill our commitments to our customers. Thank you for not letting the poor weather slow us down.

## Unleashing Our Potential

Sometimes improvements to the way you work are right in front of you, and you just have to use your imagination to find them. Ricky Miller unleashed his potential when he decided there is a better way to keep small parts, or production line stock (PLS), from falling to the floor while sorting. When the PLS falls to the floor, not only is it FOD, but it also must be discarded and cannot be used on the aircraft. He brought the idea to a performance management team



(PMT), and an extremely simple solution came from his idea. Adding half of a standard PVC pipe to the racks underneath the bins made a perfect shape to catch fallen pieces as well as enable easier sorting.



Now the cleanup time at the end of shifts is much shorter and we no longer discard as much PLS. "It always bothered me that we had to discard any PLS and it wastes tax payer dollars in parts and labor," commented Ricky. "Having these installed throughout the factory saves a lot of time and labor that will add up in the long run."

This is another excellent example of how we can unleash our potential in a small way to improve the way we work. Ricky saw something in need of improvement, he brought the idea to a PMT, and now the whole production line plans to utilize these simple PLS catch troughs. Thank you Ricky for your idea, and please continue to look for more ways to unleash your potential.

Finally, it was another fantastic week of flying for AN-1 and 2 in the Netherlands. More than 250,000 people are expected to see the jets at the Leeuwarden Open Days this weekend. Can't wait to hear the reports.

Have a great rest of your week.

