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WEEKLY UPDATE

A Message From Jeff Babione

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This week, I want to start with an inspiring story from Peter Lau, the recipient of this year's Lockheed Martin Flying Scholarship for Disabled People. On the final day of the RIAT Air Show, Peter received the scholarship from HRH Prince Faisal of Jordan, Sir Andrew Pulford, U.K. Air Chief and our own Jack Crisler. For the next year, Peter will learn how to fly, and will receive his pilot's wings next summer.

They wasted no time getting right to work, and Peter is thrilled to have this opportunity. He sent [this video](#) to keep us up to speed on his journey to

becoming a pilot. Peter is just one example of how Lockheed Martin is changing people's lives for the better, and I am proud to be a part of such a great initiative.



Unleashing Our Potential

Across the country, members of the F-35 team are unleashing their potential. At Pax River, ITF employees came together to form a development council they call BASE, or Business Acumen & Skills Enhancement.



BASE, an idea fueled by Sheyla Jimenez, a Lockheed Martin contractor with the F-35 program, provides networking opportunities, community outreach and professional development opportunities for all ITF employees. "BASE is a way to bring us together and help us share, develop and transfer knowledge while trying to leave a footprint in our community on behalf of the F-35 team," said Sheyla. "I came here alone, without a family; this is my family. And I wanted to spend time with them growing as a professional, but also doing fun things."

The BASE Council is open to everyone in the ITF community, including DoD employees, military personnel and contractors. Congratulations to Sheyla and the team over at Pax River for finding a creative way to make a difference in your community and unleash your potential!

Keeping it Within the Family

Earlier this week I hosted an all hands webcast with our team in Marietta, Georgia. During my visit there I was fortunate enough to meet some of the F-35 employees and I was fascinated by a story from two of our hard working F-35 Center Wing employees. Lorraine Shingler has worked for Lockheed Martin in Marietta for 31 years and worked on every major aircraft platform the Marietta team has built throughout her 31 years. Her daughter, Iisha Hillmon decided to join her mom on the F-35 production line in Marietta five years ago.

"I never really thought about working here with my mom until life circumstances led me here and now I love being able to work with her and learn from her 31 years of experience," said Iisha. These two wonderful ladies have the unique privilege to work side by side each other every day building the world's most advanced 5th Gen fighter.

"I enjoy working with my daughter in the factory because I get to pass my knowledge and work ethic to her," commented Lorraine. "It is also neat to be able to make memories with her everyday as we work together."

This is such a neat story about how the F-35 reaches across generations and impacting the lives of so many. The F-35 will continue to reach even more generations for the next 40-50 years. Thank you to Lorraine and Iisha for sharing your story with me and your passion for the work you do on the F-35.



F-35C Training Activities



While the F-35A and F-35B made a splash in the U.K., the F-35C will be making some news of its own in the coming weeks. Next week, four F-35Cs assigned to the Grim Reapers of VFA-101 head to NAS Fallon, Nevada to participate in Strike Fighter Tactics Instructor (SFTI) training, commonly referred to as TOPGUN, to provide 4th/5th Gen fighter integration training which is now part of the TOPGUN syllabus. This is the third time for VFA-101 to provide support to such activities in what has now become a routine detachment for the Grim Reapers, in addition to serving as the Navy's only F-35C squadron responsible for training all U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corp F-35C pilots.

VFA-101 F-35Cs will also support future Carrier Air Wing integrated strike training when available. With two years to go until F-35C IOC, the Grim Reapers are already playing a key role in the development of future Navy and Marine Corps SFTIs and early tactics development for Navy IOC.

F-35C Sea Trials

Even more exciting is the upcoming F-35C operations at sea. In early August, two F-35Cs from the Pax River ITF will conduct the third set of ship trials (DT-III) aboard the USS George Washington (CVN 73). The team from Pax River will focus on flying qualities and performance with external stores, crosswinds, night ops and other envelope expansion missions required to finalize launch and recovery standards for the fleet. At the same time DT-III commences, five VFA-101 F-35Cs will join the Pax River team and conduct the first fleet F-35C carrier qualifications for 12 pilots.

During the combined phase of this very busy underway period, the ITF/VFA-101 team will demonstrate several key maintenance activities aboard the ship. The upcoming August underway period will involve the largest number of F-35Cs deployed on a ship to date. The previous two F-35C ship trials produced tremendous results and we expect another exceptional event with the combined activities of the ITF and VFA-101.

Have a wonderful remainder of your week!

