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WEEKLY UPDATE

A Message From Jeff Babione

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Two F-35Cs from the ITF at Pax River recently completed ship trials while operating from USS George Washington (CVN 73) off the Atlantic Coast. The ITF flew nearly 40 hours and checked off 613 unique test points that further validated the carrier suitability of the F-35C. The jets accrued 121 catapult launches and arrested landings, 70 touch-and-goes and 125 wave-offs, with only one bolter or missed arrestment. The team once again understood

their mission and went out in one of the harshest working environments anywhere, and flawlessly executed the final F-35C ship trial for SDD. The launch of CF-3 and CF-5 for their return flight to Pax River signified the completion of five years' worth of carrier suitability testing.

David Skeels is an F-35 engineer who worked with the F-35C every step of the way. Five years ago he was at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, taking measurements of the

runway trying to figure out why the previous hook design skipped over the cable in initial testing. Reflecting upon those days, the jet's performance during this deployment exceeded his expectations.

"It's quite gratifying to be part of a team coming from those tough early days to becoming the eye-watering jet it is for the Navy today," David said. "After three SDD ship trials and carrier qualifying fleet pilots, we've come a long way from measuring runways and ship decks."

The arresting hook is an amazing story about how a team rose to the challenge and re-engineered a major component of the aircraft into a three wire-catching machine.



Northern Lightning Exercise



As the F-35Cs returned to Pax River, 14 F-35As from Eglin were executing a two-week deployment as part of the Northern Lightning exercise in Wisconsin. The F-35As from the 58th Fighter Squadrons flew 102 out of 104 scheduled sorties with aircraft availability averaging 80 percent for the duration of the deployment. All 14 F-35As are operating with older 2B software, making these sortie and availability rates even more impressive. The jets finish up this exercise today and head back to Eglin AFB tomorrow.

AF-100 Delivered

Team Luke added a new member to their flight line last week. AF-100, the 100th F-35A to deliver to the U.S. Air Force, landed code one at Luke AFB on Friday Aug. 26, and became part of the 62nd training squadron. Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James signed the jet's bulkhead during her visit to Fort Worth in August 2015. AF-100 is also the first F-35 to include the four major components built by four different partner nations. The aft fuselage is from the U.K., the center fuselage is from Turkey, the wing is from Italy and the forward fuselage is from the U.S. It seems fitting that the U.S. Air Force took delivery of their 100th F-35A in the same month they declared IOC. Even though it is the same as any other jet, AF-100 signifies a pride worthy maturity for the program.



Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl

With college football kicking off in earnest this weekend, I'm excited to tell you about some related news. Lockheed Martin has agreed to extend their title sponsorship of the Fort Worth-based Armed Forces Bowl for another three years through 2019.

"We are ecstatic to announce that Lockheed Martin has again answered the call to serve as our title sponsor for another three years," said Brant Ringle, ESPN Executive Director of the Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl. "Their commitment to our game, the city of Fort Worth and our nation's military, has allowed us to elevate the event, giving it added national prominence. We look forward to continuing to work with Lockheed Martin to honor our armed forces members through a fantastic football event."

This year's bowl game is on Dec. 23 and employees can purchase tickets starting Tuesday Sept. 6. For Lockheed Martin employees, look on insideLM for more details.

Happy Labor Day everyone! Please be safe and enjoy the rest, you deserve it.

