



**LIGHTNING II
F-35**

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WEEKLY UPDATE

A Message From Jeff Babione

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On board the USS America (LHA-6), the team continues to expand the F-35B envelope for the fleet to utilize during deployments. The Joint Precision Approach and Landing System (JPALS) is an important feature the team successfully tested during this at-sea period. The JPALS system works on both the F-35B and the F-35C, enabling the jet to synchronize speeds with the ship, in the F-35B's case, an amphibious assault ship.

In October 2015, the team first tested this same technology to land aboard the USS Eisenhower (CVN 69) with the F-35C model. The difference is the F-35B matches the speed and trajectory of the ship exactly to not only land on board, but to hover in parallel position, allowing the pilot to

transition the F-35B over the deck and then execute a vertical landing. This innovative technology not only makes it easier for pilots to accomplish a vertical landing onboard a ship moving at speeds of up to 30 knots, but also makes pilot training much easier for young fleet pilots to safely land.

The F-35B DT-III team finishes up testing this week and will be back on dry land just in time to spend Thanksgiving with their family and friends. It's been an outstanding at-sea period, and I know they are going to finish strong.



Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl

It's hard to believe the end of the college football season is approaching. Last Saturday we officially extended an invitation to the U.S. Naval Academy to compete in the 2016 Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl.

"We are absolutely delighted to officially offer the Naval Academy an invitation to play in the 2016 Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl," said Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl Executive Director Brant Ringler. "Coach Ken Niumatalolo and Athletic Director Chet Gladchuk are tremendous individuals who run a first-class program. We are thrilled to be able to host the Navy football team and the legions of midshipmen in Fort Worth once again."

Navy will make its 13th bowl appearance in the last 14 years including a previous appearance at the Armed Forces Bowl in 2013, should they accept. They will play a yet to be determined Big 12 team on Dec. 23, at Amon G. Carter stadium in Fort Worth. The game will be nationally televised as well.

Rising to the Challenge



Less than two months ago, the F-35 program announced 57 F-35As had non-conforming insulation installed on PAO tubes throughout fuel tanks. Fifteen aircraft were suspended from flight operations until the PAO modifications were complete.

During my last All Hands Webcast, I addressed the situation and asked for your support to quickly resolve this issue. Wow, did you rise to the challenge!

The work on the jets began Oct. 7, and by Oct. 25, the first two F-35As at Hill Air Force Base (AFB) flew. As of Monday, all 15 jets in the field were fixed and returned to their operational squadrons.

Many team members across the F-35 enterprise worked 12 hours a day, seven days a week to complete

these modifications as quickly as possible. Accomplishing these critical modifications in less than two months is a remarkable achievement that shows the Lockheed Martin and government workforce is up to any challenge.

Seven of the 42 aircraft in production are fixed including Israel's first two jets and Japan's first. The production team is working hard to change out the insulation and tubes on the remaining 35. The fix plan in place is aggressive, but achievable, and will continue into the first part of 2017 as we recover from this delay.

There is no way I can thank everyone individually for their extra efforts regarding this matter, but I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to everyone who has pulled together to limit the impact to the warfighter. I am humbled and proud to be a part of this amazing team, and I look forward to what the future holds for the F-35 program



Increased Availability



Now that we have returned all of these jets to the customer, we are starting to see much improved availability numbers. Specifically, the IOC jets at Hill are taking to the skies at an incredible pace along with the other F-35A bases to increase our F-35A availability into the high 50s while chasing 60 percent again. It's great to see the jets back in the sky!

Thanksgiving Holiday

Next week I will not be sending out an F-35 Weekly Update because of the Thanksgiving Holiday. I hope you will take some well-deserved time to spend with your family and friends while you break bread together and focus on the many things you have to be thankful for.

Happy Thanksgiving!

