



Check Us Out On:



# WEEKLY UPDATE

*A Message From Jeff Babione*

*Issued December 1, 2016*



For Americans, I hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving holiday and were able to spend some time with your family and friends. 2017 is almost here, and I know we will finish the year strong. During our holiday weekend, Israel made an important announcement approving 17 more F-35As for their fleet, bringing their total to 50. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stated the decision to increase the order was unanimous.

This exciting news comes just two weeks before the first two Israel F-35As debut in country Dec. 12. AS-1 and AS-2 are making the journey across the Atlantic Ocean in time to serve as the honored guests during an F-35A welcome ceremony. Israel is the first international country to have the F-35 permanently based on their home soil.



## F-35B DT-III Complete



After three weeks on board, and just in time for Thanksgiving, our PAX River test team completed DT-III for the F-35B. Overall, they accomplished 60 flights, 128 vertical landings, 126 short takeoffs, two vertical takeoffs, and expanded the F-35B's shipboard operating envelope to full operational capability for the U.S. Marine Corps.

"As we all know, we can't choose the battle and the location of the battle, so sometimes we have to go into rough seas with heavy swells, heave, roll, pitch and crosswinds," said Royal Air force (RAF) Squadron Leader Andy Edgell, an F-35 test pilot embedded at the ITF. "The last couple of days we went and purposely found those nasty conditions and put the jets through those places, and the jet handled fantastically well."

Great work to everyone on board who made this final at-sea test period for SDD a success. The testing accomplished is critical to the Marine Corps' ability to deploy a squadron of F-35Bs on an amphibious assault ship.

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## Lightning Carrier Proof of Concept

As the F-35B DT-III team finished their work on board, they handed the ship over to the Marine Corps, which accomplished the Lightning Carrier Proof of Concept. At the peak of operations, 12 F-35Bs operated from the ship along with other essential Marine Corps aircraft. One of the more impressive missions occurred when four F-35Bs engaged a notional integrated air defense system (IADS) threat on the shore, while two others provided armed escort for V-22s as they delivered their notional load of Marines.

“When you put six, eight or 12 F-35s on this ship, it instantly becomes the most powerful concentration of combat power ever put to sea in the history of the World,” said Marine Corps F-35 Test Pilot Maj. John Dirk.

The F-35B represents the first supersonic stealth fighter jet that can launch and recovery from an amphibious assault ship. This USMC demonstration to launch anywhere in the world from the sea to defend our country and allies is the culmination of years of hard work and dedication. It’s no longer a concept. The future of F-35B at sea operations is very real and here today!



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## Increased Availability



Patrick Havel is an F-35 Sustainment employee who does something very special each holiday season. He participates in the Holiday Charities Parade – but the cool thing about Patrick is that he focuses on donating special needs bicycles. It all began with his good friend’s daughter, Faith, who uses a special needs bike. Faith was born with a brain defect requiring multiple surgeries and doctors gave her a small chance to live. That was 14 years ago and Faith’s life story encouraged Patrick to help kids like Faith who can’t ride a regular bike.

“She has overcome so much with her limitations, but knowing her has been a blessing on my life and donating these bikes is a small way to repay that blessing,” said Patrick. “These bikes are expensive and many families can’t afford to buy them, but I feel like they deserve a new

bike just like the hundreds of other kids who receive them each year.”

Patrick is committed to donating at least two special needs bikes this year and hopes to be able to do more. He plans to continue to donate special needs bikes to the Holiday Charities Parade for many years to come. Thank you, Patrick, for your contribution to this important holiday tradition. I encourage everyone to give back in some way this holiday season. For Lockheed Martin team members, you can find out more about this year’s Holiday Charities Parade on [insideLM](#).

## All Norwegian Flight

Team Luke logged yet another first when a Norwegian F-35A took off under control by a Norwegian pilot after being launched from an entirely Norwegian ground crew. At Luke, the environment is very unique in that everyone works together no matter where you are from, which truly displays how the F-35 is an international platform working together as one team. This was special because the Norway team launched a flight the same way they will for many years to come once they receive their F-35As in country.



Next Thursday Dec. 8, at 2 p.m. CT, I will host the final F-35 webcast of the year. We will have a special guest that you won't want to miss.

Have a great weekend!

