Happy New Year and welcome back! I hope everyone had a terrific holiday break and is ready to jump into 2017! The new year holds many exciting opportunities and challenges. This year we will wrap up System Development and Demonstration (SDD) testing by the end of the year, while increasing our production output to record highs. I will share more about this in my first all hands of the year on Jan. 23.

NAS Lemoore

We begin the first month of this year with an exciting customer milestone when the U.S. Navy accepts the first three F-35C’s at Naval Air Station Lemoore later this month. These aircraft will transition from VFA 101 at Eglin Air Force Base and help stand up VFA 125 at Lemoore. The “Rough Raiders” have a long history of training some of the finest naval aviators in the world and the introduction of the F-35C continues that legacy. Providing aircraft to Lemoore is critical to the U.S. Navy F-35C’s future plans and the arrival marks the beginning of a new era for the U.S. Navy! I look forward to that day and of course will provide an update following the event.

Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl

Speaking of the U. S. Navy, the 2016 Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl on Dec. 23 proved to be an exciting matchup between Navy and Louisiana Tech at TCU’s Amon G. Carter stadium in Fort Worth. The game came down to the last second and Louisiana Tech made a game-winning field goal with no time left on the clock to clinch the 48-45 victory.

The game also showcased the generosity of Lockheed Martin employees with a $25,000 check presentation to the Military Child Education Coalition. The donation supports their mission to ensure inclusive, quality educational opportunities for all military- and veteran-connected children affected by mobility, transition and family separation. We also sponsored two VIPs for the day – recipients of the Fighting Spirit Scholarship, retired U.S. Army Capt. Ferris Butler and retired U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Adam Keys, pictured here. They had a great time at the game and we look forward to hearing about their adventures in the skies and on the seas.
**F-35 Full Scale Model in Fort Worth**

Leading up to the bowl game, thousands of people visited downtown Fort Worth to see the F-35 full-scale model parked on Main St. Some people waited in line for more than two hours to get their picture taken in the cockpit. I had the unique privilege of presenting a check for $315,000 to the United Way of Tarrant County, and Mayor Betsy Price made an appearance to officially declare that week Lockheed Martin week in Fort Worth.

The support we received from the community was nothing short of amazing and I can tell you firsthand there is a lot of pride and excitement about the F-35. Thanks to all our volunteers who spent hours out there with the full-scale model making sure it was a success.

Have a great weekend!