



Check Us Out On:



# WEEKLY UPDATE

*A Message From Jeff Babione*

*Issued February 23, 2017*

## U.S. Military Leaders Praise F-35

For many years, the F-35 team promised a revolutionary, game-changing fighter aircraft. Recent comments from U.S. military leaders show our customers believe the F-35 delivers on that promise. Feb. 16, testifying before the House Armed Services Committee, USAF Lt. Gen. Chris Bogdan, F-35 Program Executive Officer; USMC Lt. Gen. Jon Davis, Deputy Commandant for Aviation; USAF Maj. Gen. Jerry Harris Jr., Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Plans, Programs, and Requirements; and USN Rear Adm. Dewolfe Miller, III, Director, Air Warfare, praised the F-35 for its capabilities, maturity and operational readiness.



“I’ll tell you that I’ve been in the Marine Corps for 37 years, flying Marine tactical airplanes for 36,” said Lt. Gen. Davis. “I’ve commanded our Weapons School. I have not seen anything like this in the entire history of my time. This jet is a war winner!”

“...most fighter pilots will tend to exaggerate their claims and capabilities, but this morning’s report of a 15-to-1 (Red Flag) kill ratio is actually a little bit off the mark,” said Maj. Gen. Harris. “Looking at the numbers, it was 20-to-1. The airplane is doing exactly what we need it to do.”

These statements and many more about the F-35 program from leaders are a testament to the entire F-35 enterprise. Read more and hear from them on [F35.com](http://F35.com). I could not be more proud of the hard work and dedication this team shows every day against incredible odds, we’ve come together to provide our customers with a product Lt. Gen. Davis said they can’t get fast enough.

---

## PAO Modifications Complete

I am very pleased to report we completed all the PAO modifications to the 57 F-35As effected by faulty insulation last year. I can’t say enough about the team leaning forward to complete these modifications so quickly and provide the Warfighter with the best aircraft possible. This included a team who went to our international FACOs in Cameri, Italy and Nagoya, Japan to ensure those jets had the proper modifications for the PAO insulation as well.

## F-35A 20-to-1 Kill Ratio



The latest piece of evidence of how the jet is revolutionizing the way the warfighter operates is the F-35A Lightning II's 20-to-1 kill ratio and 90 percent mission-capable rate, (flying 207 of 226 missions with 19 weather cancels), at the recent [USAF Red Flag exercise](#) at Nellis AFB, Nevada. During the exercise, 13 F-35As deployed from Hill AFB and dominated the scene. They dropped 27 of 29 air-to-ground weapons with the only misses due to weapon failures, not the aircraft. They accomplished all this while facing the most lethal ground threats and aggressors possible.

This is how Maj. James Schmidt, a former A-10 pilot described his experiences, "I flew a mission the other day where our four-ship formation of F-35As destroyed five surface-to-air threats in a 15-minute period without being targeted once. It's pretty cool to come back from a mission where we flew right over threats knowing they could never see us. After almost every mission, we shake our heads and smile, saying 'We can't believe we just did that! We flew right into the heart of the threat and were able to bring all of our jets back out with successful strikes. It's like we hit the 'I Believe' button again after every sortie."

And remember, this was the F-35As first Red Flag, imagine what it will be like in the coming years as the pilots get more experience.

Not only are military leaders excited about the F-35, but also the men and women using the jet day in and day out. I want to share a [video](#) that I highly recommend everyone takes time to watch. From a customer's perspective, it highlights the giant leap in capabilities the F-35A represents. Another key takeaway from the video is how the maintainers recognize the F-35 team purposefully incorporated their needs throughout the design and development process.



## Unleashing Our Potential



Sometimes, unleashing our potential is as simple as doing what's right. This week, I want to highlight RMS employee Jim Kirk for speaking up to ensure the safety of our teammates. Jim became a member of Team Luke as an Environment, Safety and Health (ESH) lead after he moved to Arizona from Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, in 2015. I am excited Jim is part of the team, but I think most people would be inclined to move to Hawaii – not away from it.

Seriously though, Jim identified a lack of personnel restraining devices on the roof of the academic training center, causing a work stoppage for the technicians standing up the Full Mission Simulator (FMS).

"The RMS ESH staff works as a team, sharing best practices, lessons learned and general ESH knowledge," said Jim. "As an ESH professional, I feel that all Lockheed Martin employees are in safe hands regardless of where their locations may be."

Soon after, a risk mitigation device was located and expedited to Luke. Without question, Jim did what was right in this situation. In fact, not only did he identify the risk, but also the fix. He saw the problem, owned it, solved it, and made the solution happen. Our people are our No. 1 asset, and we must continually ensure we are keeping each other safe while on the job. Thanks, Jim, for your passion and expertise.

## F-35A at Avalon Airshow



Finally, this week I want to tell you about an important milestone and let you know to follow along with the F-35A at the Avalon Airshow in Australia. AU-1 and AU-2 are scheduled to take off from Luke AFB today. The jets are scheduled for static display during the show. I'll be there along with other industry leaders to bring you all the latest from the show. Get caught up on the proud history between the F-35 and Australia on insideLM. I have no doubts the F-35A will be the highlight of the show yet again.

To learn more about the F-35, visit the brand-new, internal [F-35 Central](#), on insideLM, or visit [F35.com](#).

Keep up the great work and have an excellent weekend!

