Last week marked a historic moment for the U.K., as it continues preparations for the arrival of its first F-35. U.K. Defence Secretary Sir Michael Fallon hosted Gen. Jim Mattis on his first visit to the U.K. as the U.S. Secretary of Defense. During the visit, the two defense leaders engaged on various defense and security topics facing the nations. During a press conference, Defence Secretary Fallon announced a three-year, $102 million contract the F-35 Joint Program Office awarded Lockheed Martin and BAE Systems to deliver the initial training, engineering, maintenance and logistics support for the UK’s F-35 fleet.

“Nothing demonstrates the strength of our relationship better than our joint work on the most advanced combat aircraft in the world – the F-35. And the UK is proud to be the future hub for all the European jets,” said Defence Secretary Sir Michael Fallon. “The additional investment at RAF Marham will ensure that we have a formidable fighting force that, at a time of growing danger, in the most momentous of weeks, will help us work with our US partners to promote international peace and security.”

Congratulations to the team on this milestone! It’s rewarding to hear leadership from our partner nations voice their confidence in the F-35. Let’s keep up the great work to help prepare the U.K. for its first F-35 at RAF Marham.
Recently, I heard an excellent story about a team member unleashing her potential in a unique way to support her team’s ability to understand many of the Next Gen Aero fundamentals and how they can incorporate them into their 2017 commitments. Tara Lause created three fictitious projects, then broke everybody up into teams and had them create an LM Commit for each project. The teams were encouraged to understand how the Aero and F-35 commitments align, along with key deliverables, measures of success, and some potential experiences they could help create during that time. The team presented their commits and they received feedback from leaders and other teams that were in the staff meeting.

“Understanding the strategies for both our functional discipline and the F-35 line of business gives each of us the context we need to set and exceed expectations, make informed decisions at appropriate levels of the organization and suggest innovative approaches to unexpected problems,” said Tara.

This is a great example of engaging with her team and reinforcing our All In belief. As I walk around and talk to team members about the F-35 commitments, I am reminded of how important it is for all of us to understand the roles we play in contributing to the Lockheed Martin team. Thanks Tara, for your leadership to set your team up for success.
F-35 Production Pushes Ahead

At the beginning of this year, we made a commitment to deliver on 293 jets within the next three years. I’m happy to announce the team is pushing ahead toward this commitment, as we delivered 17 jets in the first quarter of 2017! What an incredible effort by the entire enterprise to deliver our jets to our customers as efficiently as possible.

As the program continues preparations for the transition to ramp, it is critical for the team to remain focused on our mission and discover the innovative solutions that continue to help drive down cost and increase productivity. The F-35 program is truly a team sport, and I continue to see you all come together to achieve impressive results around the world. Let’s keep up the great work and maintain the all-in attitude to deliver on 293.

Luke AFB Reaches 10,000 Sorties

As the F-35 continues to take to the skies at an ever-increasing rate, Team Luke continues to cross important milestones for the program. Just last week, they crossed another amazing mark, as Lt. Col. Robert Miller, 62nd Fighter Squadron pilot, flew the 10,000th F-35 training sortie at Luke Air Force Base. The 5,000th training sortie was flown in May 2015, and they haven’t looked back since. Great work by team Luke as they lead the pack and train pilots for the most advanced fighter jet in the world.
Enhancing F-35B Shipboard Sustainment

A few weeks ago at the Lockheed Martin Center for Innovation, also known as the Lighthouse, members of the F-35 Team joined with nearly 200 members of the U.S Navy, Marine Corps, and civilian personnel to conduct a weeklong exercise aiming to successfully integrate the F-35B into the Fleet. The F-35B Shipboard Sustainment Wargame (SSWG) focused on the Marine Corps F-35B, using a "day-in-the-life" approach to analyze operations and logistics integration with the Navy's amphibious assault ships. This event was the culminating activity of nine months of preparation, led by Vice Adm. Thomas Rowden, Commander, Naval Surface Forces, in partnership with Headquarters, Marine Corps Aviation and Commander, Naval Air Forces.

"The Wargame was one of the best venues to utilize in order to educate, analyze or find possible issues for the F-35B as it prepares for deployment," said Gunnery Sgt. Hector Pacheco, one of the key exercise participants and an F-35B maintenance advisor assigned to Marine Operational Test and Evaluation Squadron 1.

The Marine Corps declared the F-35B operational nearly two years ago, July 2015, at Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Yuma, Arizona. Since then, Navy and Marine Corps experts have teamed together to integrate its technologies and capabilities. The value that Lockheed Martin brings to our customers, helping them find solutions to their most difficult challenges, was on full display. Well done to the Lockheed Martin SSWG Team!

To learn more about the F-35, visit the internal F-35 Central, on insideLM, or visit F35.com.