



### Green Knights Operating at Iwakuni

In February, I reported 2017 got off to an exciting start with the relocation from Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Yuma, Arizona of 10 F-35Bs from VMFA-121, the Green Knights, to MCAS Iwakuni, Japan. Since arriving, the Green Knights fly daily sorties and, during the past month, participated in precision bombing exercises in Korea.

It was the first time F-35Bs took part in Korean Marine Exercises drilling alongside South Korean and U.S. Marines. The U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) commander said the incorporation of the F-35Bs into the drills was a testament to the strength of the U.S. and South Korean alliance.



“The deployment of the most advanced aircraft the USMC has in their inventory to Korea is yet another example of how dedicated the United States is to supporting the ROK-U.S. Alliance,” Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, commander of the 28,000 U.S. troops stationed in South Korea.

The Marines always stand ready to answer the country’s call if needed.

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### Warlords Drop 27 GBU-32s

As the Green Knights maintain operational readiness, VMFAT-501, the Warlords at MCAS Beaufort, continue to advance their F-35B training operations. They recently completed the first local sorties flying with GBU-32s, dropping 27 Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAMs). The weapon drops enabled all VMFAT-501 instructor pilots to complete their training requirement, enabling the Warlords to flow training to student pilots. This is another signal of program maturity as we continue to train future pilots.

## New F-35 Coating System

Affordability through innovation is one of the F-35 program's top priorities. I often highlight smaller innovations that drive BIG costs out of the program. I want to highlight work from the Aircraft Final Finishes (AFF) team driving out \$49 million over the life of the program. If you've seen an F-35 flying, the saw tooth paneling is visible to the eye. Through a new coating system, the team was able to give the F-35 one uniform coat that saved a significant number of hours per unit in defects and rework.

James Thistle was the first to suggest the new coatings, now referred to as the Z13 overcoat. It took five years and a lot of hard work to incorporate the new coatings. The team used AF-104 as a trial run with no issues, and James said it was worth the wait.

The Z13 overcoat significantly reduces the need for many of the labor-intensive tasks that drove rework and repair hours up. As you can see from this infographic, the new F-35 coating being utilized in the coming months is a significant affordability initiative saving time and money while helping build a better aircraft. Great work to the AFF team on their affordability through innovation. For Lockheed Martin team members, you can read more on [insideLM](#).



## Pilot Flight Equipment Commitment to Quality



The F-35 team is the best in the business, and our attention to detail and quality is unmatched. I love hearing unique stories of team member's commitment to quality. The Fort Worth pilot flight equipment (PFE) team ensures all our Fort Worth pilots have safe and reliable equipment every time they fly. Whether it's G-suits, oxygen masks, helmets or survival gear, they take pride in the trust pilots place in them.

During an inspection, the team found a seal in a Life Preserver Unit that broke under pressure, releasing all the air inside. If a pilot needed this life-saving device it would have failed and put that pilot's life in jeopardy.

Thank you to Andy Smith, Josh Jones and Ricky Roberts, pictured here, who didn't just go through the motions or skip a step in ensuring our pilots' equipment is functioning. Every one of us on the F-35 program needs to have quality at the top of their mind and ensure we go the extra mile in everything we do. Whether you are building the jet, ordering parts, or developing sustainment practices, we must all put forth a quality product. Never forget who we are working for as we build a quality product every time.



## Kongsberg's Contract with Australia

One of our international suppliers in Norway, Kongsberg Defence Systems, recently entered into a contract with the Australian Ministry of Defence for the integration of a new capability in the Joint Strike Missile (JSM).

This contract is a result of an agreement reached between the Norwegian and Australian governments initiated during the visit by Norwegian State Secretary of Defence, Mr. Øystein Bø, to Australia in 2015.

The JSM is a 5<sup>th</sup> generation long-range precision strike missile with the ability to fly low, following the terrain and using advanced passive seekers. The missile is extremely difficult to detect and stop, even for the most advanced countermeasures and defense systems. Combining the advanced capabilities of the F-35 with advanced missile technology continues to stack the deck in the F-35's favor and enables more pilots to fight, survive and win battles of the future. Congratulations to Kongsberg Defence Systems.

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

