



U.S. Air Force Deploying F-35As to Japan

The U.S. Air Force announced plans to deploy about 300 Airmen and 12 F-35As from Hill Air Force Base, Utah, to Kadena Air Base, Japan for a six-month rotation. The aircraft and supporting personnel are scheduled to arrive at Kadena later this month.

“The F-35A gives the joint warfighter unprecedented global precision attack capability against current and emerging threats while complementing our air superiority fleet,” said Gen. Terrence J. O’Shaughnessy, Pacific Air Forces commander said in a [U.S. Air Force press release](#). “The airframe is ideally suited to meet our command’s obligations, and we look forward to integrating it into our training and operations.”



This marks U.S. Pacific Command’s first operational tasking for the F-35A and builds upon the U.S. Air Force fifth-generation stealth fighter’s successful debut in the Indo-Asia-Pacific at the Seoul International Aerospace & Defense Exhibition (ADEX) last month.

The F-35 is the world’s most advanced fighter jet and we are proud of the key role the aircraft continues to play in enhancing global security.

Upgraded Helmet Tech and Improved Launch Procedures Get Positive Reviews

The U.S. Navy recently completed F-35C carrier evaluations aboard the USS Carl Vinson (CVN-70) off the coast of California in October and the USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72) off the east coast in September. As part of the evaluations, the Navy tested an improved launch technique and pilot ‘strap in’ procedure to reduce oscillation during catapult launches, and test pilots evaluated our enhanced Organic LED (OLED) helmet display to increase fidelity and eliminate reported green glow.



I’m pleased to share that each evaluation generated excellent feedback. Both test and fleet F-35C pilots were pleased with the progress made in reducing oscillations seen during catapult shots – and test pilots reported no ‘green-glow’ present in the new OLED helmet display.

While the formal evaluations are still in progress, we are very encouraged by the early performance and confident in the path forward. I’d like to thank all of those involved in designing, implementing and testing these upgrades – you’re playing a critical role in delivering the game changing F-35 capability to the warfighter.

Marietta Delivers the 250th Center Wing Assembly

The 250th F-35 Center Wing Assembly (CWA) built in the Lockheed Martin facility in Marietta, Georgia, is scheduled for delivery to the F-35 production line in Fort Worth this weekend. The CWA is a major structural component and represents approximately one quarter of the aircraft's fuselage. The aircraft's wings are attached to the CWA during the final assembly process in Fort Worth.

The Marietta F-35 team delivered its first CWA in September 2011, and all 250 assemblies have been delivered on or ahead of need dates, including 53, of a planned 62, so far in 2017.

Congratulations to the Marietta team on this important milestone. We count on your performance and thank you for continuing to deliver.



F-35 Ground Support Equipment Team Meets SDD Capability Delivery Commitment



The F-35 Ground Support Equipment (GSE) team has successfully completed delivery of SDD capability. In June of 2013, this team committed to an ambitious SDD closure schedule and has now delivered to plan.

With hard work and unwavering commitment, the team completed all ground support equipment testing, validation and verification before the Oct. 31, 2017 commitment.

More than 1,000 unique items have been developed ranging from sophisticated engine trailers and power carts to simple hand tools. GSE was pulled through rugged terrain, heated, frozen, impact tested and verified against stringent Conformance European (CE) requirements during development ensuring the warfighters have the equipment they need in order to maintain their F-35 aircraft.

As the F-35 program continues to evolve, new support equipment will be developed to further improve the F-35's aircraft availability. I'd like to thank our GSE team for their outstanding work in delivering on our commitments and providing critical services to our customers.

