



Norway Celebrates Arrival of First Three F-35As

Norwegian government, military and industry leaders celebrated the arrival of Norway's first three F-35A aircraft in a ceremony today at Ørland Air Base.

I was honored to attend and commemorate this historic milestone with many high level Norwegian officials, including His Majesty King Harald of Norway; Prime Minister of Norway Erna Solberg; and Norwegian Minister of Defence Frank Bakke-Jensen. Vice Admiral Mat Winter, F-35 Program Executive Officer; and Marilyn Hewson, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Lockheed Martin, also participated in the ceremony.

In his remarks, Norway's Minister of Defence Frank Bakke-Jensen, highlighted the importance of the milestone.

"The whole Armed Forces are now ready to roll up their sleeves and integrate the new capabilities provided by the F-35 – to build the Armed Forces of the future," he said. "With F-35 on board, the Air Force will reach a whole new level of composition and organization, attitudes and operational concepts. As a result, the combat strength of our Armed Forces as a whole is strongly affected."



The arrival of the F-35A is a critical milestone in Norway's commitment to strengthening all of its Armed Forces. And in his speech, Vice Admiral Winter highlighted the importance of teamwork in making it happen:

"Partnerships are at every level," he said. "Our U.S. and Norway government partnership has never been stronger. Our militaries, never stronger. And after this week, I can say clearly and with personal experience, our U.S. industry and Norwegian industry, never stronger."

The delivery to Norway represents the dedication of countless employees on our F-35 team. I was extremely proud to represent you at this week's events and see firsthand the value you deliver for the program. Congratulations to our entire team on this truly historic milestone.

Increased Efficiencies Help Decrease F-35 Build Time

Across the F-35 program, we're focused on preparing to ramp up our rate of production to more than 160 F-35s per year by 2020.

Many of our teams are making great progress and finding ways to increase the rate of production while ensuring we deliver every aircraft to the highest quality standard.

To that end, our Final Assembly Production Program Management Team recently produced a 58-day span jet, which marks the shortest-span time for any aircraft to roll out of Final Assembly and into the Aircraft Final Finishes building. That jet proudly displays the markings of AU-5, the fifth F-35A for Australia.



Great job by the entire F-35 enterprise on this achievement. We're looking forward to continued success as we all prepare to ramp-to-rate.

F-35 Weapons Capability Passes Key Test Milestone

As we near completion of the System Development and Demonstration (SDD) phase of the program, our team checked off another key milestone recently with completion of Weapon Delivery Accuracy (WDA) testing at China Lake, California.



In a rigorous testing environment encompassing 42 WDAs, we certified the F-35 for the AIM-120, AIM-9X, ASRAAM, Paveway IV, SDB, GBU-12, GBU-31, JDAM, and JSOW.

At the end of the day – any fighter jet is only as effective as the sensors it can leverage and weapons it can deploy – and this team ensured every pilot is able to enter a mission with the fire power for any conflict.

Thanks to the great work of our team, the F-35 is combat capable and poised for even more weapons capability growth as we evolve into the future. I'd like to thank everyone involved in completing WDA – this was a truly monumental undertaking that required years of dedication, focus, hard work and innovation.

F-35A Airframe Completes Durability Testing

A full-scale durability test airframe of an F-35A, known as AJ-1, has successfully completed its third life testing, equivalent to 24,000 hours of 'flying', at our partner BAE Systems' site in Brough, East Yorkshire.

While in the structural test rig, the F-35A has been subjected to and tested on the range of loads it would experience in actual flight, with durability tests carried out to simulate real life fleet usage based on projected operational requirements.

BAE's test rig is fitted with more than 20 miles of wiring, 2,500 strain gauges and 160 loading actuators which are attached to the airframe during testing. Having completed its third life test, the F-35A durability test airframe will now leave the rig and travel to the United States where it will undergo further detailed inspections.

This milestone confirms the airframe will perform in and withstand the demanding environments the aircraft will experience throughout its operational lifetime – and gives our program great confidence in the aircraft's strength and durability for decades to come. You can read more about the milestone, [here](#). Congratulations to the entire team on this key milestone!

