London Event Kicks Off a Banner Year for the F-35 in the United Kingdom

This week, the Lockheed Martin F-35 team hosted a two day event in Westminster, London at the Institute of Engineering and Technology. Members of the government, media and industry had the chance to fly our F-35 cockpit simulator, speak to UK F-35 pilots and meet with members of the UK-based F-35 industrial team.

Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson and several Members of Parliament took an opportunity to fly the F-35 simulator.

In a MoD news release, Secretary Williamson said, “These pioneering stealth jets will protect British lives as we face intensifying and evolving threats at home and abroad. The F-35 is the most advanced and dynamic fighter aircraft in our history, and will defend this country from terrorists, collect crucial intelligence, and safeguard our national interests from those who seek to do us harm.”

The F-35 is set for a banner year in the United Kingdom, as we prepare for the first aircraft arrival at RAF Marham and the UK’s land-based Initial Operational Capability later this year. In addition to enhancing UK’s airpower, the F-35 is also powering economic growth in the country, with more than $12.9 billion in contracts placed to date with British suppliers, supporting more than 20,000 jobs throughout the UK.

We are proud of the role the F-35 is playing in enhancing global security and driving economic growth, and we thank the UK Ministry of Defense for their support and partnership on the program.
Vice President Pence Sees 5th Gen Fighters in Action at Nellis

Vice President Mike Pence, as well Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson and Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. David Goldfein, visited Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada last week.

Upon arrival, two F-22s and two F-35s flew overhead, providing a 5th generation airshow for the high-level visitors.

"In the 1950s, it was the F-86 that gave us a 14-1 kill ratio over Korea," Wilson said. "Today, it's the F-35 with space and cyber and unmanned [aerial] vehicles ready – ready to take the fight to the enemy."

Vice President Pence took time to shake hands and express his gratitude to the airmen, and ended his day with an up-close look at an F-35 and F-16.

It is a true honor to have our country’s senior most leaders show their support for this program – and we thank Vice President Pence for taking time see the F-35 up close.

More than Eight Months in a Cockpit

F-35 pilots (more than 540 trained and counting) are some of the best aviators in the world, and some of the most experienced as well.

In fact, last weekend, Lt. Gen. Mark Kelly logged his 6,000th flying hour, and he did it in an F-35A at Hill Air Force Base. Utah.

Lt. Gen. Mark Kelly; Commander, Air Force, Air Combat Command, and Commander, Air Forces Southern, U.S. Southern Command; has a tremendous career that includes more than 800 combat hours, and his 6,000 hour mark is equivalent to more than eight months of flying.

Congratulations to Lt. Gen. Kelly on this tremendous achievement and a huge thanks for his continued service to our nation. We’re proud to have the F-35 play a part of this outstanding milestone.