



## Queen Helps Open Lightning Operations Centre

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II visited Royal Air Force Marham last week to commemorate the new Lightning Operations Centre in her capacity as Honorary Air Commodore of the Station.

The Lightning Operations Centre is the first building to have been completed as part of a large-scale effort to deliver the new infrastructure to support the F-35B. The Lightning Operations Centre will be the headquarters of the Lightning Force and provide through-life airworthiness management in support of the UK F-35 Lightning Force.

The Queen officially opened the Lightning Operations Centre with the unveiling of a plaque commissioned by Lockheed Martin. Her Majesty also met with representatives from the Lightning Delivery Team, UK Military officials and members of the industrial team to include Lockheed Martin and BAE Systems.



[Celebrating the occasion, Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson said:](#) “The Royal opening of this operations hub for the F-35 brings us another step closer to these pioneering jets flying from their UK home later this year, and their take-off from the magnificent aircraft carrier which proudly bears Her Majesty’s name. I’m delighted The Queen has seen what the future holds for the Royal Air Force, particularly as we celebrate a rich 100-year history of brave men and women protecting our skies.”

What an honor it is to have The Queen take part in the opening of this important new facility. The U.K. is a valued partner on the program and it is truly humbling to see support for the F-35 at the very highest level.

## F-35 Pilot Completes 500th Vertical Landing



One of the more than 560 trained F-35 pilots recently surpassed an incredible milestone worth noting this week. Peter “Wizzer” Wilson flew his 500th vertical landing (VL) in the F-35B.

Wizzer, a Test Pilot at the Pax River ITF, serves as the Lead STOVL pilot for the F-35 and flew his first F-35 mission in November 2010. His 500th VL in an F-35 occurred during [sloped pad testing](#) recently at Bogue Field, North Carolina.

Wizzer has delivered outstanding support for the F-35 program, and his many contributions include, participation in all three DT ship trials, ski jump testing and hundreds of flights pushing the STOVL operating envelope to never before seen places.

Congratulations to Peter “Wizzer” Wilson on this significant career achievement and I thank him for all his hard work and passion he brings to the program every single day.

## Furthering our Partnership with Danish Industry

Lockheed Martin Aeronautics sponsors an annual internship program at our Fort Worth facility, where we currently have eight graduate students from the Danish Technical University (DTU) sponsored by F-35 supplier Terma. The graduate students have the opportunity to work on the F-35 program and learn more about engineering, manufacturing, supply chain and quality assurance over their five-month internship.

The Danish intern program is a highlight of the longstanding 40+ year partnership between Lockheed Martin and Denmark. It showcases a successful cooperation between Lockheed Martin and DTU to encourage Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. The latest members of the intern program, pictured here, are very excited for their long and bright future in the Aerospace industry and I am thrilled the F-35 is part of their story.



Furthering our partnership, Terma and Lockheed Martin confirmed their readiness to enter into a [new long-term agreement](#) for the F-35 Low Rate Initial Production (LRIP) lots 12-14 at the Singapore Airshow this week. Terma President and CEO Jens Maaløe and Aeronautics Executive Vice President Orlando Carvalho were on hand for the ceremonial confirmation of the two-company's intention to finalize the agreement in the coming months. We appreciate Denmark's continued support for the F-35 program!

## F-35 on Arizona Highways



Luke AFB in Arizona is home to the most F-35s at any one base in the world and the state recently highlighted their F-35 pride in a unique way. The Arizona Department of Transportation released a new custom license plate featuring the F-35A with the slogan "The Sound of Freedom." The license plate is available for residents to purchase for their vehicles, and proceeds from the sales support the Fighter Country Foundation services, which provide morale, well-being, culture, tradition and mission sustainability at the base.

Foundation spokesman Ron Sites said, "We are incredibly excited to launch our new specialty plate. These programs support all military members at Luke Air Force Base, to include Air Force Reserve, Navy, Marines and Army Corps of Engineers. We have always used the phrase 'The Sound of Freedom' when educating residents what Luke AFB is, and to now actually have that phrase as well as an F-35 on an Arizona license plate is amazing."

This is a great example of the community support for the F-35 and the role Luke AFB plays in training our warfighters on this transformational aircraft. Keep up the great work Team Luke!

Have a great weekend!

