F-35 Team Makes Aviation History

The most comprehensive, sophisticated and rigorous developmental flight test program in aviation history flew its final flight this week. More than 65,000 test points and more than 9,200 flights went into the System Development and Demonstration (SDD) flight testing for all three variants of the F-35. The F-35 Integrated Test Force at Edwards Air Force Base and Naval Air Station Patuxent River took F-35s to the very edges of the flight envelopes to provide the operational capabilities needed by our customers. From 50,000 feet above the earth to miles out at sea and everything in between, the F-35 has proven it is up to the challenge to protect the U.S. and our allies for many years to come.

The men and women responsible for completing Flight Testing represent the best and brightest throughout government and industry. From the test pilots and maintainers to the engineers and mission planners – the entire team demonstrated exceptional performance and collaboration.

I encourage everyone to view our highlights video here, and read more in our news release.

I would like to thank the entire F-35 enterprise for this great achievement. There were many challenges along the way, but one thing was always true, our team was ready to take on every one of them. Congratulations to the entire team on this critical milestone for the program, for the warfighter, for Aviation history!
New F-35 Johnstown Facility Opens

Fifty new jobs will be added to the Lockheed Martin AeroParts Inc. (LMAPI) facility in Johnstown, Pennsylvania by early 2019 as we ramp up production and open a new component assembly space. The expanded F-35 Component Final Finishes (CFF) assembly work area has 56,000 square feet of environmentally controlled manufacturing and warehouse floor space. The facility will begin delivering parts to the main F-35 production facility in Fort Worth by mid-April. At full capacity, the CFF will produce nearly 20 parts per day, equating to about 25 percent of the total F-35 CFF panel work.

During the ribbon cutting ceremony, U.S. Sen. Bob Casey said, “Manufacturing and defense jobs are vital to Pennsylvania’s economy and I’m proud to support the hard-working Pennsylvanians who are making important contributions to our national security. We must continue to support and invest in essential defense programs, such as the F-35, so that our military service members are best equipped to do their jobs and return home safely.”

This new extension to the facility will support the program’s ramp to rate commitments to increase the capacity of our factories, our suppliers and partner facilities worldwide to produce over 150 F-35’s per year by 2021. Congratulations to

F-35 Supplier Summit

This week, we hosted 180 teammates representing more than 35 of our F-35 suppliers for the annual supplier summit in Fort Worth, TX. The theme this year was “Enterprise Performance” and we focused on how we can partner to reduce cost, improve efficiencies and deliver capabilities to our warfighters. F-35 Program Executive Officer (PEO) Vice Adm. Mat Winter addressed the group to provide an update on the program and emphasize the need for our supply base to be more agile and affordable to meet future demands.

With more than 300,000 parts and components in every F-35, our supply chain is absolutely essential to our success — and we appreciate our suppliers’ engagement in achieving our affordability, efficiency and performance goals.

I’d like to thank everyone who planned and attended this event; engagements like these are critical to meeting our 2018 commitment of “right part, on time, every time.”