



What is the F-35A Lightning II?

The F-35A is a single seat, single engine fifth-generation strike fighter, with improved aerodynamic performance, advanced integrated avionics, and an enhanced capability to survive in an advanced threat environment. The F-35A will provide next-generation stealth, enhanced situational awareness, and reduced vulnerability for the United States for decades to come.

What is a "5th Generation" Fighter?

Fifth-generation fighters represent a quantum technological leap in air dominance:

- Low observable/advanced stealth technology
- Capability to fully fuse data from a multitude of sensors
- Ability to thrive in an integrated and networked battlespace
- Superior speed and agility
- Enhanced reliability and lower sustainment costs

Why the Florida Air National Guard 125th Fighter Wing?

- Jacksonville best meets all the requirements identified in the Air Force F-35A basing selection criteria.
- Jacksonville supports unparalleled training infrastructure with unsurpassed military airspace, nearby air-ground training complexes, proximity to other fifth-generation aircraft and vetted environmental compatibility providing unique operational advantages.
- Jacksonville's location will provide mission synergy and access to an experienced workforce for recruitment.
- Jacksonville's 125th Fighter Wing provides more than \$100M of economic impact to Northeast Florida, and F-35 related industry in Florida supports an additional \$3B in economic impact.
- The Jacksonville Community has for more than a century supported our Military installations and has provided unrivaled quality of life opportunities for personnel and families.

The Department of Military Affairs and the Florida National Guard can be found online at:

dma.myflorida.com | www.fl.ng.mil | [facebook.com/FloridaNationalGuard](https://www.facebook.com/FloridaNationalGuard)



For more information, call the Florida Department of Military Affairs at (904)823-0170, and follow us on social media #F35JAX.



F-35A LIGHTNING II



Background: Achieving Initial Operational Capability in August 2016, the F-35A Lightning II is combat capable today—ready to support Combatant Commanders around the globe. Combat capability will improve as we progress toward achieving Full Warfighting Capability and field additional aircraft to operational units. This 5th generation fighter provides unprecedented global precision attack capability against current and emerging targets and threats, while also complementing our air superiority fleet. The F-35 program is a multiservice, multinational effort managed by the F-35 Joint Program Office. The U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, our allies and coalition partners plan to procure a total of more than 3,000 F-35s, dramatically increasing interoperability between the United States and other F-35 nations.

THEMES & MESSAGES

Lethal, Survivable

Combined lethality and survivability make the F-35 our platform of choice for operations in highly-contested threat environments.

- ◆ The F-35's state-of-the-art sensor fusion, networked interoperability, and broad array of advanced air-to-air and air-to-surface munitions enable unmatched lethality for decades.
- ◆ Our 4th generation fleet is the oldest in our service's history and is reaching the limit of modernization that can provide the lethality and survivability required to deter and defeat future adversaries.
- ◆ The F-35's exceptional survivability is achieved through a combination of low-observable technologies, advanced electronic attack and electronic protection, and shared situational awareness.

Multi-role Precision Attack

F-35A's multi-role capabilities are optimized for global precision attack while complementing our air superiority fleet.

- ◆ Multi-role capabilities allow the F-35 to perform missions which traditionally required numerous specialized aircraft.
- ◆ The precision attack capabilities of the F-35 substantially increase our ability to hold at risk any adversary target—fostering deterrence of any group or nation who wishes us harm.
- ◆ The complementary air superiority capabilities of the F-35 will augment our Air Superiority fleet and ensure we continue to "own the skies" over future battlefields.

Global Interoperability

The F-35 will be the backbone of future joint and combined air operations, enabling critical interoperability.

- ◆ When pilots from different nations fly the same platform, they talk the same language. Successful joint and combined operations are assured well into the future through the F-35's foundational interoperability.
- ◆ Spanning three U.S. services, eight international partners and several foreign military sales customers, the F-35 fosters international cooperation.
- ◆ The F-35 program provides financial efficiencies and industrial base benefits to the U.S., partner nations and foreign military sales customers through economies of scale and a global sustainment focus.

Facts

- The Air Force program of record is 1,763 F-35As.
- F-35A declared combat ready on Aug. 2, 2016.
- The Air Force has received 102 F-35As—17 at Hill AFB, 34 at Luke AFB, 26 at Eglin AFB, 13 at Nellis AFB and 12 at Edwards AFB.
- The Air Force receives approximately two aircraft every month.

Milestones

- Jan/Feb 2017: First F-35A training at Red Flag—the Air Force's premier combat training exercise
- July 2017: First F-35A B-Course students graduate
- Oct 2017: Full Warfighting Capability software scheduled for delivery
- 2017: Hill AFB's 34th Fighter Squadron fully operational, equipped, and manned
- 2017: First F-35A Theater Security Package

"The F-35A brings an unprecedented combination of lethality, survivability and adaptability to joint and combined operations, and is ready to deploy and strike well-defended targets anywhere on Earth."

General Dave Goldfein
Air Force Chief of Staff

Questions & Answers

Q1: What missions is the F-35A capable of performing today?

A1: The F-35A is combat ready, and can perform interdiction, basic close air support, and limited suppression and destruction of enemy air defenses. We look forward to achieving full warfighting capability with the delivery of Block 3F software later in 2017.

Q2: When will we see the F-35A in combat?

A2: There is a deliberate plan in place to season our operational F-35A units through exercises, training, theatre security packages, and eventually deployments. But make no mistake, the F-35A is combat ready and Air Combat Command Commander has stated his intent to deploy the F-35A if its capabilities are required.

Q3: What's next for the F-35 program?

A3: We are looking forward to achieving full warfighting capability with the capabilities inherent in Block 3F software in Fall 2017. We are embarking on exponential program growth in numbers of aircraft, trained pilots and maintainers, and in operational units. While combat ready today, the F-35 program will continue to mature and deliver capabilities for the warfighter and the nation.

"The F-35A is proving itself every day in the hands of pilots and maintainers throughout the Air Force. We have amassed over 70,000 flight hours and this jet just keeps getting better the more we gain experience employing its 5th Generation capabilities."

Brig Gen Scott Pleus
Director, F-35 Integration