



# F-35 Lightning II Program

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## F - 35 LIGHTNING II PROGRAM SURPASSES 5,000 FLIGHT HOURS

The F-35 Lightning II program surpassed 5,000 flight hours last week. This milestone was reached by the combined F-35 System Development and Demonstration (SDD) aircraft flying at the production facility in Fort Worth, Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., and Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Md., and the training aircraft flying at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. All three variants, the F-35A Conventional Takeoff and Landing (CTOL), the Short Takeoff/Vertical Landing (STOVL) and Carrier Variant (CV), participated in achievement of this goal. Since the program's first flight in December 2006, F-35s have flown more than 3,464 times. This total includes 91 flights from the original test aircraft, AA-1; 2,510 SDD test flights; and 863 production-model flights.



**Top to Bottom:** (1) Two F-35As soar over Eglin AFB; (2) BF-3 with sidewinder missiles over the Atlantic Test Range at Patuxent River NAS; (3) CF-1 flies with external weapons for the first time.