



# F-35 Lightning II Program

Public Affairs Release – 2013 06 04

## U.K. PILOT COMPLETES FIRST F-35 VERTICAL LANDING FOR ROYAL AIR FORCE

**NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER, Md.** – Squadron Leader Jim Schofield became the first Royal Air Force pilot to complete a vertical landing of a Lockheed Martin [LMT] F-35B short takeoff and vertical landing (STOVL) Lightning II on May 28. Following the flight, Schofield commented on the F-35B's handling capabilities.

“The F-35 has truly revolutionised STOVL flying,” said Schofield. “With legacy types, such as Harrier, the pilot was always working hard to land the aircraft onto a hover pad or ship. Now with F-35B, at the press of a button the aircraft transforms into ‘short take-off or vertical landing’ mode whereupon the aircraft can take off or hover hands-off. This means pilots will require less training and operating the aircraft will be much safer than legacy types. It’s a fantastic aircraft to fly.”



*(Lockheed Martin photo by Dane Wiedmann)*

The U.S. Marine Corps plans to declare Initial Operational Capability with the STOVL in 2015. *(Lockheed Martin photo by Dane Wiedmann)*