



F-35 Lightning II Program

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STATEMENT REGARDING JAPAN SELECTION OF F-35

Today we received news of the Japan Ministry of Defense's decision to select the F-35 Lightning II as their next generation fighter aircraft to meet the needs of the Japan Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF). We are honored by the confidence the Japanese government has placed in the F-35 government and industry teams. The F-35 Program Office looks forward to strengthening partnerships with Japan, and contributing to enhanced security throughout the Asia Pacific region.

Japan is the second Foreign Military Sales (FMS) commitment to the F-35 program, following Israel's 2010 decision. In addition to FMS, eight international partner nations (United Kingdom, Italy, Netherlands, Turkey, Canada, Australia, Denmark and Norway) are invested in the F-35 program.

The Japan Air Self Defense Force requirement is for 40-50 new fighters. The initial letter of agreement will include four conventional takeoff and landing (CTOL) aircraft to be delivered in 2016 with Low Rate Initial Production Lot 8 (LRIP 8). The F-35 will be operated in the Asia Pacific region by U.S. forces, as well as the Royal Australian Air Force, Japan and partner nations involved in multinational military operations. Japan's selection of the F-35 places the JASDF at best advantage to operate with the United States and other partner nations, ensuring the future of cooperative deterrence and regional security.