



# F-35 Lightning II Program

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## F-35A PERFORMS FIRST NIGHT FLIGHT

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. Jan. 18, 2012 – The first night flight in the history of the Lockheed Martin F-35 Program was completed Wednesday at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. Piloted by Lockheed Martin Test Pilot Mark Ward, AF-6, an F-35A conventional takeoff and landing (CTOL) variant, launched at 5:05 p.m. PST and landed after sunset at 6:22 p.m. The mission consisted of a series of straight in approaches in twilight and darkness. The pilot also performed an evaluation of the F-35's cockpit lighting which Ward called, "the best he's ever seen." The testing will clear the way for night refueling and formation testing later this year.



*Photo credits: Lockheed Martin  
photographers Tom Reynolds and  
Darin Russell*