



# F-35 Lightning II Program

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## **J P O   S T A T E M E N T   R E G A R D I N G   S T O V L   O F F   P R O B A T I O N**

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*Secretary Panetta's decision to take the F-35B Lightning II short takeoff, vertical landing (STOVL) variant off probation was a hard-earned and rewarding announcement for the entire DoD/Industry team that worked very hard last year. Successful F-35B performance ashore and at sea has very positively advanced the state of demonstrated capability in 2011. The positive momentum generated during 2011 will continue as testing proceeds, production aircraft are delivered, and fleet training begins in 2012.*

**Vice Admiral David Venlet, USN  
Program Executive Officer for the F-35 Joint Fighter Program Office**