



F-35 Lightning II Program

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F-35 COMPLETES FIRST IN-FLIGHT REFUELING MISSION WITH EXTERNAL WEAPONS

On Saturday, April 21, a F-35A Lightning II conventional takeoff and landing aircraft completed the program's first in-flight refueling mission while configured with external weapons at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. George Schwartz piloted the test aircraft, known as AF-4, with two external inert AIM-9X weapons and four external stores. Internally, the jet was carrying two Joint Direct Attack Munitions and two Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missiles. The two-hour mission tested the flying qualities of the aircraft while maneuvering with external weapons. This test paves the way for weapons separation testing later this year.



(Lockheed Martin photo by Tom Reynold)