



# F-35 Lightning II Program

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## F - 3 5 A L I G H T N I N G I I D E P A R T S F O R F I R S T T R A I N I N G M I S S I O N

**NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, Nev.** -- The F-35A Lightning II assigned to the 422<sup>nd</sup> Test and Evaluation Squadron, participated in its first operational training mission over the Nevada Test and Training Range April 4.

### TOP IMAGE:

U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Alexander Orchard, 57<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief, crouches underneath the exhaust of an F-35A Lightning II before a training mission April 4, 2013, at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. The F-35A is assigned to the 422<sup>nd</sup> Test and Evaluation Squadron and maintained by the 57th AMXS Lightning Aircraft Maintenance Unit. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Brett Clashman)



### MIDDLE IMAGE:

U.S. Air Force Capt. Brad Matherne, 422<sup>nd</sup> Test and Evaluation Squadron pilot, conducts pre-flight checks inside an F-35A Lightning II before a training mission April 4, 2013, at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. The F-35A will be integrated into advanced training programs such as the USAF Weapons School, Red Flag and Green Flag exercises. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Brett Clashman)



### BOTTOM IMAGE:

A U.S. Air Force F-35A Lightning II assigned to the 422<sup>nd</sup> Test and Evaluation Squadron taxis down the runway before a training mission April 4, 2013, at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. The 422<sup>nd</sup> TES will design the tactics for the F-35A. The squadron will also determine how to integrate the F-35A with other aircraft in the Air Force inventory. (U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Brett Clashman)

