



F-35 Lightning II Program

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NAVY RECEIVES FIRST F-35C LIGHTNING II

Naval Air Forces Public Affairs

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla -- The U.S. Navy's Strike Fighter Squadron 101 received the Navy's first F-35C Lightning II carrier variant aircraft from Lockheed Martin today at the squadron's home here.

The F-35C is a fifth generation fighter, combining advanced stealth with fighter speed and agility, fully fused sensor information, network-enabled operations and advanced sustainment.

The F-35C will enhance the flexibility, power projection, and strike capabilities of carrier air wings and joint task forces and will complement the capabilities of the F/A-18E/F Super Hornet, which currently serves as the Navy's premier strike fighter.

By 2025, the Navy's aircraft carrier-based air wings will consist of a mix of F-35C, F/A-18E/F Super Hornets, EA-18G Growlers electronic attack aircraft, E-2D Hawkeye battle management and control aircraft, Unmanned Carrier Launched Airborne Surveillance and Strike air vehicles, MH-60R/S helicopters and Carrier Onboard Delivery logistics aircraft.

VFA 101, based here, will serve as the F-35C Fleet Replacement Squadron, training both aircrew and maintenance personnel to fly and repair the F-35C.



Navy Lt. Cmdr. Christopher Tabert, F-35C Lightning II instructor pilot, U.S. Navy Strike Fighter Squadron VFA-101 prepares to exit the cockpit after landing at Eglin Air Force Base's 33rd Fighter Wing June 22. The pilot delivered the Navy's first F-35C LightningII carrier variant aircraft from Lockheed Martin to the U.S. Navy's Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 101 home co-located with the 33rd FW. (U.S. Air Force photo/Maj. Karen Roganov)



Navy Lt. Cmdr. Christopher Tabert, F-35C Lightning II instructor pilot, U.S. Navy Strike Fighter Squadron VFA-101 prepares to exit the cockpit after landing at Eglin Air Force Base's 33rd Fighter Wing June 22. The pilot delivered the Navy's first F-35C LightningII carrier variant aircraft from Lockheed Martin to the U.S. Navy's Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 101 home co-located with the 33rd FW. (U.S. Air Force photo/Maj. Karen Roganov)



Lt. Cmdr. Christopher Tabert, F-35C instructor pilot, flies in formation with an F-18 Hornet prior to landing June 22 at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. The U.S. Navy's Strike Fighter Squadron 101 received the Navy's first F-35C Lightning II carrier variant aircraft from Lockheed Martin to the squadron's home here. VFA 101 will serve as the F-35C Fleet Replacement Squadron, training both aircrew and maintenance personnel to fly and repair the F-35C. (U.S. Air Force photo/Maj. Karen Roganov)