



F-35 Lightning II Program

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F-35B AIRCRAFT FLY IN FORMATION IN SHORT TAKEOFF/VERTICAL LANDING MODE

NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER, Md., – Two F-35B aircraft fly in close formation while in short takeoff/vertical landing (STOVL) mode for the first time on Tuesday. Pilots Peter Wilson and Dan Levin flew the test jets in STOVL mode, also known as Mode 4, with the F-35B LiftFan engaged and engine rotated downward. The mission measured the effects the aircraft had on each other while in Mode 4 to ensure they can operate in formation safely in an operational environment. The U.S. Marine Corps plans to declare Initial Operating Capability with the F-35B next year.



(Photo by Michael D. Jackson)