



F-35 Lightning II Program

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F - 3 5 L A U N C H E S J O I N T S T A N D O F F W E A P O N

An F-35C Lightning II launched its first AGM-154 Joint Standoff Weapon (JSOW) over the Atlantic Test Ranges on 23 March.

Test aircraft, CF-05, cleanly released the 1,000-pound air-to-surface guided glide bomb from an internal weapons bay, said U.S. Navy Cmdr. Ted “Dutch” Dyckman, the F-35 Lightning II test pilot who flew the mission.

The JSOW is a medium range all-weather standoff weapon that enables aircraft to remain outside the threat envelopes of typical enemy anti-aircraft and counter air defenses while effectively engaging and destroying targets. This lethality and survivability delivers a decisive advantage over potential adversaries.

The F-35 Lightning II Pax River ITF joint team, assigned to the Air Test and Evaluation Squadron (VX) 23 aboard Naval Air Station Patuxent River in Maryland, released one JSOW during the flight. The team will release additional JSOWs throughout 2016. Working on the multi-phase testing of the F-35 Block 3F capabilities, are U.S. government, military and contractor personnel, and industry partners.

The JSOW is currently integrated and in operational status on F-16, F/A18, B-52, F-15E, B-1B, and B-2 aircraft. Integration is underway on the F-35 Lightning II. The JSOW is a joint Navy-Air Force weapons program, with the Navy as the lead service.

The F-35 Lightning II is a multi-role stealth strike fighter that incorporates low-observable technologies, advanced sensor fusion, and internal/external weapons to accomplish its missions.



An F-35C launched its first AGM-154 Joint Standoff Weapon (JSOW) over the Atlantic Test Ranges on 23 March 2016. Photo by Dane Wiedmann, F-35 Integrated Test Team