



F-35 Lightning II Program

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USS Wasp to support stand up of first JSF squadron in Japan

SAN DIEGO – The U.S. Navy announced today that the amphibious assault ship USS Wasp (LHD 1), which is capable of operating the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, will become part of the U.S. 7th Fleet Forward Deployed Naval Forces (FDNF) in the fall of 2017.

As part of the rebalance strategy to increase the Navy's presence in the Pacific Fleet, USS Wasp will move from Norfolk, Va., to Sasebo, Japan. USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6) will relocate to San Diego, Calif. to undergo modernization. Specific timelines will be announced at a date closer to the actual movement of the ships.

USS Wasp has been recently modernized to accommodate the Marine Corps variant of the Joint Strike Fighter (F-35B), which is capable of Short Take-off Vertical Landing (STOVL), enabling it to operate out of a wide range of bases, both afloat and a shore.

Wasp has also received upgrades to the combat systems suite to include upgrades to MK 2 Ship Self Defense System, SPQ-9B horizon search radar, MK 57 NATO Sea Sparrow Missile System, and upgrades to the shipboard local area network (LAN) and data link capability.



An MV-22 "Osprey" attached to Marine Medium Tilt-rotor Squadron (VMM) 263 takes to the air from the flight deck of the multi-purpose amphibious assault ship USS Wasp (LHD 1). Wasp is on a surge deployment bringing the Osprey on its first combat deployment to the Middle East.