



F-35 Lightning II Program

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Fleet Readiness Center Southeast hits bull's eye with work on F-35 targeting system

Photo and story by Clifford Davis

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Fleet Readiness Center Southeast became the first military depot to establish the capability to repair the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter's advanced electro-optical targeting system, known as EOTS, Aug. 30.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Jacksonville facility was the culmination of a seven-year, collaborative effort between the Navy and Lockheed Martin to expand the repair base of the system that gives the stealthy fighter precise air-to-ground and air-to-air targeting ability.

"This is our inaugural EOTS depot, so we're excited they'll be able to handle these repairs instead of coming into our factory," said Jane Algee, a Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control program manager. "We've been doing them in our own shop, and there's a lot of congestion as the production is ramping up.

"We've had excellent success with the Navy's artisans who are here."



Members of Lockheed Martin and Fleet Readiness Center Southeast gather for a photo Aug. 30 at Fleet Readiness Center Southeast, FRCSE, to dedicate the achievement of repair capability on the F-35's electro-optical targeting system. (U.S. Navy photo by Clifford Davis/Released)

Not only does the new capability give Lockheed Martin a partner in repairing the avionics system, it also means a new and enduring workload for the Jacksonville facility's employees.

"The aircraft is just entering the fleet, so it's a huge amount of work for us for many, many years to come," FRCSE components head Sammie Kimble said. "We have plans to expand this building with additional space for more workload."

FRCSE was chosen for the important work, because of a track record of reliability, according to Mike Minton, a business

management specialist at the facility who's worked to bring the project to fruition.

"We have a good team here," Minton said. "The Navy has a lot of confidence in what we do at FRCSE.

"We've built a reputation on being a world-class component repair facility, and this is some of the fruits of that."