F-35 Lightning II Program

Public Release – 2018 04 20

F-35A Durability Testing Complete; Airframe En Route to US for Detailed Inspections

F-35 Joint Program Office

F-35A Durability Testing is complete. The F-35A full scale durability test airframe left its structural test rig at BAE Systems in the UK and started its journey back to the US where it will undergo further detailed inspections. The airframe (AJ-1) successfully finished its third life testing -- this is equivalent to 24,000 hours of 'flying'. The F-35 program requires a service life of 8,000 flight hours verified through durability testing to two lifetimes or 16,000 hours. Third life testing completion on the F-35A provides significant data so the warfighter can maintain and sustain their aircraft for decades.