



F-35 Lightning II Program

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F - 3 5 M A K E S F I R S T A I R S H O W A P P E A R A N C E

On Saturday, May 21, a F-35C piloted by Lt. Cmdr. Eric "Magic" Buus made a single pass down the show line at the Joint Service Open House at Andrews Air Force Base, Md. marking the first public appearance of a joint strike fighter aircraft at an air show.

The flight commemorated 100 years of naval aviation by highlighting the future of tactical air power for the U.S. Navy. The F-35C variant of the joint strike fighter is distinct from the F-35A and F-35B versions with its larger wing surfaces and reinforced landing gear for greater control in the demanding carrier take-off and landing environment.

The flyover originated from the F-35C's primary test site at Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Md. and was executed in the same manner as any controlled test sortie. The aircraft, CF-2, flew within its approved flight envelope and was accompanied by an F-18 Hornet flying chase.

The F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter program is in the system development and demonstration phase, focusing on delivering three different and new aircraft variants to the U.S. Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force. All three variants integrate advanced low observable stealth into a supersonic, multi-role fighter.

(Lockheed Martin photos by Andy Wolfe)



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