F-35 Deliveries by Lockheed Martin in 2020 Total 123

Two U.S. Air Force F-35A Lightning IIs conduct flight training operations over the Utah Test and Training Range on Feb 14, 2018. Lockheed Martin has delivered the 123rd F-35 aircraft of the year, an F-35A delivered to the Italian air force. U.S. Air Force / Staff Sgt. Andrew Lee

FORT WORTH, Texas – Lockheed Martin delivered the 123rd F-35 aircraft of the year last week, the company said in a Dec. 28 release.

The 123rd aircraft is an F-35A conventional takeoff and landing (CTOL) variant, built at the Cameri, Italy, Final Assembly and Checkout facility and delivered to the Italian air force. In 2020, 74 F-35s were delivered to the United States military, 31 to international partner nations and 18 to Foreign Military Sales customers.

In response to COVID-19 related supplier delays, in May the initial annual delivery goal was revised from 141 to 117-123 aircraft to strategically avoid surging, which would increase production-related costs and create future delays and disruption.

“The F-35 joint enterprise team rapidly responded to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic to continue to deliver the unmatched combat capability the F-35 brings to the warfighter,” said Bill Brotherton, acting vice president and general manager of the F-35 program. “Achieving this milestone amid a global pandemic is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the team and their commitment to our customers’ missions.”

Lockheed Martin took proactive measures to mitigate COVID-19 supplier impacts and position the program for the fastest

possible recovery by adjusting employee work schedules, maintaining specialized employee skillsets, and providing accelerated payments to small and vulnerable suppliers. Lockheed Martin provided accelerated payments to more than 400 F-35 suppliers in 45 states and Puerto Rico.

Though COVID-19 will have short-term impacts on production, the F-35 program continues to work diligently and is on track to meet the joint government and industry recovery commitments over the coming years.

There are more than 600 aircraft operating from 26 bases and ships around the globe. More than 1,200 pilots and 10,000 maintainers are trained, and the F-35 fleet has surpassed more than 350,000 cumulative flight hours. Nine nations have F-35s operating from a base on their home soil, nine services have declared Initial Operational Capability and six services have employed F-35s in combat operations. The U.S. Air Force deployed the F-35 for 18 consecutive months from April 2019 until October 2020 in the U.S. Central Command Area of Responsibility with hundreds of weapons employments in support of U.S. servicemembers and their allies.

The year also included initial fielding of the Operational Data Integrated Network, the follow-on to the Autonomic Logistics Information System, with excellent initial results. The system will be fully operational in 2022. Mission capable rates for the aircraft continued to improve in 2020 with rates greater than 70% across the fleet, and even higher for deployed units. The F-35 also proved its value in joint all-domain operations with multiple exercises that highlighted the aircraft’s ability to gather, interpret and share information with various platforms.

Elbit Systems' US Subsidiary Signs Definitive Agreement to Acquire Sparton Corp.

Haifa, Israel – Elbit Systems Ltd. announced Dec. 23 that its U.S. subsidiary, Elbit Systems of America LLC, has signed a definitive agreement with an affiliate of Cerberus Capital Management, L.P. for the acquisition of Sparton Corp. for $380 million.

The transaction is conditioned on various closing conditions, including receipt of U.S. regulatory approvals, the pursuit of which could encompass a number of months.

Headquartered in De Leon Springs, Florida, Sparton is a premier developer, producer and supplier of electronic systems supporting Undersea Warfare for the U.S. Navy and allied military forces.

"The acquisition of Sparton will strengthen Elbit Systems of America's capabilities and will enable expansion of activities in the naval arena," said Bezhalel "Butzi" Machlis, president and CEO of Elbit Systems. "We believe this acquisition will be beneficial for both Elbit Systems' and Sparton's employees and customers."

Boeing Super Hornet Demonstrates Ski-jump Launch

Capability

Boeing and the U.S. Navy proved recently that the F/A-18 Super Hornet can operate from a “ski jump” ramp, demonstrating the aircraft’s suitability for India’s aircraft carriers. Boeing Co.

PATUXENT RIVER, Md., Dec. 21, 2020 – Boeing and the U.S. Navy proved recently that the F/A-18 Super Hornet can operate from a “ski jump” ramp, demonstrating the aircraft’s suitability for India’s aircraft carriers, the company said in a Dec. 21 release.

The demonstrations, held at Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Maryland, showed the Super Hornet would do well with the Indian Navy’s short takeoff but arrested recovery (STOBAR) system, validating earlier simulation studies by Boeing.

“The first successful and safe launch of the F/A-18 Super Hornet from a ski jump begins the validation process to operate effectively from Indian navy aircraft carriers,” said Ankur Kanaglekar, India fighter sales lead for Boeing. “The F/A-18 Block III Super Hornet will not only provide superior warfighting capability to the Indian navy, but also create opportunities for cooperation in naval aviation between the United States and India.”

The Indian navy is evaluating its fighter options. If it selects the Super Hornet, it would benefit from billions of dollars invested in new technologies by the U.S. Navy and others. Those technologies include advanced networking, longer range through conformal fuel tanks, infrared search and track, and a new advanced cockpit system.

“This milestone further positions the Block III Super Hornet as a versatile next-generation frontline fighter for decades to come,” said Thom Breckenridge, vice president of international sales for strike, surveillance and mobility with

Boeing Defense, Space & Security. “With its proven capabilities, affordable acquisition price, known low documented life-cycle costs and guaranteed delivery schedule, the Block III Super Hornet is ideally suited to meet fighter aircraft requirements of customers in India, North America and Europe.”

The ski jump demonstrations follow the delivery of two Block III flight-test aircraft to the U.S. Navy in June. Boeing is on contract to deliver next-generation Block III capabilities to the U.S. Navy beginning in 2021. The Super Hornet provides the most weapons at range in the U.S. Navy’s fighter inventory, including five times more air-to-ground and twice the air-to-air weapons capacity.

Boeing’s advanced aircraft and services focus play an important role in mission-readiness for the Indian air force and navy. Boeing is focused on delivering value to Indian customers with advanced technologies and is committed to creating sustainable value in the Indian aerospace sector – developing local suppliers and shaping academic and research collaborations with Indian institutions.

Boeing has strengthened its supply chain with 225 partners in India and a joint venture to manufacture fuselages for Apache helicopters. Annual sourcing from India stands at $1 billion. Boeing currently employs 3,000 people in India, and more than 7,000 people work with its supply chain partners. Boeing’s employee efforts and India countrywide engagement serves communities and citizenship programs to inspire change and make an impact on more than 200,000 lives.

SENEDIA Launches BuildSubmarines.com to Support Sub Building Workforce

The Southeastern New England Defense Industry Alliance has launched a new website, www.BuildSubmarines.com to serve as a one-stop clearinghouse for careers and workforce development programs to support the submarine shipbuilding supply chain. U.S. Navy / Seaman John Narewski

MIDDLETOWN, R.I. – The Southeastern New England Defense Industry Alliance (SENEDIA) has launched a new website, www.BuildSubmarines.com, which will serve as a one-stop clearinghouse for careers and workforce development programs to support the submarine shipbuilding supply chain, the alliance said in a Dec. 16 release.

The site reinforces southeastern New England as the national hub for submarine shipbuilding and connects industry leaders and prospective employees with the opportunities they need to build their business or build a rewarding career in this high-wage, high-growth sector.

“SENEDIA is the bridge for the regional submarine shipbuilding supply chain. For employers, we provide resources on building their workforce and building their business. For prospective employees, we provide resources for building their careers,” said Molly Donohue Magee, SENEDIA’s executive director. “The southeastern New England submarine shipbuilding supply chain and the talented individuals who support it are integral to the security of our nation. This new website will make it easier for them to find new opportunities and grow our economy in the process.”

SENEDIA launches BuildSubmarines.com as part to its first Department of Defense contract, an $18.6 million initiative to develop a robust regional workforce development partnership that will serve the needs of submarine shipbuilding employers and open up job exploration and employment opportunities to more than 5,000 potential workers.

Accenture Federal Services to Help Navy with Organizational Transformation

ARLINGTON, Va. – Accenture Federal Services (AFS), a subsidiary of Accenture, has been awarded a task order to help the U.S. Navy drive an enterprise transformation strategy to redesign its future plans and practices related to data, cloud, cybersecurity, architecture, investments, and talent to achieve greater advantage and readiness, the company said in a Dec. 16 release.

Under the terms of the contract – valued at $38 million over five years – AFS will provide information technology and management consulting services to the Navy, Marine Corps and senior leaders at the Department of Defense. The goal is to help the Navy fundamentally change the way it invests in enterprise capability modernization to position it for greater joint-domain capabilities.

AFS will help the Navy transform mission capabilities using innovative solutions that scale to meet future needs and improve operational outcomes. The work includes transformation for the department's enterprise through strategy, digital,

portfolio planning, enterprise architecture, data management, modeling and architecture, cybersecurity, and organizational change management activities.

“We’re honored to help the Department of the Navy manage its digital, data and IT services so they can focus critical resources on mission-specific requirements,” said Vince Vlasho, who leads Accenture Federal Services’ Defense portfolio. “As commercial technology accelerates, we want to ensure that the DON adapts and has what it needs to maximize readiness and warfighting effectiveness.”

The Department of the Navy Organizational Transformation Support contract continues AFS’ ongoing support to the Navy. AFS currently works with several commands across the service, providing mission and back office-related IT implementations, management consulting, and operations as well as recruiting services for Navy Recruiting Command.

Boeing Awarded U.S. Navy Contract for New Zealand P-8 Training

A P-8A Poseidon and a P-3 Orion sit on the flight line at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi in this 2012 photo. Boeing has been awarded a $109 million contract to provide P-8A training for the Royal New Zealand Air Force. U.S. Navy / Richard Stewart

OHAKEA, New Zealand – The U.S. Navy recently awarded Boeing a Foreign Military Sales (FMS) contract, valued at $109 million, to provide P-8A Poseidon training for the Royal New Zealand

Air Force (RNZAF), the company said in a Dec. 14 release.

A suite of training systems and courseware will prepare RNZAF aircrew and maintainers to safely and effectively operate and maintain the world's premier maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft for decades to come.

Boeing's holistic P-8 training system will enable the RNZAF to conduct up to 70 percent of all Poseidon-related training in a simulated environment. As part of the contract, Boeing will provide:

- Operational Flight Trainer (OFT) – Full-motion simulator incorporates all P-8 unique displays and switches.
- Weapons Tactics Trainer – Simulates mission systems and tactical operations, and when coupled with the OFT, forms a Weapons Systems Trainer that enables multi-crew, high-fidelity mission rehearsal training in the same simulated environment.
- Virtual Maintenance Trainer – Enables training of maintenance professionals to properly perform maintenance tasks and procedures on the P-8A aircraft
- Scenario Generation Station – Creates custom scenarios for mission training
- Brief/Debrief Station – Provides post-mission analysis and playback.

In addition, Boeing's Electronic Classroom will give RNZAF instructors and students access to courseware and testing capabilities. Boeing also will provide initial Instructor Cadre Training to a group of RNZAF instructors, enabling them to continue training additional RNZAF P-8A instructors and aircrews following delivery of the training system in early 2024.

"This holistic training system will enable aircrew to safely train for all aspects of flying and maintaining the P-8A Poseidon," said Tonya Noble, director of International Defense

Training for Boeing. “We look forward to bringing these training capabilities in-country and working alongside the RNZAF to ensure readiness of aircrew and maintenance personnel.”

All training will be conducted in Ohakea, New Zealand. In March 2020, the RNZAF acquired four P-8A Poseidon aircraft through the U.S. Navy FMS process, with expected delivery beginning in 2023. New Zealand is one of seven nations operating the P-8.

HII Authenticates Keel of Virginia-Class Attack Submarine Massachusetts

The initials of Virginia-class submarine Massachusetts (SSN 798) sponsor Sheryl Sandberg were displayed at the ship’s keel authentication ceremony. Sandberg (center left) delivered pre-recorded remarks during the event, which marks the ceremonial start of construction. Present was Newport News Shipbuilding President Jennifer Boykin (left); Cmdr. Erik Lundberg, commanding officer of the pre-commissioning unit (center) and welder Ronnie Payne. Huntington Ingalls Industries / Ashley Cowan

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. – Huntington Ingalls Industries’ Newport News Shipbuilding division hosted a keel authentication ceremony Dec. 11 for Virginia-class attack submarine Massachusetts (SSN 798), the company said in a release. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the event was held virtually, without an audience.

“This construction milestone is typically a small ceremony

with shipbuilders and the submarine's crew in attendance," said Jennifer Boykin, president of Newport News Shipbuilding. "Given the current COVID-19 environment and the precautions it requires, today's event is smaller than usual in scope, but not in importance."

"Today's event is a significant milestone in the life of the boat because it is the official construction kickoff, but it also marks the beginning of an important partnership between our shipbuilders who will build this mighty war vessel and the sailors who will bring her to life," Boykin added.

Sheryl Sandberg, chief operating officer of Facebook, is the ship's sponsor. In a pre-recorded video message, Sandberg etched her initials onto a metal plate, signifying the keel of SSN 798 as being "truly and fairly laid."

Ronnie Payne, a master shipbuilder who has worked on every Virginia-class submarine built at Newport News, then traced Sandberg's initials with a welding torch at the company's Supplemental Module Outfitting Facility. The metal plate will remain affixed to the ship throughout its life.

"This year has been difficult for so many, and I am extra grateful for moments like this one when we can celebrate such an important milestone together," Sandberg said. "I have a deep respect for the shipbuilders who will bring this vessel to life. I am so grateful for the opportunity to build a lifelong bond with this boat and its crew in my role as the sponsor."

Massachusetts is the 25th Virginia-class fast attack submarine being built under the teaming agreement with General Dynamics Electric Boat. Construction began in March 2017 and is approximately 50% complete. The boat is scheduled for delivery to the Navy in 2023.

"One of the privileges in establishing a command from the very beginning is developing a relationship with the boat's

namesake state – a relationship inherited from our forebears and one that will last the life of the ship and beyond," said Cmdr. Erik Lundberg, commanding officer of the pre-commissioning unit. "Our mission is clear – deliver the most advanced, most capable warship to the Navy and our nation with an equally advanced and capable crew to bring her to life. The crew of Massachusetts stands ready."

BAE Systems Receives Order for LRASM's Advanced Seeker

The Long-Range Anti-Ship Missile. BAE Systems will build and deliver additional advanced missile seekers for the program. BAE Systems

NASHUA, N.H. – BAE Systems has received a $60 million contract from Lockheed Martin to manufacture and deliver additional advanced missile seekers for the Long-Range Anti-Ship Missile (LRASM), BAE Systems announced in a Dec. 8 release. The seeker comprises long-range sensors and targeting technology that help the stealthy missile find and engage protected maritime targets in challenging electromagnetic environments.

"Our warfighters need resilient, long-range precision strike capabilities to compete with modern adversaries," said Bruce Konigsberg, Radio Frequency Sensors product area director at BAE Systems. "We're proud to partner with Lockheed Martin in delivering this distinct competitive advantage to U.S. warfighters."

LRASM combines extended range with increased survivability and lethality to deliver long-range precision strike capabilities. LRASM is designed to detect and destroy specific targets

within groups of ships by employing advanced technologies that reduce dependence on intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance platforms, network links, and GPS navigation in contested environments.

This LRASM seeker contract continues the transition of the program from Accelerated Acquisition to Low-Rate Production. BAE Systems has delivered more than 50 systems to date that have demonstrated excellent technical performance over multiple test events. The company also is working to make the seeker system smaller, more capable, and more efficient to produce.

The LRASM is being Deployed on Air Force B-1B bombers and Navy F/A-18E/F strike fighters.

BAE Systems' LRASM seeker technology builds on the company's decades of experience designing and producing state-of-the-art electronic warfare technology, and its expertise in small form factor design, signal processing, target detection, and identification.

Work on the LRASM sensor will be conducted at BAE Systems' facilities in Wayne, New Jersey; Greenlawn, New York; and Nashua, New Hampshire.

GA-ASI Completes Full-Scale Static Testing on MQ-9B SkyGuardian Wing Structure

A SkyGuardian flies over the Atlantic Ocean on the way to a

U.K. Royal Air Force event. General Atomics Aeronautical Systems

SAN DIEGO – General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc. recently completed full-scale static (FSS) testing on the MQ-9B remotely piloted aircraft (RPA) wing after three months of extensive testing, the company said in a Dec. 7 release.

MQ-9B variants include SkyGuardian and SeaGuardian RPA produced by GA-ASI.

The testing included multiple load cases to 150 percent of expected maximum flight loads. The wing was loaded using specially designed fixtures to apply a distributed load across the wingspan – simulating gust and maneuver flight conditions – with no failures.

"Successful completion of FSS testing on the MQ-9B wing was a critical step in proving that our design meets stringent certification standards for structural strength and integrity," said Dee Wilson, vice president, Engineering Research Development & Design Hardware. "The wing performed as expected, matching analytical predictions closely. Our engineering design, stress and test teams are commended for an exceptional effort in meeting this critical milestone."

This particular wing design is the culmination of a large development effort from multiple areas within GA-ASI and represents a major milestone in qualifying the MQ-9B SkyGuardian and SeaGuardian RPA to fly in non-segregated airspace. The wing test success also establishes the baseline wing design for the entire MQ-9B product line. This is critical as GA-ASI starts deliveries to the multiple customers pursuing the MQ-9B including the United Kingdom, Belgium and Australia.

Oshkosh Defense Receives $911 Million Order for JLTVs

Marines assigned to 3rd Battalion 8th Marine Division maneuver a Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV) in the upper vehicle stowage area aboard the Wasp-class amphibious assault ship USS Kearsarge (LHD 3). U.S. Navy / Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Jacob Vermeulen

OSHKOSH, Wis. – Oshkosh Defense LLC, an Oshkosh Corp. company, announced in a Dec. 1 release that the U.S. Army Contracting Command, Detroit Arsenal has placed an order for 2,738 Joint Light Tactical Vehicles (JLTVs), 1,001 companion trailers, and associated kits. The Oshkosh Defense JLTVs will be supplied to the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, and U.S. Air Force along with a select group of NATO and non-NATO allies. This is the second largest order of Oshkosh Defense JLTVs, with a contract value of $911 million.

The Oshkosh Defense JLTV is designed for the future battlefield with reconfiguration capabilities to meet the demands of the Warfighter's evolving mission requirements. It offers the world's only light tactical vehicle with the protection, off road mobility, network capability and firepower options to maneuver with combat formations.

"The men and women of Oshkosh Defense take great pride in what they do," said George Mansfield, vice president and general manager of Joint Programs for Oshkosh Defense. "Designing, building, and delivering the world's most capable light tactical vehicle, the Oshkosh JLTV, is one of our greatest accomplishments. And we plan to continue building the Oshkosh JLTV for many years to come."

As part of this order, 59 vehicles will be delivered to NATO and non-NATO allies – including Lithuania, North Macedonia, and Brazil.