F-35A LIGHTNING II DEMO TEAM

F-35 LIGHTNING II DEMONSTRATION TEAM

MEDIA KIT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

F-35 LIGHTNING II DEMONSTRATION TEAM FACT SHEET

MISSION

To showcase the unique aerial capabilities of Air Force's most advanced 5th generation multi-role stealth fighter, the F-35A Lightning II, as well as highlight the history of our service through heritage formation flights.

BACKGROUND

Formerly known as the F-35A Heritage Flight Team, the F-35A Lightning II Demonstration Team transitioned to a single-ship demonstration team while stationed at Luke AFB, Arizona, as part of the 56th Fighter Wing under Air Education Training Command. As of November, 2019, the team is now located and operates out of Hill AFB, Utah, as part of the 388th Fighter Wing under Air Combat Command.

As members of the first operational combat F-35A wing, operating out of Hill AFB, Utah, the F-35A Lightning II Demonstration Team aims to showcase the unique aerial capabilities of the Air force's newest 5th generation, multi-role stealth fighter to a global audience. Additionally, the team also honors the past and present of our service by flying with World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War-era aircraft in Heritage Flight formations at airshows across the world.

The team currently consists of approximately 13 total Airmen to include the pilot and commander, pilot safety officers, superintendent, team chief, maintenance Airmen, aircrew flight equipment specialists, and public affairs personnel. The team works together in tight cohesion in order to safely perform aerial demonstrations as well as engages in public outreach efforts with the local communities where the airshows are performed.

F-35A LIGHTNING II FACT SHEET

MISSION

The F-35A Lightning II is the U.S. Air Force's latest fifth-generation fighter. It will replace the U.S. Air Force's aging fleet of F-16 Fighting Falcons and A-10 Thunderbolt II's, which have been the primary fighter aircraft for more than 20 years, and bring with it an enhanced capability to survive in the advanced threat environment in which it was designed to operate. With its aerodynamic performance and advanced integrated avionics, the F-35A will provide next-generation stealth, enhanced situational awareness, and reduced vulnerability for the United States and allied nations.

F-35A LIGHTNING II FEATURES

The conventional takeoff and landing (CTOL) F-35A gives the U.S. Air Force and allies the power to dominate the skies – anytime, anywhere. The F-35A is an agile, versatile, high-performance, 9G capable multirole fighter that combines stealth, sensor fusion, and unprecedented situational awareness.

The F-35A's advanced sensor package is designed to gather, fuse and distribute more information than any fighter in history, giving operators a decisive advantage over all adversaries. Its processing power, open architecture, sophisticated sensors, information fusion and flexible communication links make the F-35 an indispensable tool in future homeland defense, Joint and Coalition irregular warfare and major combat operations.

Because logistics support accounts for two-thirds of an aircraft's life cycle cost, the F-35 is designed to achieve unprecedented levels of reliability and maintainability, combined with a highly responsive support and training system linked with the latest in information technology. The Autonomic Logistics Information System (ALIS) integrates current performance, operational parameters, current configuration, scheduled upgrades and maintenance, component history, predictive diagnostics (prognostics) and health management, operations scheduling, training, mission planning and service support for the F-35. Essentially, ALIS performs behind-the-scenes monitoring, maintenance and prognostics to support the aircraft and ensure continued health and enhance operational planning and execution.

The F-35's electronic sensors include the Electro-Optical Distributed Aperture System (DAS). This system provides pilots with situational awareness in a sphere around the aircraft for enhanced missile warning, aircraft warning, and day/night pilot vision.. Additionally, the aircraft is equipped with the Electro-Optical Targeting System (EOTS). The internally mounted EOTS provides extended range detection and precision targeting against ground targets, plus long range detection of air-to-air threats.

The F-35's helmet mounted display system is the most advanced system of its kind. All the intelligence and targeting information an F-35 pilot needs to complete the mission is displayed on the helmet's visor.

FEATURES (CON.)

The F-35 contains state-of-the-art tactical data links that provide the secure sharing of data among its flight members as well as other airborne, surface and ground-based platforms required to perform assigned missions. The commitment of JSF partner nations to common communications capabilities and web-enabled logistics support will enable a new level of Coalition interoperability. These capabilities allow the F-35 to lead the defense community in the migration to the net-centric war fighting force of the future.

The F-35's engine produces 43,000 lbs of thrust and consists of a 3-stage fan, a 6-stage compressor, an annular combustor, a single stage high-pressure turbine, and a 2 stage low-pressure turbine.

The F-35 is designed to provide the pilot with unsurpassed situational awareness, positive target identification and precision strike in all weather conditions. Mission systems integration and outstanding over-the-nose visibility features are designed to dramatically enhance pilot performance.

With nine countries involved in its development (United States, United Kingdom, Italy, Netherlands, Canada, Denmark, Norway and Australia), the F-35 represents a new model of international cooperation, ensuring U.S. and Coalition partner security well into the 21st Century. The F-35 also brings together strategic international partnerships, providing affordability by reducing redundant research and development and providing access to technology around the world. Along these lines, the F-35 will employ a variety of US and allied weapons.

F-35A LIGHTNING II BACKGROUND

The F-35 is designed to replace aging fighter inventories including U.S. Air Force F-16s and A-10s, U.S. Navy F/A-18s, U.S. Marine Corps AV-8B Harriers and F/A-18s, and U.K. Harrier GR.7s and Sea Harriers. With stealth and a host of next-generation technologies, the F-35 will be far and away the world's most advanced multi-role fighter. There exists an aging fleet of tactical aircraft worldwide. The F-35 is intended to solve that problem.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

- **Primary Function:** Multirole fighter
- **Prime Contractor:** Lockheed Martin
- **Power Plant:** One Pratt & Whitney F135-PW-100 turbofan engine
- **Thrust:** 43,000 pounds
- **Wingspan:** 35 feet (10.7 meters)
- **Length**: 51 feet (15.7 meters)
- **Height:** 14 feet (4.38 meters)
- **Maximum Takeoff Weight:** 70,000 pound class
- **Fuel Capacity: Internal:** 18,498 pounds
- **Payload:** 18,000 pounds (8,160 kilograms)
- **Speed:** Mach 1.6 (~1,200 mph)
- **Range:** More than 1,350 miles with internal fuel (1,200+ nautical miles), unlimited with aerial refueling
- **Ceiling:** Above 50,000 feet (15 kilometers)
- **Armament:** Internal and external capability. Munitions carried vary based on mission requirements.

388 FIGHTER WING FACT SHEET

MISSION

The primary mission of the 388th Fighter Wing is to maintain combat readiness to deploy, employ, and sustain F-35A Lightning II aircraft worldwide in support of the national defense. The 388 FW is assigned to Air Combat Command, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia, and below that, Twelfth Air Force, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona. ACC's mission is to provide the world's best combat air forces, delivering rapid, decisive air power, anytime, anywhere.

PERSONNEL AND RESOURCES

There are approximately 1,900 airmen and civilian professionals assigned to the 388 FW. The wing employs 78 F-35A Lightning IIs, the Air Force's most advanced multi-role fighter aircraft.

ORGANIZATION

The 388th Operations Group is comprised of three fighter squadrons and the Operations Support Squadron. The 4th FS, the "Fightin' Fuujins," the 34th FS, the "Rude Rams," and the 421st FS, the "Black Widows". The 388th OSS is responsible for operational planning, pilot training and flight scheduling, intelligence, weapons and tactics development, mobility, life support activities, and personnel management for the 388th OG.

The 388th Maintenance Group is currently composed of two squadrons. The 388th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron provides on-aircraft maintenance for the F-35. The 388th Maintenance Squadron provides back-shop maintenance for the F-35.

ORGANIZATION (CON.)

The Utah Test and Training Range (UTTR) is managed by its Headquarters unit (HQ UTTR), a group equivalent within the wing structure. It manages all aspects of training, equipment and weapons testing, and maintenance for the vast range lying in Utah's west desert.

UNIT HISTORY

The 388th Bombardment Group (Heavy) activated at Gowen Field, Idaho on Dec. 24, 1942, and relocated to the Royal Air Force Base at Knettishall, England between June 1943 and the end of World War II. Equipped with B-17 bombers, the group flew 306 missions over Europe, and received two distinguished unit citations. It attacked German ball-bearing and aircraft production, naval yards, and synthetic oil plants, and supported the Allied landings at Normandy. At the end of the war the group dropped food and supplies over Northern Europe, after which it inactivated at the end of August 1945.

On March 23, 1953, the 388th Fighter Day Wing was established, but not equipped, at Clovis AFB, New Mexico. It was redesignated the 388th Fighter-Bomber Wing on November 5 of that year, and then activated on November 23. Simultaneously, the 388th BG(H) activated and was redesignated the 388th Fighter-Bomber Group. It formed the operational core of this new wing, equipped with F-86 Sabres, and later, F-100 Super Sabres. The 388th relocated to Etain-Rouvres Air Base, France in late 1954, where it remained until 1957, when it inactivated.

The wing again activated on May 1, 1962 at McConnell AFB, Kansas and was redesignated the 388th Tactical Fighter Wing. Trained on the F-105 Thunderchief, the wing inactivated again in February 1964, but was quickly reorganized and activated again on 14 March 1966, stationed at Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand. Flying first the F-105, and then the F-4 Phantom II, the wing flew more than 60,000 hours over Laos, Cambodia, and North Vietnam from 1966-1973. It continued to support U.S. operations in Southeast Asia after the ceasefire with North Vietnam, and participated in the recovery of the S.S. Mayaguez in May 1975. The wing departed from Korat RTAFB in December 1975, taking with it a Presidential Unit Citation, eight Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with combat valor devices, and the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm.

Restationed at Hill AFB, Utah, the 388th TFW continued to fly the F-4, but in April 1977 the Air Force announced that the wing would be the first to be equipped with the new F-16 Fighting Falcon. That multi-role fighter arrived in 1979. The wing deployed its F-16s to several North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) countries during the 1980s, won the RAF bombing competition in 1981, and won the worldwide USAF GUNSMOKE competition twice, in 1987 and 1993.

UNIT HISTORY (CON.)

From August 1990-March 1991, the wing deployed its squadrons in support of U.S. and Allied combat efforts in Operations DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM, the response to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. The wing flew four thousand sorties during DESERT STORM, with no losses. After the war the wing continued to deploy elements of its combat squadrons to support postwar treaty enforcement in Operation SOUTHERN WATCH. Shortly after the Gulf War ended, on Oct. 1, 1991 the 388th was redesignated the 388th Fighter Wing.

After September 11, 2001, the wing added to its deployment duties participation in Operation NOBLE EAGLE, the defense of U.S. airspace, which included providing security over the games of the Salt Lake City Olympics in 2002. After Operation IRAQI FREEDOM began 2003, the wing deployed its three fighter squadrons and personnel in support of that mission until its end on Aug. 31, 2010. In 2009, the wing began deploying F-16s to Bagram AB, Afghanistan in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM, and continued to support operations in that country as part of Operation Freedom's Sentinel until 2016.

The wing was selected to fly the new F-35 Lightning II fighter in December 2013, with the first to arrive at the base unveiled on Sept. 2, 2015. In 2010 the wing's 34th Fighter Squadron inactivated. It activated again in 2015 in order to equip the new airframe. As the 4th and 421st FSs carried the operational load with singular dedication, the 34th FS and the 388th MXG trained on the new fighter and executed the wing's plan to achieve Initial Operating Capability in accordance with the directive of the Commander of Air Combat Command, accomplished on Aug. 2, 2016. The 421st FS was the last squadron to fly the F-16, and its final jets departed for other wings in September 2017. The 421st Fighter squadron recieved the wing's 78th and final F-35 in December 2019 and the wing declared "Full Warfighting Capability" with the F-35 in January 2020.

AIR COMBAT COMMAND FACT SHEET

Air Combat Command, headquartered at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia, is one of ten major commands in the United States Air Force. ACC is the primary provider of air combat forces to America's warfighting commanders and is the direct successor to Tactical Air Command.

MISSION

To support global implementation of national security strategy, ACC operates fighter, reconnaissance, battle-management and electronic-combat aircraft. It also provides command, control, communications and intelligence systems, and conducts global information operations.

As the Combat Air Forces lead agent, ACC develops strategy, doctrine, concepts, tactics, and procedures for air-, space-, and cyber-power employment. The command provides conventional and information warfare forces to all combatant commands to ensure air, space, cyber, and information superiority for warfighters and national decision-makers. The command can also be called upon to assist national agencies with intelligence, surveillance and crisis response capabilities.

FORCES AND ORGANIZATION

The command operates more than 1,000 aircraft, 35 wings, 12 bases, and has more than 300 worldwide operating locations with 95,270 total force active-duty and civilian personnel. These are organized under four active duty numbered air forces. The Command also has responsibility for inland search and rescue operations in the 48 contiguous states.

https://www.acc.af.mil/About-Us/Fact-Sheets/Display/Article/199115/air-combat-command/

BIOGRAPHIES - CAPT. KRISTIN "BEO" WOLFE – DEMO PILOT

Captain Kristin Wolfe is the Commander, F-35A Lightning II Demonstration Team, 388th Fighter Wing, Hill Air Force Base, Utah. The mission of the F-35A Lightning II Demonstration team is to showcase the unique aerial capabilities of the Air Force's most advanced 5th generation multi-role stealth fighter, the F-35A Lightning II, as well as highlight the history of the Air Force's service through heritage formation flights. Additionally, she provides operational oversight and direction for the 13-personnel team, to include maintenance, aircrew flight equipment, and public affairs Airmen.

Captain Wolfe entered the Air Force in 2011 after receiving her commission from the U.S. Air Force Reserve Officer Training Program at the University of Alabama. Captain Wolfe is an experienced fighter pilot with more than 800 flying hours in the F-22A Raptor and F-35A Lightning II. Her flying assignments include Undergraduate Pilot Training at Laughlin AFB, Texas, and fighter training in the F-22A at Langley AFB, Va., and operational assignments at Langley AFB, Va., and Hill Air Force Base, Utah.

EDUCATION:
2011 Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Ala.
2017 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

ASSIGNMENTS:
1. June 2011 – May 2013, Student, Undergraduate Pilot Training, Laughlin AFB, Texas
2. May 2013 – March 2014, Student, F-22A Basic Course, Tyndall AFB, Florida
3. March 2014 – April 2017, F-22A Instructor Pilot, Langley AFB, Virginia
4. April 2017 – September 2017, F-35A Transition Course, Eglin AFB, Florida
5. September 2017 – March 2020, F-35A Instructor and Evaluator Pilot, Hill AFB, Utah
6. March 2020 – Present, F-35A Demonstration Team Commander, Hill AFB, Utah

FLIGHT INFORMATION
Rating: Senior Pilot
Flight Hours: More than 800
Aircraft Flown: T-6, T-38C, F-22A, F-35A

BIOGRAPHIES - CAPT. KRISTIN "BEO" WOLFE (CON.)

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:
Air Force Commendation Medal
Meritorious Unit Award
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Border
Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION:
Second Lieutenant May 25, 2011
First Lieutenant May 25, 2013
Captain, May 25, 2015

(Current as of February 2020)

PHONETIC ALPHABET

This is the phonetic alphabet used throughout the military to prevent misunderstood information when transmitting messages. Military members frequently use the phonetic alphabet in place of the traditional alphabet when spelling words or in referencing a location. One of the most popular uses of the phonetic alphabet deals with flight line locations.

Each flight line location is designated by a letter from the phonetic alphabet, followed by a number. For example, Taxiway B-1 would be referenced as Bravo 1.

- ALPHA
- BRAVO
- CHARLIE
- DELTA
- ECHO
- FOXTROT
- GOLF
- HOTEL
- INDIA
- JULIET
- KILO
- LIMA
- MIKE
- NOVEMBER
- OSCAR
- PAPA
- QUEBEC
- ROMEO
- SIERRA
- TANGO
- UNIFORM
- VICTOR
- WHISKEY
- X-RAY
- YANKEE
- ZULU

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F-35A LIGHTNING II DEMO TEAM MULTIMEDIA

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F-35 LIGHTNING II DEMONSTRATION TEAM IMAGERY

For specific questions or more information regarding the F-35A Lightning Demonstration II or the media kit, please contact the F-35 Demo Team Public Affairs team at

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