



F-35 Lightning II Program

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LIGHTNING UP THE NIGHT

NAVAL AIR SYSTEMS COMMAND, PATUXENT RIVER, Md. – An F-35C Lightning II, on a nighttime test flight, cuts through the skies over the Atlantic Test Ranges Jan. 23. Marine Corps test pilot Maj. C. R. Cliff flew CF-5 for almost an hour, completing evaluation of the aircraft's landing and taxi lights.

The F-35C carrier variant of the Lightning II is distinct from the F-35A and F-35B variants with its larger wing surfaces and reinforced landing gear to withstand catapult launches and deck landing impacts associated with the demanding aircraft carrier environment. The F-35C is undergoing flight test and evaluation at NAS Patuxent River prior to delivery to the fleet. (Night vision photo courtesy of Lockheed Martin)



Night vision photo courtesy of Lockheed Martin.