

Joint Strike Fighter

DISCUSSION

The JSF is the next-generation strike-fighter for the Marine Corps, Air Force, and Navy. Several allied countries are also considering the aircraft for their own forces. The JSF will replace the Marine Corps' AV-8B and F/A-18A/C/D, the Air Force's F-16C, and the Navy's F/A-18C. The JSF family of aircraft will include a short take-off and vertical landing (STOVL) variant, a conventional take-off and landing (CTOL) variant, and an aircraft carrier-capable (CV) variant. Commonality between the variants will help reduce both development and life cycle costs, and will result in significant savings when compared to developing three separate aircraft.

The Marine Corps requires that its STOVL variant be able to operate from large-deck amphibious ships, austere sites, and forward operating bases. This JSF version gives

Marine Aviation potential operational access to three to five times more airfields around the world than our existing aircraft. Moreover, because the STOVL variant can also operate from both conventional carriers and amphibious assault ship decks, it effectively doubles the number of platforms available for sea-based operations.

MARINE CORPS POSITION

The advantages of a stealthy STOVL strike fighter – capable of taking off from an expeditionary base on land or at sea, flying at supersonic cruise, accomplishing its mission with advanced sensors and weapons, and then returning to its expeditionary site – are dramatic. The STOVL JSF will provide the reliability, survivability, and lethality that Marines will need in the years ahead, and transform the very foundations of naval tactical air power.



courtesy of Lockheed Martin