

F-35 Lightning II Program

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BF-7 DELIVERED TO EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE

FORT WORTH, Texas, Jan. 19, 2012 – Piloted by U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Joseph Bachmann, BF-7 departs Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base at 2:07 p.m. CST on its 90 minute ferry flight to Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. With the delivery of BF-7, a F-35B short takeoff/vertical landing (STOVL) jet, Eglin is now the home of the largest F-35 fleet in the Department of Defense (DoD). BF-7 is assigned to the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing's Marine Fighter/Attack Training Squadron 501 with the host 33^d Fighter Wing. BF-7 joins two other STOVL jets and six F-35A conventional takeoff and landing (CTOL) jets for a total of nine Lightning Ils--more than any other DoD base. BF-7 will be used for pilot and maintainer training at the F-35 Integrated Training Center located at Eglin.



Photo credit: Lockheed Martin Photographer, Randy Crites