
STATUS REPORT JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER

STATUS REPORT JSF, STILL MANY PROBLEMS TO OVERCOME

It was a crucial year for the JSF as the once promising program is now being observed with mixed feelings by the various partners. It's not just this very article that speaks about it, internationally seen there are almost too many reports. The specter of the soaring costs always occurs in ambitious projects and next to that we are also in a time of crisis. In other words, is it still affordable? Furthermore, everyone wonders if he can do what is promised and what the question: 'When will it ever be standing operational in the hangar?' Another aspect always is to ask the public to realize that the JSF is needed so support about the project will maintain.

RECENT DELIVERIES

Much depends on the delivery time and Lockheed-Martin Claimed for 2012 to double it's productivity as Compared to 2011 with 13 pieces to 30 pieces. These 30 pieces were 11 Conventional Take Off and Landing (CTOL) F-35A, 18 Short Takeoff / Vertical Landing (STOVL) F-35B and 1 Carrier Variant (CV) F-35C. Besides the one F-35C variant it were all production aircraft that are supplied to squadrons. The first two F-35B's were shipped to Great Britain and the USMC received it's first three F-35B so tactical operational training at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma Arizona could be commenced. As far as this it all seems to go in the right direction according to the factory.

PRODUCTION RUNS BEHIND

However, it was recently reported That A Turkish decision to purchase the aircraft has been postponed. This seems strange, Because Turkey is a large country with a large airforce where many aircraft are to Be Replaced, and the Turkish own arms industry is flourishing. In 2009 they wanted another 10 aircraft per year from the sixth series production (LRIP6), which was gradually reduced and now delayed. As reason for the delay the Defense Industry Executive Committee mentioned the rising cost and performance. Insiders suggest however, that Turkey waits until the United States show a more obvious course to sail.

It is generally expected that this year a correction will take place on the numbers to purchase. In case the numbers will firmly increase that will implicate that the price per aircraft will rise and that will also concern the foreign participating countries. Not only Turkey is hesitating, Italy last year also decided to reduce it's order for over the half with 40 aircraft. Australia considers to buy another series of Boeing Super Hornets at the expense of the purchase of the F-35. In december 2012 Canada decided to start viewing the total project once again and invited some five manufacturers to compete for an order in a totally new competition. All participating countries have delayed or reduced their orders compared to the original commitments. The reasons are mostly the disappointing test results.
