

Raptor Watch is a bi-weekly report on the F/A-22 program.

Program News:



Col. Frank Gorenc, Commander of the 1st Fighter Wing, thanks the F/A-22 team for producing an aircraft which "will win wars and save lives."

First Production Lot 3 Jet Rolls Off the Final Assembly Line – On October 27, a rollout ceremony was held in Marietta to recognize completion of final assembly on Raptor **4041**, the first production Lot 3 jet, as well as the first Raptor slated for the 27th Fighter Squadron in the 1st Fighter Wing at Langley AFB. Production team members, as well as representatives from the 1st Fighter Wing and the Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) participated in the rollout ceremony.

Raptor 4030 Delivered to the Air Force – Raptor 4030 was contractually delivered to the Air Force on October 30 and ferried to Tyndall Air Force Base on November 2. Tyndall now has 12 Raptors.

F/A-22 Combined Test Force Exceeds 7,000 Flight Hours – On October 27, the F/A-22 Combined Test Force at Edwards AFB surpassed 7,000 flight hours.

Successful JDAM "Ripple Release" – During the first "ripple release" mission on October 26, Raptor **4016** launched two JDAMs (Joint Direct Attack Munitions) on two targets spaced several miles apart. JDAM impact on each target was within lethal range.

Field Service Representative Team in Place at Langley AFB – The F/A-22 Field Service Representative (FSR) contractor team is now in place at Langley AFB and supporting the 27th Fighter Squadron with preparations for the arrival of Raptor **4041** early next year.



Raptor 4016 releases a JDAM during EMD testing

Successful Birdstrike Test on Integrated Fore Body – On October 20, a birdstrike test was successfully conducted on the F/A-22 Integrated Fore Body (IFB) at the University of Dayton Research Institute. No major structural departures occurred during the test – thereby satisfying a requirement that the engines wouldn't incur FOD (foreign object debris) damage in the event of a birdstrike.

Key Activities:

Cockpit Demonstrator Team Supports ACC DO/XP Conference at Tyndall AFB – The F/A-22 cockpit demonstrator team supported the Air Combat Command's Deputy Commander for Operations, Plans and Programs Conference November 3-4 at Tyndall AFB.

Up-Coming Activities:

November 8 – SASC Professional Staffers to Visit Marietta – Senate Armed Services AirLand Subcommittee staffers Creighton Greene and Stan O'Connor will visit Marietta on November 8 for a tour of the F/A-22 production line, flight line, and Air Combat Simulator.

November 13-14 – Nellis Air Show – Raptor team members will support the Nellis Air Show November 13-14. Raptors stationed at Nellis AFB will be on display during the air show.

November 18 – Lt. General Donald Wetekam and Ronald Orr to Visit Marietta – Lt. General Donald Wetekam, Deputy Chief of Staff for Installations and Logistics, and Mr. Ronald Orr, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Environments, and Logistics, will visit Marietta on November 18. During their visit, they will tour F/A-22 facilities and receive program status briefings.

News Coverage:

The New York Times – On November 3, *The New York Times* published a letter to the editor from General Hal Hornburg, Commander, Air Combat Command. In his letter, General Hornburg advised, "Airmen will tell you that current and future air-to-air and surface-to-air threats are real. The F/A-22 Raptor is the key to defeating them. With it, we can strike deep and fast, day or night, paving the way for friendly air, ground and naval forces to operate freely. The F/A-22 flies faster, has greater range, outmaneuvers opponents, gathers and distributes intelligence across the battlefield and will have superb air-to-ground capabilities. It is matched to the new reality we live in, enabling us to face all threats with confidence. In short, the Raptor was designed with future, not past, enemies in mind."

Bloomberg News – In a November 2 article in *Bloomberg News*, the Pentagon's top testing official reported that the F/A-22 has shown "dramatic" improvement in combat testing. Thomas Christie, the Defense Department's director of operational testing, also advised that the Raptor "has shown itself to be an outstanding air-to-air aircraft."