



MEDIA ADVISORY

VERMONT NATIONAL GUARD

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TAG Release 19-25

Tuesday, September 16, 2019

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First Two F-35s Scheduled to Arrive Thursday

The first two of 20 F-35A Lightning II fighter jets are scheduled to arrive in Burlington on Thursday, September 19. The 158th Fighter Wing will be the first National Guard unit to field the F-35A.

"This is such an exciting time for the 158th Fighter Wing, and we are looking forward to sharing it with the community," said Col. David Smith, commander, 158th Fighter Wing. "Two Green Mountain Boy pilots are flying them to Vermont from Fort Worth, Texas, and they can't wait. We have all worked very hard to prepare for this moment, and I assure you our Airmen are ready."

There have been over 420 aircraft delivered to 12 different countries at 19 different bases worldwide. The F-35 has over 205,000 flight hours. More than 850 pilots and over 8,120 maintainers are trained on the F-35 airframe.

"The outstanding legacy of the Vermont Air National Guard is on full display, and we couldn't be prouder of our Airmen," said Brig. Gen. Greg Knight, adjutant general, Vermont National Guard. "It's been a long time coming, and we are thrilled to welcome the F-35 to Vermont. Now, we can get to work on our own Vermont Air National Guard aircraft."

WHO: Governor Phil Scott, Governor of Vermont
Brig. Gen. Greg Knight, Vermont National Guard Adjutant General
Col. David Smith, 158th Fighter Wing Commander
Chief Master Sgt. Darin Mauzy, 158th Fighter Wing Command Chief

WHAT: F-35A Lightning II arrival at the 158th Fighter Wing

WHERE: 158th Fighter Wing, 106 NCO Drive, South Burlington, Vt. 05403

WHEN: Thursday, September 19 from XXXXXXXX

WHY: The arrival of the first two F-35s to Vermont

Please RSVP to 2nd Lt. Chelsea Clark, 158th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Officer, no later than 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 18 @ 802-660-5379, 802-598-4902, or usaf.vt.158-fw.mbx.public-affairs@mail.mil. You must RSVP with your name, affiliation, and a valid photo ID.

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