

EDWARDS F-35A CONDUCTS FIRST EXTERNAL WEAPONS TEST MISSION

FORT WORTH, Texas, Feb. 20, 2012 - On Feb. 16, the first external weapons test mission was flown by an F-35A conventional takeoff and landing (CTOL) aircraft at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., further expanding the program's test flight envelope. The weapons load for this mission involved carrying two air-to-air AIM-9X missiles on the outboard wing stations. In addition, the F-35 carried two internal 2,000-pound guided bombs (GBU-31) and two advanced medium range air-to-air missiles (AIM-120) inside the two internal weapon bays. No weapons were delivered during the mission. The jet also had mounted four external pylons that can carry 2,000-pound air-to-ground weapons. The F-35A is designed to carry up to 18,000 pounds on 10 weapon stations featuring four weapon stations inside two weapon bays, for maximum stealth capability, and an additional three weapon stations on each wing. (Lockheed Martin photos by Paul Weatherman)