

# Short Take-Off and Vertical Landing (STOVL) Joint Strike Fighter (JSF)

## DESCRIPTION

The STOVL JSF is a single-engine, stealthy, supersonic, strike-fighter aircraft capable of short take-offs and vertical landings. Combining the basing flexibility of the AV-8 with the multi-role capabilities, speed, and maneuverability of the F/A-18, the JSF will



fulfill Marine Corps air-to-ground and air-to-air requirements. The aircraft is designed to have a very low radar and infrared signature, and will have survivability, lethality, and supportability characteristics superior to the aircraft it will replace (AV-8B, F/A-18A/C/D).

## OPERATIONAL IMPACT

The STOVL JSF provides a multi-mission offensive air support and an offensive/defensive anti-air capability. The STOVL JSF also provides the MAGTF with a platform capable of tactical air control and tactical reconnaissance. The aircraft also will be able to destroy enemy air defenses. The requirements for this aircraft emphasize readiness, expeditionary capability, combined-arms operations, and the conduct of Expeditionary Maneuver Warfare. STOVL JSF is a key to the success of the TacAir Integration concept.

## PROGRAM STATUS

The STOVL JSF is a joint program with the Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and the United Kingdom. A prime contractor was selected in October 2001 as the program entered the systems development and demonstration phase. In the previous phase, three JSF variants flew: the conventional takeoff and landing variant that the Air Force will use, the carrier variant for the U.S. Navy, and the STOVL variant to be used by the USMC and the United Kingdom (Royal Air Force and Royal Navy). The Marine Corps anticipates first aircraft delivery in FY 2008, with the initial operational capability of the first JSF squadron in FY 2010.

### PROCUREMENT PROFILE: FY03 FY04

Quantity:

0

0

### DEVELOPER/MANUFACTURER

Lockheed Martin/Northrop Grumman/  
British Aerospace Engineering  
Pratt & Whitney/General Electric