

F-22 Industry Team Delivers Last EMD Flight Test Aircraft - Raptor 4009 - To USAF Logistics Test & Evaluation Team

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MARIETTA, Ga.

The Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company, a business area of Lockheed Martin Corporation -led F-22 Raptor industry team today delivered to the U.S. Air Force Raptor 4009, the last flight test aircraft to be produced under the program's Engineering & Manufacturing Development (EMD) phase contract. Over the next nine weeks, Raptor 09 will be subjected to a series of dedicated tests and evaluations designed to validate how easy the F-22 is to maintain and repair.

"During the tests, hundreds of aircraft parts will be removed and re-installed to ensure maintenance instructions for the aircraft meet USAF requirements," said Bob Rearden, Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company vice president and F-22 program general manager. "The test team will also verify the user-friendliness of the Raptor's support equipment, as well as determine that all necessary human factors and environmental safety factors have been considered in the design and production of the F-22."

These logistics tests will be conducted by a team of USAF officials -- including the first group of F-22 maintenance instructors -- supported by contractor personnel, at Lockheed Martin's facility in Marietta, Ga. "This testing was to have been accomplished at the program's Combined Test Facility at Edwards Air Force Base in California," Rearden said. "But the cost savings generated from conducting these tests at Marietta convinced us that doing this here was the smartest path to take."

Conducting the dedicated logistics test and evaluation activities at Marietta rather than Edwards AFB is expected to help the program avoid spending approximately \$500,000 on potentially duplicative efforts necessary to prepare the aircraft for the evaluation exercise and then return it to flight status.

Following the logistics tests, Raptor 09 will begin thorough ground tests in preparation of delivery to Edwards AFB later this summer. Once there, the aircraft will begin flight test operations with the six F-22s already there.

The F-22 Raptor air dominance fighter is built by Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Co., a business unit of Lockheed Martin Corp., in partnership with Boeing, is powered by Pratt and Whitney engines, and is made from parts and subsystems provided by approximately 1,200 subcontractors and suppliers in 46 states. Principle production activities take place at LM Aero facilities in Marietta, Ga., and Fort Worth, Texas, as well as at Boeing's plant in Seattle, Wash. Final assembly and initial flight-testing of the Raptor occurs at the Marietta factory, headquarters for the F-22 program's contractor team.

The Raptor will replace the venerable F-15 Eagle as America's premier front-line fighter jet starting in 2005. The F-22's balanced design of stealth, supercruise speed and super-agility, along with its advanced integrated avionics and overall user-friendliness, will allow the F-22 to help the Pentagon shorten future wars and save American and Allied lives.

Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Co., headquartered in Fort Worth, Texas, is a leader in the design, development, systems integration, production and support of advanced military aircraft and related technologies. Its customers include the military services of the United States and Allied countries throughout the world. Products include the F-16, F-22, Joint Strike Fighter, F-117, C-5, C-27J, C-130, P-3 and U-2.

Headquartered in Bethesda, Md., Lockheed Martin Corp. is a global enterprise principally engaged in the research, design, development, manufacture and integration of advanced technology systems, products and services. Employing about 125,000 people worldwide, Lockheed Martin had 2001 sales of \$24 billion.

The press release below has been posted to the external website at the following URL:
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