# F-35 Advantage CP AFF Answers

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#### F-35 Cant solve, China has better air craft in progress.

JEREMY **PAGE,** Wall Street Journal: A Chinese Stealth Challenge?, 1.5.**11,** http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703808704576061674166905408.html

China's defense ministry and air force couldn't be reached to comment on the latest photos. Even without official confirmation, however, the photographs are likely to bolster concerns among U.S. officials and politicians about China's military modernization, which also includes the imminent deployment of its first aircraft carrier and "carrier-killer" antiship ballistic missiles. Such weapons systems would significantly enhance China's ability to hinder U.S. intervention in a conflict over Taiwan, and challenge U.S. naval supremacy in the Asia-Pacific region. The Chinese prototype looks like it has "the potential to be a competitor with the F-22 and to be decisively superior to the F-35," said Mr. Fisher. The J-20 has two engines, like the F-22, and is about the same size, while the F-35 is smaller and has only one engine.

#### F-35 has had major test-flight flaws.

Jeremiah **Gertler**, F-35 Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) Program, 2.16.**12,** http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/weapons/RL30563.pdf

Although it found “no fundamental design risks,” a November 29, 2011, report by a DOD team identified “13 current or likely test issues of varying severity, the combined impact of which ‘results in a lack of confidence’ in the aircraft’s ‘design stability.’ The issues include the Navy version’s tailhook for aircraft carrier landings, the system for dumping extra fuel before landing and excessive aircraft shaking during flight.”18 The report also noted that the F-35 had “has had more retrofits and changes than planned,”19 and that this rate of design change requests indicated ”low design maturity.” 20

#### F-35 costs a lot of money.

Jeremiah Gertler, F-35 Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) Program, 2.16.12, <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/weapons/RL30563.pdf>

Although the F-35 was conceived as a relatively affordable strike fighter, some observers are concerned that in a situation of constrained DOD resources, F-35s might not be affordable in the annual quantities planned by DOD, at least not without reducing funding for other DOD programs. As the annual production rate of the F-35 increases, the program will require more than $10 billion per year in acquisition funding at the same time that DOD will face other budgetary challenges. The issue of F-35 affordability is part of a larger and long-standing issue concerning the overall affordability of DOD’s tactical aircraft modernization effort, which also includes procurement of F/A-18E/Fs (through FY2012, at least).120 Some observers who are concerned about the affordability of DOD’s desired numbers of F-35s have suggested procuring upgraded F- 16s as complements or substitutes for F-35As for the Air Force, and F/A-18E/Fs as complements or substitutes for F-35Cs for the Navy.121 F-35 supporters argue that F-16s and F/A-18E/Fs are less capable than the F-35, and that the F-35 is designed to have reduced life-cycle costs.

#### Current planes like the F-22 are better than the F-35

Stephen **Trimble,** F-22 vs F-35: no contest, 10.8.**12**, <http://www.flightglobal.com/blogs/the-dewline/2008/10/f22-vs-f35-no-contest.html>

Here's a few examples of how the brief compares the two fighters: The F-22 can turn at twice the rate of an F-35 F-22A in production...F-35A initial operational capability date is 2013...key in considering F-15Cs need to be replaced now 'Apples to Apples' or normalized comparison on unit cost would have to consider equal production quantities. Unit costs based on an F-35 buy of 183 and an F-22 buy of 1763 would result in significantly greater F-35 unit cost than current estimates