

**From:** [Media](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [Media](#)  
**Subject:** 20210215 - Email - [REDACTED] - ABC enquiry F35 - Media  
**Date:** Monday, 15 February 2021 11:15:18 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

## OFFICIAL

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for your clarification.

Defence will endeavour to provide you with a response as soon as possible.

Kind regards,

**Kate**

**Defence Media** | Department of Defence

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M: 02 6127 1999

E: [media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)



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---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 12 February 2021 1:22 PM  
**To:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Re: ABC enquiry F35 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**⚠️ EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe. ⚠️

Hello, the story aims to take a comprehensive look at the F35 program.. from evolution to delivery.

It will look at some of the issues the program has faced in the US, but the purpose of the Williamstown shoot would be to get a perspective from those at the coalface what it's like to fly the plane. I will also reach out to the Minister for comment, so I won't be asking the pilot any political questions, just their personnel experience about the cutting-edge technology.

It is ABC policy, that we don't send through individual questions, however these are the points I'd like to cover, ideally with a pilot.

- What it's like to fly the F35?
- Best thing about it/what it offers that other jets in the fleet don't? How advanced is it?
- How does it strengthen the Airforce's muscle?
- Any other points they feel are relevant

As I mentioned, I will be reaching out to the Minister however let me know if there is also a departmental spokesperson who could also answer some of the broader questions I have.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Friday, 12 February 2021 12:31 PM

**To:** [REDACTED] Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>

**Subject:** RE: ABC enquiry F35 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

Thank you for your enquiry.

To help us try to identify an opportunity for you, are you able to provide further information on what your story is about?

Also, in regards to identifying the appropriate person available for you to interview, are you able to provide some questions? Depending on scheduling, it might not be possible for a pilot to speak with you but there could be someone in the leadership team available.

Kind regards,

Meaghan

**Defence Media** | Department of Defence

E: [media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)

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---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, 12 February 2021 12:44 PM

**To:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>

**Subject:** ABC enquiry F35

 **EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.** 

Hi, I work for the ABC's 7.30 program and I'm putting a story together on the Joint Strike Fighter.

I'd like to suss out the possibility of doing some filming at Williamstown. I'd be keen to interview a pilot about what it's like to fly the F35 and how it compares to previous jets. It would be good to get some overlay of the pilot in the jet. Some overlay of pilot training would also be excellent if that was possible.

If any of this is doable, I'd be keen to do the filming sometime the week starting the 22nd of February. My number is [REDACTED].

Kind regards, [REDACTED]

**From:** s47F [redacted] Kate MISS 2  
**To:** Media  
**Subject:** 20210215 - Email - Media - FOR RAAF ACTION - Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter - 10:00 Thursday 18 February 2021 - s47F [redacted] Kate MISS 2  
**Date:** Monday, 15 February 2021 11:37:01 AM  
**Attachments:** image001.png

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**OFFICIAL**

**Kate** s47F [redacted]  
**Defence Media** | Department of Defence

M: 02 6127 1999  
E: media@defence.gov.au



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---

**From:** [redacted] Daniel MR 1 <daniel.[redacted]@defence.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, 15 February 2021 11:15 AM  
**To:** [redacted], Kate MISS 2 <kate.[redacted]@defence.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR RAAF ACTION - Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter - 10:00 Thursday 18 February 2021 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Hi Kate  
Chasing this.  
Can you go back to [redacted] and ask when it's likely to air?  
Cheers

Dan

**Daniel** [redacted]  
Air Force Strategic Communications Manager, Air Force Headquarters  
s22 [redacted] | daniel.[redacted]@defence.gov.au

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**From:** s47F [redacted], Kate MISS 2 <kate.[redacted]@defence.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, 15 February 2021 10:26 AM  
**To:** RAAF PA <raaf.pa@defence.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Media <media@defence.gov.au>; [redacted], Daniel MR 1 <daniel.[redacted]@defence.gov.au>; s47F [redacted] Cassandra MS <cassandra.s47F [redacted]@defence.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FOR RAAF ACTION - Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter - 10:00 Thursday 18 February 2021 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Good morning RAAF,

Thank you for your time on the phone. As discussed, please see the below interview request for your action.

<b>21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter</b>	
<b>PRIORITY 2</b>	
<b>Deadline to Defence Media:</b>	<b>10:00 Thursday 18 February 2021</b>
<b>Journalist/outlet:</b>	[REDACTED], ABC 7.30
<b>Responsible Group/Service:</b>	RAAF
<b>Final Clearance:</b>	DEPT
<p><b>Question:</b></p> <p>I'm putting a story together on the Joint Strike Fighter. The story aims to take a comprehensive look at the F35 program.. from evolution to delivery.</p> <p>It will look at some of the issues the program has faced in the US, but the purpose of the Williamstown shoot would be to get a perspective from those at the coalface what it's like to fly the plane. I will also reach out to the Minister for comment, so I won't be asking the pilot any political questions, just their personnel experience about the cutting-edge technology.</p> <p>It is ABC policy, that we don't send through individual questions, however these are the points I'd like to cover, ideally with a pilot.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What it's like to fly the F35?</li> <li>• Best thing about it/what it offers that other jets in the fleet don't? How advanced is it?</li> <li>• How does it strengthen the Airforce's muscle?</li> <li>• Any other points they feel are relevant</li> </ul> <p>As I mentioned, I will be reaching out to the Minister however let me know if there is also a departmental spokesperson who could also answer some of the broader questions I have.</p>	
<p><b>Response:</b></p> <p><i>If interview can be facilitated:</i> s47E(d) [REDACTED]</p> <p><i>If interview can't be facilitated:</i> s47E(d) [REDACTED]</p>	
<p><b>Background (Media Team):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nil.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Background (Groups/Services):</b></p> <p><i>It is the responsibility of the business area to provide a brief background into the media topic/issue using the questions as a guide.</i> s47E(d) [REDACTED]</p>	

s47E(d)

CLEARANCES				
	Name	Appointment/Role	Contact Number	Date and Time
s47E(d)				

Kind regards,

**Kate** s47F

**Defence Media** | Department of Defence

M: 02 6127 1999

E: [media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)



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**From:** [Media](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [Media](#)  
**Subject:** 20210215 - Email - [REDACTED] - ABC enquiry F35 - Media  
**Date:** Monday, 15 February 2021 11:39:27 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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## OFFICIAL

Hi [REDACTED]

Are you able to provide us information on when this program is likely to air?

Kind regards,

**Kate**

**Defence Media** | Department of Defence

---

M: 02 6127 1999

E: [media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)



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---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 12 February 2021 1:22 PM  
**To:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Re: ABC enquiry F35 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**⚠ EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe. ⚠**

Hello, the story aims to take a comprehensive look at the F35 program.. from evolution to delivery.

It will look at some of the issues the program has faced in the US, but the purpose of the Williamstown shoot would be to get a perspective from those at the coalface what it's like to fly the plane. I will also reach out to the Minister for comment, so I won't be asking the pilot any political questions, just their personnel experience about the cutting-edge technology.

It is ABC policy, that we don't send through individual questions, however these are the points I'd like to cover, ideally with a pilot.

- What it's like to fly the F35?
- Best thing about it/what it offers that other jets in the fleet don't? How advanced is it?
- How does it strengthen the Airforce's muscle?
- Any other points they feel are relevant

As I mentioned, I will be reaching out to the Minister however let me know if there is also a departmental spokesperson who could also answer some of the broader questions I have.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>

**From:** [Media](#)  
**To:** [\[REDACTED\] Daniel MR 1](#)  
**Cc:** [Media](#)  
**Subject:** 20210215 - Email - [REDACTED], Daniel MR 1 - FOR RAAF ACTION - Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter - 10:00 Thursday 18 February 2021 - Media  
**Date:** Monday, 15 February 2021 11:39:57 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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**OFFICIAL**

Hi Dan,  
Will do. I'll let you know when I receive a response.

Cheers,

**Kate** <sup>s47F</sup> [REDACTED]  
**Defence Media** | Department of Defence

---

M: 02 6127 1999  
E: [media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)



---

**From:** [REDACTED], Daniel MR 1 <[daniel.\[REDACTED\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:daniel.[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Monday, 15 February 2021 11:15 AM  
**To:** <sup>s47F</sup> [REDACTED], Kate MISS 2 <[kate.\[REDACTED\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:kate.[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR RAAF ACTION - Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter - 10:00 Thursday 18 February 2021 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Hi Kate  
Chasing this.  
Can you go back to [REDACTED] and ask when it's likely to air?  
Cheers

Dan

**Daniel** [REDACTED]  
Air Force Strategic Communications Manager, Air Force Headquarters  
<sup>s22</sup> [REDACTED] | [daniel.\[REDACTED\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:daniel.[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au)

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---

**From:** <sup>s47F</sup> [REDACTED], Kate MISS 2 <[kate.\[REDACTED\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:kate.[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Monday, 15 February 2021 10:26 AM  
**To:** RAAF PA <[raaf.pa@defence.gov.au](mailto:raaf.pa@defence.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>; [REDACTED], Daniel MR 1 <[daniel.\[REDACTED\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:daniel.[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au)>; <sup>s47F</sup> [REDACTED], Cassandra MS <[cassandra.\[REDACTED\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:cassandra.[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** FOR RAAF ACTION - Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter - 10:00 Thursday 18 February 2021 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Good morning RAAF,

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Media](#)  
**Cc:** [Media](#)  
**Subject:** 20210215 - Email - Media - ABC enquiry F35 - [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Monday, 15 February 2021 11:46:22 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe. [REDACTED]

The plan is to air it straight after all the components are shot (a fortnight would be absolute minimum from now I think) Obviously we are keen to include the filming at Williamtown though so can be flexible to what suits your schedule.

---

**From:** Media <media@defence.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 15, 2021 11:09 am  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Media  
**Subject:** RE: ABC enquiry F35 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Hi [REDACTED]  
Are you able to provide us information on when this program is likely to air?  
Kind regards,  
**Kate**  
**Defence Media** | Department of Defence

---

M: 02 6127 1999  
E: [media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)



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---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 12 February 2021 1:22 PM  
**To:** Media <media@defence.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Re: ABC enquiry F35 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe. [REDACTED]

Hello, the story aims to take a comprehensive look at the F35 program.. from evolution to delivery.

It will look at some of the issues the program has faced in the US, but the purpose of the Williamtown shoot would be to get a perspective from those at the coalface what it's like to fly the plane. I will also reach out to the Minister for comment, so I won't be asking the pilot any political questions, just their personnel experience about the cutting-edge technology.

It is ABC policy, that we don't send through individual questions, however these are the points I'd like to cover, ideally with a pilot.



**From:** [Media](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED] [Daniel MR 1](#)  
**Cc:** [Media](#)  
**Subject:** 20210215 - Email - [REDACTED] Daniel MR 1 - FOR RAAF ACTION - Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter - 10:00 Thursday 18 February 2021 - Media  
**Date:** Monday, 15 February 2021 11:54:16 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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## OFFICIAL

Hi Dan,  
Just received comms back from [REDACTED]  
Her plan is to air straight after all components are shot. The minimum time before airing is a fortnight from now.  
They are keen to include the filming at Williamstown so have said they can be flexible with what suits other schedules.

Cheers,

Kate <sup>s47F</sup> [REDACTED]

**Defence Media** | Department of Defence

---

M: 02 6127 1999  
E: [media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)



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**From:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Monday, 15 February 2021 11:40 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED] Daniel MR 1 <[daniel@\[REDACTED\]defence.gov.au](mailto:daniel@[REDACTED]defence.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR RAAF ACTION - Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter - 10:00 Thursday 18 February 2021 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

## OFFICIAL

Hi Dan,  
Will do. I'll let you know when I receive a response.  
Cheers,

Kate <sup>s47F</sup> [REDACTED]

**Defence Media** | Department of Defence

---

M: 02 6127 1999  
E: [media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)



---

**From:** [REDACTED], Daniel MR 1 <[danie@\[REDACTED\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:danie@[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Monday, 15 February 2021 11:15 AM  
**To:** <sup>s47F</sup> [REDACTED] Kate MISS 2 <[kate@\[REDACTED\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:kate@[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR RAAF ACTION - Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter - 10:00 Thursday 18 February 2021 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

## Hatherley, Rosemary MS 2

---

**From:** [REDACTED] Daniel MR 1  
**Sent:** Thursday, 18 February 2021 11:05 AM  
**To:** s47F [REDACTED], Catherine AVM  
**Cc:** s47F [REDACTED], Dominique SQNLDR; s47F [REDACTED], Stephanie MISS; RAAF MLO; RAAF PA  
**Subject:** 210218:1104 - [REDACTED] Daniel MR 1]- s47F [REDACTED] Catherine AVM] 7.30 report  
**Attachments:** 20210217 - IV Request - 7.30 Report F-35A.docx

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Action - DC

### OFFICIAL

Good morning Ma'am

OMINDEF will have serious investment in this piece. At Steph's request, I spoke to Dom about you flagging this issue with s47F [REDACTED] in your conversation with s47F [REDACTED] today. I have attached the document with your notes thoughts included for reference.

SOCAP has advised CAF will be unlikely to review until COB.

I'll be providing an update to MECC this morning.

Kind regards

**Daniel** [REDACTED]  
Air Force Strategic Communications Manager, Air Force Headquarters

s22 [REDACTED] | [daniel.\[REDACTED\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:daniel.[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au)

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## Hatherley, Rosemary MS 2

---

**From:** s47F Daniel MR 1  
**Sent:** Friday, 19 February 2021 4:36 PM  
**To:** Media  
**Cc:** s47F Cassandra MS; 464SQN Military Public Affairs; RAAF PA  
**Subject:** 210219:1635 - s47F Daniel MR 1]-[Media] FOR RAAF ACTION - Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter - 10:00 Thursday 18 February 2021

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed  
**Categories:** Action - DC

### OFFICIAL

Good afternoon all

The Chief is discussing this with OMINDEF in a teleconference on Monday.

Due to the nature of the matter I am unable to provide reliable timeframes at this time. This is top priority for us.

Cheers

Dan

Daniel s47F  
Air Force Strategic Communications Manager, Air Force Headquarters

s22 | [daniel.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:daniel.s47F@defence.gov.au)

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---

**From:** s47F Daniel MR 1  
**Sent:** Friday, 19 February 2021 1:57 PM  
**To:** Media  
**Cc:** s47F Cassandra MS ; 464SQN Military Public Affairs ; RAAF PA  
**Subject:** RE: FOR RAAF ACTION - Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter - 10:00 Thursday 18 February 2021 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

### OFFICIAL

Good afternoon Media

As discussed, Chief of Air Force wishes to discuss this further and has not approved the response.

He has requested a meeting at 1430h.

Cheers

Dan

**Daniel** [redacted]  
Air Force Strategic Communications Manager, Air Force Headquarters

s22 [redacted] | [daniel.\[redacted\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:daniel.[redacted]@defence.gov.au)

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---

**From:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 19 February 2021 12:07 PM  
**To:** [redacted] Daniel MR 1 <[daniel.\[redacted\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:daniel.[redacted]@defence.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** s47F [redacted] Cassandra MS <[cassandra.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:cassandra.s47F@defence.gov.au)>; 464SQN Military Public Affairs <[464sqn.militarypublicaffairs@defence.gov.au](mailto:464sqn.militarypublicaffairs@defence.gov.au)>; RAAF PA <[raaf.pa@defence.gov.au](mailto:raaf.pa@defence.gov.au)>; Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR RAAF ACTION - Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter - 10:00 Thursday 18 February 2021 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

## OFFICIAL

Thanks Dan,

Appreciate you following up.

Cheers,

**Kate** s47F [redacted]  
**Defence Media** | Department of Defence

---

M: 02 6127 1999  
E: [media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)

Defending Australia and its National Interests  
[www.defence.gov.au](http://www.defence.gov.au)



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---

**From:** [redacted], Daniel MR 1 <[daniel.\[redacted\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:daniel.[redacted]@defence.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 19 February 2021 11:33 AM  
**To:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** s47F [redacted] Cassandra MS <[cassandra.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:cassandra.s47F@defence.gov.au)>; 464SQN Military Public Affairs <[464sqn.militarypublicaffairs@defence.gov.au](mailto:464sqn.militarypublicaffairs@defence.gov.au)>; RAAF PA <[raaf.pa@defence.gov.au](mailto:raaf.pa@defence.gov.au)>

**Subject:** RE: FOR RAAF ACTION - Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter - 10:00 Thursday 18 February 2021 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Hi mate

It's still with CAF.

I'll get in touch with SOCAF.

Cheers

Dan

**Daniel** [redacted]  
Air Force Strategic Communications Manager, Air Force Headquarters

s22 [redacted] | [daniel\[redacted\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:daniel[redacted]@defence.gov.au)

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---

**From:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 19 February 2021 11:25 AM  
**To:** [redacted] Daniel MR 1 <[daniel\[redacted\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:daniel[redacted]@defence.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** s47F [redacted] Cassandra MS <[cassandra\[redacted\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:cassandra[redacted]@defence.gov.au)>; 464SQN Military Public Affairs <[464sqn.militarypublicaffairs@defence.gov.au](mailto:464sqn.militarypublicaffairs@defence.gov.au)>; Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>; RAAF PA <[raaf.pa@defence.gov.au](mailto:raaf.pa@defence.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR RAAF ACTION - Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter - 10:00 Thursday 18 February 2021 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Hi Dan,

Just checking how you're tracking with this one noting it was due at 1000 today?

Ack. that you came and spoke to Nat and I about the sensitivities around it.

Kind regards,  
**Kate** s47F [redacted]  
**Defence Media** | Department of Defence

---

M: 02 6127 1999  
E: [media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)



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---

**From:** [REDACTED], Daniel MR 1 <[daniel.\[REDACTED\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:daniel.[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 18 February 2021 12:17 PM  
**To:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>; RAAF PA <[raaf.pa@defence.gov.au](mailto:raaf.pa@defence.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** s47F [REDACTED] Cassandra MS <[cassandra.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:cassandra.s47F@defence.gov.au)>; 464SQN Military Public Affairs <[464sqn.militarypublicaffairs@defence.gov.au](mailto:464sqn.militarypublicaffairs@defence.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR RAAF ACTION - Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter - 10:00 Thursday 18 February 2021 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Hi Kate

s47F [REDACTED]

I'm liaising with senior staff about this one. I'm coming to speak with Nat after she gets out of Directors.

Cheers

Dan

**Daniel** [REDACTED]  
Air Force Strategic Communications Manager, Air Force Headquarters

s22 [REDACTED] | [daniel.\[REDACTED\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:daniel.[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au)

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**From:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 18 February 2021 10:12 AM  
**To:** RAAF PA <[raaf.pa@defence.gov.au](mailto:raaf.pa@defence.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** s47F [REDACTED] Cassandra MS <[cassandra.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:cassandra.s47F@defence.gov.au)>; [REDACTED], Daniel MR 1 <[daniel.\[REDACTED\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:daniel.[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au)>; 464SQN Military Public Affairs <[464sqn.militarypublicaffairs@defence.gov.au](mailto:464sqn.militarypublicaffairs@defence.gov.au)>; Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR RAAF ACTION - Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter - 10:00 Thursday 18 February 2021 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Good morning Ange,

We are happy to extend that deadline. Appreciate your response by **1000h Friday 19 February 2021**.

As you are pulling together information, can you also provide what relevant messaging/TPs will be weaved into these open points (linking back to FSP, opportunities with capability etc.) for if we need higher clearance:

- How does it strengthen the Airforce's muscle?
- Any other points they feel are relevant

Kind regards,

**Kate** <sup>s47F</sup>  
**Defence Media** | Department of Defence

M: 02 6127 1999

E: [media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)

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---

**From:** <sup>s47F</sup> Angela FLTLT <[angela.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:angela.s47F@defence.gov.au)> **On Behalf Of** RAAF PA  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 17 February 2021 5:23 PM  
**To:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** <sup>s47F</sup> Cassandra MS <[cassandra.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:cassandra.s47F@defence.gov.au)>; RAAF PA <[raaf.pa@defence.gov.au](mailto:raaf.pa@defence.gov.au)>; <sup>s47F</sup>, Daniel MR 1 <[danie.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:danie.s47F@defence.gov.au)>; 464SQN Military Public Affairs <[464sqn.militarypublicaffairs@defence.gov.au](mailto:464sqn.militarypublicaffairs@defence.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR RAAF ACTION - Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter - 10:00 Thursday 18 February 2021 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

## OFFICIAL

**Hi Media,** <sup>s47F</sup> this one still requires further consultation, and ultimately requires clearance <sup>s47E(d)</sup>  
<sup>s47F</sup> As such, to facilitate this process request an extension to 1000 h Fri 19 Feb.

**Ange T-S**

---

**Angela** <sup>s47F</sup>  
Flight Lieutenant  
SO3 Public Affairs – Air Force Headquarters  
RAAF Public Affairs

(02) 626 55692 | <sup>s22</sup> | R1-6-C041 | Russell Offices, RUSSELL, ACT, 2610

**Royal Australian Air Force**  
Chief of Staff Branch - Air Force Headquarters



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From: [REDACTED], Kate MISS 2 <kate.[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au>  
Sent: Monday, 15 February 2021 10:26 AM  
To: RAAF PA <raaf.pa@defence.gov.au>  
Cc: Media <media@defence.gov.au>; [REDACTED] Daniel MR 1 <daniel.[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au>; [REDACTED] Cassandra MS <cassandra.[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au>  
Subject: FOR RAAF ACTION - Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter - 10:00 Thursday 18 February 2021 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Good morning RAAF,

Thank you for your time on the phone. As discussed, please see the below interview request for your action.

**21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter**

**PRIORITY 2**

**Deadline to Defence Media:** 10:00 Thursday 18 February 2021

**Journalist/outlet:** [REDACTED], ABC 7.30

**Responsible Group/Service:** RAAF

**Final Clearance:** DEPT

**Question:**

I'm putting a story together on the Joint Strike Fighter. The story aims to take a comprehensive look at the F35 program.. from evolution to delivery.

It will look at some of the issues the program has faced in the US, but the purpose of the Williamstown shoot would be to get a perspective from those at the coalface what it's like to fly the plane. I will also reach out to the Minister for comment, so I won't be asking the pilot any political questions, just their personnel experience about the cutting-edge technology.

It is ABC policy, that we don't send through individual questions, however these are the points I'd like to cover, ideally with a pilot.

- What it's like to fly the F35?
- Best thing about it/what it offers that other jets in the fleet don't? How advanced is it?
- How does it strengthen the Airforce's muscle?
- Any other points they feel are relevant

As I mentioned, I will be reaching out to the Minister however let me know if there is also a departmental spokesperson who could also answer some of the broader questions I have.

**Response:**

*If interview can be facilitated:*

- [REDACTED]

*If interview can't be facilitated:*

- [REDACTED]



## Hatherley, Rosemary MS 2

---

**From:** s47F Stephanie MISS on behalf of RAAF MLO  
**Sent:** Friday, 19 February 2021 5:51 PM  
**To:** s47F  
**Cc:** RAAF MLO; s47F Sandy GPCAPT; RAAF PA; s47F Sarah WGCDR  
**Subject:** 210219:1751 - [RAAF MLO]- s47F DISCUSSION: 7:30 report  
Interview Request

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed  
**Categories:** Action - DC

### OFFICIAL

Good afternoon s47F

As discussed earlier today, the Chief of Air Force would like to speak with you in relation to a request from the ABC's 7:30 Report for an interview in relation to the F-35A.

I have been advised by OCAF that Air Marshal Hupfeld, Chief of Air Force, will contact you between 12:00 and 13:00 Monday 22 February 2021.

If you require further information prior to this call, feel free to contact me.

Thanks,

Steph

---

**Stephanie** s47F  
A/Deputy Director  
Ministerial Liaison Office – Air Force  
Directorate Strategic Issues Management

(02) 5108 5493 | R1-6-C029 | Russell Offices, RUSSELL, ACT, 2610

Group Mailbox: [RAAF MLO](#) Website: [Ministerial Liaison Office](#)

---

**Royal Australian Air Force**  
Chief of Staff Branch - Air Force Headquarters



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## Hatherley, Rosemary MS 2

---

**From:** [REDACTED] Daniel MR 1 on behalf of RAAF PA  
**Sent:** Monday, 22 February 2021 4:38 PM  
**To:** Media  
**Cc:** RAAF PA; s47F [REDACTED] Sarah WGCDR; s47F [REDACTED], Alesha SQNLDR; s47F [REDACTED], Sandy GPCAPT  
**Subject:** 210222:1638 - [RAAF PA]-[Media] FOR RAAF ACTION - Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter - 10:00 Thursday 18 February 2021

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Action - DC

**OFFICIAL**

**OFFICIAL**

Good afternoon

The following response has been approved by Chief of Air Force:

---

Air Force is excited at the prospect of working with the 7.30 Report to tell the story of the F-35A

Before Defence can give final approval for Air Force participation, leadership would like a creative brief to understand the flow of the story. As operators of the capability, Air Force would like to understand how best it can work with the 7.30 Report to get an accurate and balanced story on the F-35A.

Subject to that being provided Air Force is will seek to facilitate on camera interviews with:

- A pilot – to discuss their experience training, flying and fighting the aircraft
- A senior officer (potentially Chief of Air Force) - to speak to the strategic value of the F-35A to the defence of Australian national interests

Air Force would also be happy to assist where it can on factual information regarding the F-35A program.

Finally, Air Force is very keen that public debate about its work is healthy and well informed. Air Force *requests* an opportunity to review *factual* claims in the story so that we can eliminate inaccuracies. Air Force will not ask for changes to tone or editorial content.

---

Cheers

Dan

**Daniel** [REDACTED]  
Air Force Strategic Communications Manager, Air Force Headquarters

s22 [REDACTED] | [danie\[REDACTED\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:danie[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au)

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---

**From:** s47F Sarah WGCDR  
**Sent:** Monday, 22 February 2021 2:28 PM  
**To:** RAAF PA  
**Subject:** RE: FOR RAAF ACTION - Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter - 10:00 Thursday 18 February 2021 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Dan,

s47E(d)

Otherwise good to go!

Kind Regards

Sarah s47F  
Wing Commander  
Staff Officer to Chief of Air Force

Landline: 02 62655479 | UC: s22 | Mb: s22 | Email: [sarah.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:sarah.s47F@defence.gov.au)

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---

**From** Daniel MR 1 <[daniel.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:daniel.s47F@defence.gov.au)> **On Behalf Of** RAAF PA  
**Sent:** Monday, 22 February 2021 1:32 PM  
**To:** s47F Sarah WGCDR <[sarah.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:sarah.s47F@defence.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** RAAF PA <[raaf.pa@defence.gov.au](mailto:raaf.pa@defence.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR RAAF ACTION - Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter - 10:00 Thursday 18 February 2021 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Hi Sarah

s47E(d)



**Daniel** 

Air Force Strategic Communications Manager, Air Force Headquarters

s22  | [daniel@defence.gov.au](mailto:daniel@defence.gov.au)



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---

**From:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Friday, 19 February 2021 2:31 PM

**To:**  Daniel MR 1 <[daniel@defence.gov.au](mailto:daniel@defence.gov.au)>

**Cc:** s47F  Cassandra MS <[cassandra@defence.gov.au](mailto:cassandra@defence.gov.au)> s47F  @defence.gov.au; 464SQN Military Public Affairs <[464sqn.militarypublicaffairs@defence.gov.au](mailto:464sqn.militarypublicaffairs@defence.gov.au)>; RAAF PA <[raaf.pa@defence.gov.au](mailto:raaf.pa@defence.gov.au)>; Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>

**Subject:** RE: FOR RAAF ACTION - Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter - 10:00 Thursday 18 February 2021 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Ack. Thanks Dan.

Appreciate the update.

Cheers,

Kate s47F  
Defence Media | Department of Defence

M: 02 6127 1999  
E: [media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)

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---

**From:** Daniel MR 1 <[daniel.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:daniel.s47F@defence.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 19 February 2021 1:57 PM  
**To:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** s47F s, Cassandra MS <[cassandra.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:cassandra.s47F@defence.gov.au)>; 464SQN Military Public Affairs <[464sqn.militarypublicaffairs@defence.gov.au](mailto:464sqn.militarypublicaffairs@defence.gov.au)>; RAAF PA <[raaf.pa@defence.gov.au](mailto:raaf.pa@defence.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR RAAF ACTION - Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter - 10:00 Thursday 18 February 2021 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

## OFFICIAL

Good afternoon Media

As discussed, Chief of Air Force wishes to discuss this further and has not approved the response.

He has requested a meeting at 1430h.

Cheers

Dan

**Daniel** s47F  
Air Force Strategic Communications Manager, Air Force Headquarters

s22 s47F | [daniel.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:daniel.s47F@defence.gov.au)

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---

**From:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 19 February 2021 12:07 PM  
**To:** Daniel MR 1 <[daniel.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:daniel.s47F@defence.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** s47F Cassandra MS <[cassandra.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:cassandra.s47F@defence.gov.au)>; 464SQN Military Public Affairs <[464sqn.militarypublicaffairs@defence.gov.au](mailto:464sqn.militarypublicaffairs@defence.gov.au)>; RAAF PA <[raaf.pa@defence.gov.au](mailto:raaf.pa@defence.gov.au)>; Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>

**From:** s47F [redacted] [Claire MS](#)  
**To:** [Media](#)  
**Subject:** 20210222 - Email - Media - FOR CG CLEARANCE: Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter - UPDATED - s47F [redacted] Claire MS  
**Date:** Monday, 22 February 2021 4:57:03 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

**OFFICIAL**

Thanks Kate – all good.

s47E(d) [redacted]

Cheers

Claire

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**From:** Media <media@defence.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, 22 February 2021 4:41 PM  
**To:** s47F [redacted] MS <claire.s47F [redacted]@defence.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Media <media@defence.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FW: FOR CG CLEARANCE: Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter - UPDATED [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Hi Claire,

Please see below a proposed an updated response to the media enquiry from [redacted] at ABC 7.30 regarding an interview with a Joint Strike Fighter pilot.

**Priority 2**

**Current Clearance:** CAF, Air Marshal Mel Hupfeld

**Final Clearance:** DEPT

**Proposed Response:**

//

s47E(d) [redacted]

//

Kind regards,

**Kate**

**Defence Media** | Department of Defence

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## Hatherley, Rosemary MS 2

---

**From:** Media  
**Sent:** Thursday, 25 February 2021 3:30 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] Daniel MR 1  
**Cc:** Media; RAAF PA  
**Subject:** 210225:1529 - [Media]- [REDACTED] Daniel MR 1] Finalised media enquiry: Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Action - DC

### OFFICIAL

Hi Dan,

I have received comms back from [REDACTED] information is below, s47F [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] however [REDACTED] was unable to provide anything further.

*If there are specific issues you want addressed, please send them through so I can tailor a response. Broadly, the issues we plan to discuss in the story are already in the public domain.*

*Unfortunately, we do not provide such detail for any stories we put together for 7.30. I think you'd appreciate the ABC must maintain editorial independence, and our audience would judge us harshly if we provided the level of detail you're after.*

*As I mentioned in my previous email though, we would like to speak to a pilot to get a first-hand account of what the F35 is like, while also analysing issues the program has faced, which are all on the public record.*

*Also note that 7.30 has the most robust fact checking process. We will be providing you with right of reply to all issues raised in the story.*

*We are very keen to film at Williamstown and hope that you will agree to participate in the story.*

In one of her previous emails she also gave this description which may be of use:

*The story aims to take a comprehensive look at the F35 program.. from evolution to delivery.*

*It will look at some of the issues the program has faced in the US, but the purpose of the Williamstown shoot would be to get a perspective from those at the coalface what it's like to fly the plane. I will also reach out to the Minister for comment, so I won't be asking the pilot any political questions, just their personnel experience about the cutting-edge technology.*

*It is ABC policy, that we don't send through individual questions, however these are the points I'd like to cover, ideally with a pilot.*

- *What it's like to fly the F35?*
- *Best thing about it/what it offers that other jets in the fleet don't? How advanced is it?*
- *How does it strengthen the Airforce's muscle?*
- *Any other points they feel are relevant*

*As I mentioned, I will be reaching out to the Minister however let me know if there is also a departmental spokesperson who could also answer some of the broader questions I have.*

If there is any further information or specific questions you want to ask her please let me know and I will liaise with her.

Kind regards,

Kate s47F

Defence Media | Department of Defence

M: 02 6127 1999

E: [media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)

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**From:** s47F Daniel MR 1  
**Sent:** Thursday, 25 February 2021 3:25 PM  
**To:** Media  
**Subject:** RE: Finalised media enquiry: Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter [SEC=OFFICIAL]

### OFFICIAL

Any response from the journo?

**Daniel** s47F  
Air Force Strategic Communications Manager, Air Force Headquarters

s22 | [daniel.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:daniel.s47F@defence.gov.au)

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**From:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Monday, 22 February 2021 5:20 PM  
**To:** RAAF PA <[raaf.pa@defence.gov.au](mailto:raaf.pa@defence.gov.au)>; s47F Daniel MR 1 <[daniel.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:daniel.s47F@defence.gov.au)>; s47F Cassandra MS <[cassandra.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:cassandra.s47F@defence.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>; s47F Paulina MS <[paulina.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:paulina.s47F@defence.gov.au)>; s47F Kenny MR <[kenny.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:kenny.s47F@defence.gov.au)>; s47F Alexandra MS <[alexandra.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:alexandra.s47F@defence.gov.au)>; s47F Rowena MS <[rowena.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:rowena.s47F@defence.gov.au)>; s47F Adrian MR <[adrian.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:adrian.s47F@defence.gov.au)>; s47F Charlotte MS <[charlotte.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:charlotte.s47F@defence.gov.au)>; s47F Peter MR <[peter.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:peter.s47F@defence.gov.au)>; COVID19 TF Policy <[covid19tfpolicy@dpe.protected.mil.au](mailto:covid19tfpolicy@dpe.protected.mil.au)>; s47F David CAPT <[david.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:david.s47F@defence.gov.au)>; s47F Jenny CAPT - RAN <[jenny.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:jenny.s47F@defence.gov.au)>; s47F John MR <[john.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:john.s47F@defence.gov.au)>; DLO ALL <[dloall@dpe.protected.mil.au](mailto:dloall@dpe.protected.mil.au)>; s47F Sam MR <[sam.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:sam.s47F@defence.gov.au)>; s47F Rachael MS <[rachael.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:rachael.s47F@defence.gov.au)>; s47F Emma MS <[emma.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:emma.s47F@defence.gov.au)>; s47F Claire MS <[claire.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:claire.s47F@defence.gov.au)>; s47F Amelia MS <[amelia.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:amelia.s47F@defence.gov.au)>; s47F Bronwyn MRS <[bronwyn.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:bronwyn.s47F@defence.gov.au)>; s47F Lisa MS <[lisa.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:lisa.s47F@defence.gov.au)>; s47F Erica MS 1 <[erica.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:erica.s47F@defence.gov.au)>; s47F Rebecca MS <[rebecca.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:rebecca.s47F@defence.gov.au)>; s47F Nicky MS <[nicky.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:nicky.s47F@defence.gov.au)>; s47F Robin MS



<robin.s47F@defence.gov.au>; Bree MRS <bree.s47F@defence.gov.au>; Emma FLTLT  
 <emma.s47F@defence.gov.au>; Lisa MS 1 <lisa.s47F@defence.gov.au>; Tom MR 1  
 <tom.s47F@defence.gov.au>; Yaeli MS <yaeli.s47F@defence.gov.au>; Angela MRS  
 <angela.s47F@defence.gov.au>; Natasha COL <natasha.s47F@defence.gov.au>; Emily MS  
 <emily.s47F@defence.gov.au>; Joseph MR 2 <joseph.s47F2@defence.gov.au>; Stephanie  
 MRS <stephanie.s47F@defence.gov.au>; MECC-CC Comms Advisors Regional <mecc-  
 cccommsadvisorsregional@dpe.protected.mil.au>; MECC-MC-Directors-All <mecc-mc-directors-  
 all@dpe.protected.mil.au>; Lindsay MRS <lindsay.s47F@defence.gov.au>; Desmond LCDR  
 <desmond.s47F@defence.gov.au>; Anna MS 2 <anna.s47F@defence.gov.au>;  
 Natalie MRS <natalie.s47F@defence.gov.au>; Damien  
 CAPT <damien.s47F@defence.gov.au>; Sandra CAPT <sandra.s47F@defence.gov.au>;  
 Tanalee LEUT <tanalee.s47F@defence.gov.au>; Laura MS 1  
 <laura.s47F1@defence.gov.au>; Benjamin MR 1 <benjamin.s47F1@defence.gov.au>; Natalie  
 MS <natalie.s47F@defence.gov.au>; Paige MISS <paige.s47F@defence.gov.au>; Sally MS  
 <sally.s47F@defence.gov.au>; Kirsty MISS <kirsty.s47F@defence.gov.au>; Sandy GPCAPT  
 <sandy.s47F@defence.gov.au>;

Subject: Finalised media enquiry: Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter [SEC=OFFICIAL]

## OFFICIAL

Good afternoon,

FYSA the response has been provided to ABC 7.30 about an interview with a Joint Strike Fighter pilot.

This response was cleared by Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Mel Hupfeld.

Thank you for your work on this enquiry.

Kind regards,

Kate.s47F  
 Defence Media | Department of Defence

M: 02 6127 1999

E: [media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)

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From: Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>  
 Sent: Monday, 22 February 2021 5:16 PM  
 To:   
 Cc: Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>  
 Subject: RE: ABC enquiry F35 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

## OFFICIAL

Good afternoon

Thank you for your email, please see the below response to your enquiry.

//

Defence is excited at the prospect of working with ABC 7.30 to tell the story of the F-35A.

Before Defence can give final approval for Air Force participation, leadership would like a creative brief to understand the flow of the story. As operators of the capability, Air Force would like to understand how best it can work with the 7.30 Report to get an accurate and balanced story on the F-35A.

Subject to that being provided Air Force will seek to facilitate on camera interviews with:

- A pilot – to discuss their experience training, flying and fighting the aircraft
- A senior officer (potentially Chief of Air Force) - to speak to the strategic value of the F-35A to the defence of Australian national interests

Air Force would also be happy to assist where it can on factual information regarding the F-35A program.

Finally, Air Force is very keen that public debate about its work is healthy and well informed. Air Force *requests* an opportunity to review *factual* claims in the story so that we can eliminate inaccuracies. Air Force will not ask for changes to tone or editorial content.

//

Kind regards,

**Kate**  
**Defence Media** | Department of Defence

M: 02 6127 1999

E: [media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)

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---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 12 February 2021 12:44 PM  
**To:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** ABC enquiry F35

**⚠ EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe. ⚠

Hi, I work for the ABC's 7.30 program and I'm putting a story together on the Joint Strike Fighter.

I'd like to suss out the possibility of doing some filming at Williamstown. I'd be keen to interview a pilot about what it's like to fly the F35 and how it compares to previous jets. It would be good to get some overlay of the pilot in the jet. Some overlay of pilot training would also be excellent if that was possible.

If any of this is doable, I'd be keen to do the filming sometime the week starting the 22nd of February. My number is [REDACTED].

Kind regards, [REDACTED]

## Hatherley, Rosemary MS 2

---

**From:** Media  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 10 March 2021 11:33 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED], Daniel MR 1  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] Fiona MS; [REDACTED] s47F, Sandy GPCAPT; RAAF PA; [REDACTED] s47F Sarah WGCDR  
**Subject:** 210310:1133 - [Media]- [REDACTED] Daniel MR 1] Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Action - DC

### OFFICIAL

Hi Dan,

As discussed, I've spoken to the producer at ABB 730 and learned some more about their request.

ABC would like to:

- Interview a pilot or some somebody who works with the aircraft on a daily basis to understand their thoughts on the aircraft;
- Interview someone appropriately senior to discuss potentially the broader strategic issues; and
- Capture appropriate b-roll of the aircraft up close – this could be filmed separately to the interviews.

The producer advises that without Defence cooperation it will be hard to present a balanced story. Beyond this, the producer did not want to discuss much more of the story to preserve the integrity of their reporting.

ABC would like a response as to whether we can facilitate any interviews/b-roll access within the next two weeks.

Is RAAF able to generate a plan on a page with appropriate spokespersons, TPs, risks/mitigations etc. that we can present up to OSEC/OCDF and OMINDEF for clearance? The more robust the plan the greater chance we have of getting this across the line.

Kind Regards,

**Kyle** [REDACTED] s47F | Communication Officer  
**Defence Media** | Department of Defence

---

P: 02 5130 4192 M: [REDACTED] s22  
Alternate E: [media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)

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**From:** [REDACTED], Daniel MR 1  
**Sent:** Friday, 5 March 2021 11:03 AM  
**To:** s47F [REDACTED] Kyle MR 1  
**Cc:** [REDACTED], Fiona MS s47F [REDACTED] Sandy GPCAPT ; RAAF PA ; s47F [REDACTED] Sarah WGCDR  
**Subject:** Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter [SEC=OFFICIAL]

## OFFICIAL

Afternoon Kyle

As discussed, I don't want us to lose sight of this story.

**BLUF:** 7.30 Report is doing a story on the F-35A – s47F [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] it can only be improved with our participation. However, we are awaiting advice from the Minister's office on how to proceed.

### Timeline:

- 7.30 report filed a request to interview a pilot for a story they are doing on the F-35A (see attached email)
- Chief of Air Force spoke with OMINDEF to discuss the merits of our participation
- Air Force responded with advice that we would be:
  - o Happy to assist with factual advice
  - o Provide a pilot to interview
  - o Provide a Senior Officer to speak to the F-35A's strategic value
  - o Request a review of the final product so we could provide factual recommendations
- Before this could be considered, Air Force requested an understanding of the creative concept
- The journalist wrote back and advised no further information could be provided as per their ethical standards, however Air Force would of course have right of reply

### Action:

s47F [REDACTED] We need advice about our participation at this point. If they are comfortable with us proceeding, I want us to reach out to the journalist to ensure the story does not get away from us.

Cheers

Dan

**Daniel** [REDACTED]  
Air Force Strategic Communications Manager, Air Force Headquarters

s22 [REDACTED] | [daniel\[REDACTED\]1@defence.gov.au](mailto:daniel[REDACTED]1@defence.gov.au)

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**From:** [redacted] [Daniel MR 1](#)  
**To:** [Media](#)  
**Subject:** 20210315 - Email - Media - Finalised media enquiry: Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter - [redacted] Daniel MR 1  
**Date:** Monday, 15 March 2021 10:17:11 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

**OFFICIAL**

Hi mate  
Drafting now  
Give me a few minutes.

Dan

**Danie** [redacted]

Air Force Strateg[redacted]mmunications Manager, Air Force Headquarters

s22 [redacted] | [daniel \[redacted\] defence.gov.au](#)

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---

**From:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 12 March 2021 2:56 PM  
**To:** [redacted] Daniel MR 1 <[daniel.\[redacted\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:daniel.[redacted]@defence.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Finalised media enquiry: Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter  
[SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Hi Dan,  
Do you have any updates on the Joint Strike Fighter ABC 7.30 IV request?

Kind regards,

**Kate** s47F [redacted]

**Defence Media** | Department of Defence

---

M: 02 6127 1999  
E: [media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)



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---

**From:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 25 February 2021 4:17 PM  
**To:** [redacted] Daniel MR 1 <[daniel \[redacted\] defence.gov.au](mailto:daniel [redacted] defence.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Finalised media enquiry: Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter  
[SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Ack, thanks Dan, I'll let her know!

Cheers,

**Kate** s47F [redacted]

**Defence Media** | Department of Defence

---

M: 02 6127 1999  
E: [media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)

**From:** Media  
**To:** s47F Nicky MS  
**Cc:** s47F Natalie MRS; s47F Tom MR 1; s47F Bronwyn MRS; s47F Amelia MS; s47F Emma MS; s47F Paul MR; Media; s47F Alexandra MS  
**Subject:** 20210317 - Email - s47F Nicky MS - MEDIA ENQUIRY: Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter - Media  
**Date:** Wednesday, 17 March 2021 1:51:39 PM  
**Attachments:** image001.png

---

## OFFICIAL

Thank you Nicky,  
We will ensure these points are communicated to RAAF.  
Kind regards,  
**Kate** s47F  
**Defence Media** | Department of Defence

M: 02 6127 1999  
E: [media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)



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---

**From:** s47F Nicky MS <nicky.s47F@defence.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 17 March 2021 1:16 PM  
**To:** Media <media@defence.gov.au>; s47F Alexandra MS <alexandra.s47F@defence.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s47F Natalie MRS <natalie.s47F@defence.gov.au>; s47F Tom MR 1 <tom.s47F@defence.gov.au>; s47F Bronwyn MRS <bronwyn.s47F@defence.gov.au>; s47F Amelia MS <amelia.s47F@defence.gov.au>; s47F I, Emma MS <emma.s47F@defence.gov.au>; s47F , Paul MR <paul.s47F@defence.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: MEDIA ENQUIRY: Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter [SEC=OFFICIAL]

## OFFICIAL

Hi team,  
This is cleared provided Air Force undertakes extensive preparation as outline below, and that the interviews occur s47E(d)  
Thanks,  
Nicky

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**From:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Monday, 15 March 2021 11:32 AM  
**To:** s47F Nicky MS <[nicky.hamer@defence.gov.au](mailto:nicky.hamer@defence.gov.au)>; s47F , Alexandra MS <[alexandra.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:alexandra.s47F@defence.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>; s47F , Natalie MRS <[natalie.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:natalie.s47F@defence.gov.au)>; s47F , Tom MR 1 <[tom.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:tom.s47F@defence.gov.au)>; s47F Bronwyn MRS <[bronwyn.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:bronwyn.s47F@defence.gov.au)>; s47F , Amelia MS <[amelia.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:amelia.s47F@defence.gov.au)>; s47F Emma MS <[emma.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:emma.s47F@defence.gov.au)>; s47F , Paul MR <[paul.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:paul.s47F@defence.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** MEDIA ENQUIRY: Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Good morning Nicky and Ally,

Please see the below IV request information for your consideration.

**Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter**

**BLUF:** ABC's 7.30 Report is doing a story on the history of the F-35 program. Chief of Air Force, after consultation with OMINDEF and CDF is of the view that we participate in the story in order to ensure Air Force position is properly reflected.

**History**

ABC approached Defence with a request to interview a pilot about the F-35A for a story they were doing on the history of the JSF program.

Chief of Air Force agreed to provide the following to support the story:

1. Interview with a pilot
2. Interview with a senior officer (potentially CAF) to speak about the strategic value of the aircraft to Australia and Air Force

Before final approval, Air Force requested from ABC:

- a. 'creative concept' to understand the flow of the story and how we could most efficiently work in with ABC
- b. an opportunity to review the final product before broadcast to assist with checking for accuracy (not tone or angle)

ABC returned to advise they are unable to acquiesce to points (a) and (b) due to their editorial policy. They have requested a strong desire to have Air Force involved in the story. They have also advised Air Force will have right of reply.

Should this be approved, Air Force will be making extensive effort to prepare interviewees and other material to support Defence's position in the story.

**Risk**

1. Current media coverage in the United States about reduction in orders of F-35
2. s47E(d)
3. s47E(d)

**Air Force view**

s47E(d)

Chief of Air Force will act in accordance

with Ministerial instructions.

**Action required from OMINDEF**

MINDEF is required to provide advice if she is comfortable with Defence participating in the story in order to allow Defence Media to provide advice to journalist.

Grateful if you could advise how to proceed.

Kind regards,

Kate s47F

**Defence Media** | Department of Defence

M: 02 6127 1999

E: [media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)



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**From:**

**Sent:** Wednesday, 24 February 2021 10:42 AM

**To:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>



## Hatherley, Rosemary MS 2

---

**From:** Media  
**Sent:** Friday, 19 March 2021 12:29 PM  
**To:** RAAF PA  
**Cc:** Media  
**Subject:** 210319:1229 - [Media]-[RAAF PA] Finalised media enquiry: Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Action - DC

### OFFICIAL

Great I'll respond to her now, thanks Dan!

Cheers,

**Kate** s47F  
**Defence Media** | Department of Defence

---

M: 02 6127 1999  
E: [media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)

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---

**From:** Daniel MR 1 On Behalf Of RAAF PA  
**Sent:** Friday, 19 March 2021 12:24 PM  
**To:** Media  
**Subject:** RE: Finalised media enquiry: Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter [SEC=OFFICIAL]

### OFFICIAL

Yep. Could you advise her that someone will be in touch with her this afternoon?

Cheers

Dan

**Daniel**   
Air Force Strategic Communications Manager, Air Force Headquarters

s22  | [daniel.s22@defence.gov.au](mailto:daniel.s22@defence.gov.au)



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**From:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 19 March 2021 12:23 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED], Daniel MR 1 <[danie\[REDACTED\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:danie[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au)>; RAAF PA <[raaf.pa@defence.gov.au](mailto:raaf.pa@defence.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** FW: Finalised media enquiry: Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Hi Dan,

[REDACTED] has come in requesting an update on this interview request.

Noting it has been cleared through OMINDEF, will a PAO be getting in contact with her about this?

Kind regards,  
**Kate** <sup>s47F</sup>  
**Defence Media** | Department of Defence

---

M: 02 6127 1999  
E: [media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)



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**From:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 17 March 2021 1:53 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] Daniel MR 1 <[danie\[REDACTED\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:danie[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** RAAF PA <[raaf.pa@defence.gov.au](mailto:raaf.pa@defence.gov.au)>; <sup>s47F</sup> [REDACTED], Sarah WGCDR <[sarah\[REDACTED\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:sarah[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au)>; Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Finalised media enquiry: Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Hi Dan,

OMINDEF have communicated that this is now cleared, providing that RAAF:

- Undertakes extensive preparation as outlined below; and
- That the interviews occur <sup>s47E(d)</sup> [REDACTED].

Thanks for your work on this one.

Kind regards,  
**Kate** <sup>s47F</sup>  
**Defence Media** | Department of Defence

---

M: 02 6127 1999  
E: [media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)



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---

**From:** [REDACTED] Daniel MR 1 <[daniel.\[REDACTED\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:daniel.[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Monday, 15 March 2021 11:08 AM  
**To:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** RAAF PA <[raaf.pa@defence.gov.au](mailto:raaf.pa@defence.gov.au)>; [REDACTED]<sup>s47F</sup>, Kyle MR 1 <[kyle.\[REDACTED\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:kyle.[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au)>; [REDACTED]<sup>s47F</sup> s, Kate MISS 2 <[kate.\[REDACTED\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:kate.[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au)>; [REDACTED]<sup>s47F</sup>, Sarah WGCDR <[sarah.\[REDACTED\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:sarah.[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Finalised media enquiry: Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter [SEC=OFFICIAL]

## OFFICIAL

Good afternoon

Could you please provide to OMINDEF for their consideration.

### Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter

**BLUF:** ABC's 7.30 Report is doing a story on the history of the F-35 program. Chief of Air Force, after consultation with OMINDEF and CDF is of the view that we participate in the story in order to ensure Air Force position is properly reflected.

### History

ABC approached Defence with a request to interview a pilot about the F-35A for a story they were doing on the history of the JSF program.

Chief of Air Force agreed to provide the following to support the story:

1. Interview with a pilot
2. Interview with a senior officer (potentially CAF) to speak about the strategic value of the aircraft to Australia and Air Force

Before final approval, Air Force requested from ABC:

- a. 'creative concept' to understand the flow of the story and how we could most efficiently work in with ABC
- b. an opportunity to review the final product before broadcast to assist with checking for accuracy (not tone or angle)

ABC returned to advise they are unable to acquiesce to points (a) and (b) due to their editorial policy. They have requested a strong desire to have Air Force involved in the story. They have also advised Air Force will have right of reply.

Should this be approved, Air Force will be making extensive effort to prepare interviewees and other material to support Defence's position in the story.

### Risk

1. Current media coverage in the United States about reduction in orders of F-35
2. [REDACTED]<sup>s47E(d)</sup>
3. [REDACTED]<sup>s47E(d)</sup>

### Air Force view

s47E(d)

Chief of Air Force will act in accordance with Ministerial instructions.

**Action required from OMINDEF**

MINDEF is required to provide advice if she is comfortable with Defence participating in the story in order to allow Defence Media to provide advice to journalist.

Thanks guys - For my SA, could you advise when we can expect a response from OMINDEF and ensure OMINDEF is aware of the Journalists timeframes.

Cheers

Dan

**Daniel** [redacted]  
Air Force Strategic Communications Manager, Air Force Headquarters

s22 [redacted] | [daniel@defence.gov.au](mailto:daniel@defence.gov.au)

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---

**From:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 12 March 2021 2:56 PM  
**To:** [redacted] Daniel MR 1 <[daniel@defence.gov.au](mailto:daniel@defence.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Finalised media enquiry: Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Hi Dan,

Do you have any updates on the Joint Strike Fighter ABC 7.30 IV request?

Kind regards,  
**Kate** s47F [redacted]  
**Defence Media** | Department of Defence

---

M: 02 6127 1999  
E: [media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)



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---

**From:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 25 February 2021 4:17 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED], Daniel MR 1 <[daniel.\[REDACTED\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:daniel.[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Finalised media enquiry: Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Ack, thanks Dan, I'll let her know!

Cheers,

**Kate** [REDACTED] s47F  
**Defence Media** | Department of Defence

---

M: 02 6127 1999  
E: [media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)

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---

**From:** [REDACTED] Daniel MR 1 <[daniel.\[REDACTED\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:daniel.[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 25 February 2021 4:15 PM  
**To:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Finalised media enquiry: Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Thanks Kate

Could you thank the Journalist and let her know we'll get back to her asap.

Cheers

dan

**Daniel** [REDACTED]  
Air Force Strategic Communications Manager, Air Force Headquarters

s22 [REDACTED] | [danie\[REDACTED\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:danie[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au)

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**From:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 25 February 2021 3:30 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED], Daniel MR 1 <[daniel\[REDACTED\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:daniel[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>; RAAF PA <[raaf.pa@defence.gov.au](mailto:raaf.pa@defence.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Finalised media enquiry: Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Hi Dan,

I have received comms back from [REDACTED] information is below, s47F  
[REDACTED] however [REDACTED] was unable to provide anything further.

*If there are specific issues you want addressed, please send them through so I can tailor a response. Broadly, the issues we plan to discuss in the story are already in the public domain.*

*Unfortunately, we do not provide such detail for any stories we put together for 7.30. I think you'd appreciate the ABC must maintain editorial independence, and our audience would judge us harshly if we provided the level of detail you're after.*

*As I mentioned in my previous email though, we would like to speak to a pilot to get a first-hand account of what the F35 is like, while also analysing issues the program has faced, which are all on the public record.*

*Also note that 7.30 has the most robust fact checking process. We will be providing you with right of reply to all issues raised in the story.*

*We are very keen to film at Williamstown and hope that you will agree to participate in the story.*

In one of her previous emails she also gave this description which may be of use:

*The story aims to take a comprehensive look at the F35 program.. from evolution to delivery.*

*It will look at some of the issues the program has faced in the US, but the purpose of the Williamstown shoot would be to get a perspective from those at the coalface what it's like to fly the plane. I will also reach out to the Minister for comment, so I won't be asking the pilot any political questions, just their personnel experience about the cutting-edge technology.*

*It is ABC policy, that we don't send through individual questions, however these are the points I'd like to cover, ideally with a pilot.*

- *What it's like to fly the F35?*
- *Best thing about it/what it offers that other jets in the fleet don't? How advanced is it?*
- *How does it strengthen the Airforce's muscle?*
- *Any other points they feel are relevant*

*As I mentioned, I will be reaching out to the Minister however let me know if there is also a departmental spokesperson who could also answer some of the broader questions I have.*

If there is any further information or specific questions you want to ask her please let me know and I will liaise with her.

Kind regards,

**Kate** s47F

**Defence Media** | Department of Defence

M: 02 6127 1999

E: [media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)

## Hatherley, Rosemary MS 2

---

**From:** [REDACTED], Daniel MR 1  
**Sent:** Friday, 19 March 2021 3:33 PM  
**To:** Media; RAAF PA  
**Subject:** 210319:1533 - [REDACTED] Daniel MR 1]-[Media] Finalised media enquiry: Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Action - DC

### OFFICIAL

Hi guys

Just a quick update.

I've contacted [REDACTED] and provided an update on this one.

We are in discussions around timing of when Air Force is able to facilitate.

We'll keep in you in the loop as we progress.

Cheers

Dan

**Daniel** [REDACTED]  
Air Force Strategic Communications Manager, Air Force Headquarters

s22 [REDACTED] | [daniel.c\[REDACTED\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:daniel.c[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au)

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---

**From:** Media  
**Sent:** Friday, 19 March 2021 12:23 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED], Daniel MR 1 ; RAAF PA  
**Cc:** Media  
**Subject:** FW: Finalised media enquiry: Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter [SEC=OFFICIAL]

### OFFICIAL

Hi Dan,

[REDACTED] has come in requesting an update on this interview request.

Noting it has been cleared through OMINDEF, will a PAO be getting in contact with her about this?

## Hatherley, Rosemary MS 2

---

**From:** s47F Guy GPCAPT  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 24 March 2021 9:13 PM  
**To:** RAAF PA  
**Subject:** 210324:2112 - [s47F], Guy GPCAPT]-[RAAF PA] Finalised media enquiry: Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Action - DC, Action - ATS

### OFFICIAL

Thanks RAAF PA, any indication of timing. RAAF 100 would be good time maybe.

G

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---

**From:** s47F, Angela FLTLT On Behalf Of RAAF PA  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 23 March 2021 9:35 AM  
**To:** s47F s, Guy GPCAPT  
**Cc:** RAAF PA ; [REDACTED], Daniel MR 1 ; s47F e, Merridith FLTLT ; [REDACTED] Fiona MS ; s47F, Sandy GPCAPT  
**Subject:** RE: Finalised media enquiry: Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter [SEC=OFFICIAL]

### OFFICIAL

Hi Sir,  
As discussed this morning, ABC's 7.30 Report will be doing a story on the F-35, and Dan has secured OMINDEF approval for Air Force to participate.  
All the details/background to the request are in the trail below.  
I anticipate that Dan will touch base with you when appropriate for your input/guidance.

Ange s47F

**Angela** s47F  
Flight Lieutenant  
SO3 Public Affairs – Air Force Headquarters  
RAAF Public Affairs

(02) 626 55692 s22 | R1-6-C041 | Russell Offices, RUSSELL, ACT, 2610

**Royal Australian Air Force**  
Chief of Staff Branch - Air Force Headquarters



---

**From:** [REDACTED] Daniel MR 1 <daniel.[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 19 March 2021 3:33 PM

## Hatherley, Rosemary MS 2

---

**From:** [REDACTED] Daniel MR 1  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 14 April 2021 9:29 AM  
**To:** RAAF PA  
**Subject:** 210414:0929 - [REDACTED] Daniel MR 1]-[RAAF PA] Air Force assistance to the 7.30 Report  
**Attachments:** Williamtown:F35 shotlist.docx; IMG\_3267.JPG  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed  
**Categories:** Action - DC, Action - ATS

### OFFICIAL

Hi Mate

ABC's requested shot list.

Cheers

Dan

**Daniel** [REDACTED]  
Air Force Strategic Communications Manager, Air Force Headquarters

s22 [REDACTED] | [danie\[REDACTED\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:danie[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au)

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---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 29 March 2021 2:48 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED], Daniel MR 1  
**Cc:** [REDACTED], Fiona MS  
**Subject:** Re: Air Force assistance to the 7.30 Report [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**⚠ EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe. ⚠

Hi sorry for the delay in responding, I got tied up with the floods last week. I've attached a Word document outlining our "wish list" for shooting at Williamtown. Let me know if you have any queries. Any idea how many hours you might be able to allocate to us on the day?

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]



**From:** [REDACTED] Daniel MR 1 <[daniel.\[REDACTED\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:daniel.[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 19 March 2021 3:03 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] Fiona MS <[fiona.\[REDACTED\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:fiona.[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Air Force assistance to the 7.30 Report [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for the chat. I just wanted to touch base and reassure you this was currently with us.

Just to reiterate our conversation:

1. Air Force is ready to support your requests with an interview with:
  - a. An RAAF F-35A pilot
  - b. A senior Air Force Officer (potentially Chief of Air Force)
  - c. Assistance and escort with filming
2. Due to the heavy schedule around Air Force centenary we won't be able to accommodate anything before the 31<sup>st</sup> so we are aiming to facilitate your team in sometime in April 2021 - thanks very much for your understanding in relation to this
3. You asked for at least a week and a half notice before filming (I advised this wouldn't be a problem)
4. You advised you weren't able to provide a story board, but you'd be able to send us a shot list for us to review and get back to you on what was possible

Please reach out to [RAAF.PA@defence.gov.au](mailto:RAAF.PA@defence.gov.au) if you have any questions and cc in myself and Director of Air Force Communications Fiona [REDACTED] at [Fiona.\[REDACTED\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:Fiona.[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au)

We very much look forward to working with you and your team!

Kind regards

Dan

**Daniel** [REDACTED]  
Air Force Strategic Communications Manager, Air Force Headquarters

s22 [REDACTED] | [daniel.c\[REDACTED\]1@defence.gov.au](mailto:daniel.c[REDACTED]1@defence.gov.au)

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## Hatherley, Rosemary MS 2

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**From:** s47F, Angela FLTLT on behalf of RAAF PA  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 14 April 2021 4:31 PM  
**To:** s47F Don GPCAPT; 464SQN Military Public Affairs  
**Cc:** RAAF PA; s47F Sarah WGCDR; Crow, Daniel MR 1 s47F Sanjay FLTLT; s47F Il, Fiona MS (fiona.r s47F @defence.gov.au); s47F GPCAPT  
**Subject:** 210414:1631 - [RAAF PA]-[ s47F Don GPCAPT] Media enquiry 21-0270 - ABC 7.30 report - Joint Strike Fighter piece

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

### OFFICIAL

A/DAOC, Hi Sir, Thank you for your time on the phone.

**BLUF:** As discussed, would appreciate it if the AOC could please scope and advise by 1600 h Fri 16 Apr the viability of an air-to-air PHOTEX ISO the subj media engagement

- Please advise if this is viable, and if so, provide recommended date windows
- Please also include a brief impact statement if applicable
- Your response will help inform further planning by OCAF and AFHQ Comms Team

### Background

- Following consultation between OMINDEF, CDF, CAF, COMMS AFHQ and Defence Media, the subj media engagement has been cleared to proceed (email trail below refers)
- CAF is keen to exploit this opportunity to the fullest IOT enhance community understanding, and reputation of the F-35A Lightning II as part of our air combat system
- As part of this opportunity, CAF is supportive of Air Force facilitating air-to-air filming for the crew if possible (noting that 7.30 Report does not generally accept stock or third party footage for features)
- ACAUST is aware

### Requirements

- AMG platform from which to shoot – to accommodate at least six pax: 7.30 Report camera operator, journalist and producer; and Air Force escorts and SME
- Minimum 1 x F-35A
- Preferred location - overwater in the Eastern Training Area
- Duration ~30 mins
- Date window – out to EO May (preferred within next three weeks)

464MPA, Ma'am,

- Will liaise further as this pans out
- FYSA, 7.30 Report shot wishlist follows
- This will require further investigation to explore the art of the possible (such as 44WG advice on drone capture, access to F-35 precinct, etc)
- Have a think about other visuals to recommend
- The air-to-air component is the major moving part that will drive dates and timings so will settle that first

### Desired shot list

General setup shots - base/signage etc

Shots of hanger

Reveal jet in hanger

Pilot walks into scene, inspects the jet, gets in

Jet guided out of hanger

Jet taxiing out (any possibility of drone shots so we get great bird's eye view of jet taxiing? Would only need drone in air for a few minutes)  
Best vantage point to get jet take-off  
Interior shot of air traffic control tower, staff talking to pilot giving permission to take off  
Good vantage point to capture jet flying past  
Plane landing after flight  
Can we give the pilot a Go Pro to shoot some "selfie style" video in cockpit mid-air??? Happy for vision review to ensure no sensitive equipment shown.\*  
Could another pilot film with our Go Pro, vision of the pilot flying?\*

Pictures needed to cover our second interviewee  
Could we dummy up talking through a fake flight operation with pilot/pilots in situation room or somewhere similar?  
Open to suggestions for any other visuals you recommend.

\*Will manage expectations that the highlighted will not be available.

Ange T-S

**Angela** s47F  
Flight Lieutenant  
SO3 Public Affairs – Air Force Headquarters  
RAAF Public Affairs

(02) 626 55692 | s22 | R1-6-C041 | Russell Offices, RUSSELL, ACT, 2610



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**From:** Media  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 17 March 2021 1:53 PM  
**To:** [redacted], Daniel MR 1  
**Cc:** RAAF PA ; s47F Sarah WGCDF ; Media  
**Subject:** RE: Finalised media enquiry: Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Hi Dan,

OMINDEF have communicated that this is now cleared, providing that RAAF:

- Undertakes extensive preparation as outlined below; and
- s47E(d) [redacted].

Thanks for your work on this one.

Kind regards,  
**Kate** s47F  
**Defence Media** | Department of Defence

---

M: 02 6127 1999  
E: [media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)

## Hatherley, Rosemary MS 2

**From:** s47F, Don GPCAPT  
**Sent:** Thursday, 15 April 2021 11:26 AM  
**To:** s47F, Jason GPCAPT; s47F, Kaarin GPCAPT; s47F, Donald GPCAPT; s47F, Fiona WGCDR; s47F, t, Angela FLTLT  
**Cc:** s47F, Timothy AIRCDRE; s47F, Carl AIRCDRE; s47F, Mark GPCAPT; s47F, Stephen AIRCDRE; s47F, Benjamin AIRCDRE  
**Subject:** 210415:1126 - s47F, Don GPCAPT]-[s47F, Jason GPCAPT] Media enquiry 21-0270 - ABC 7.30 report - Joint Strike Fighter piece

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Action - DC, Action - ATS

### OFFICIAL

All,

Please note the imminent task of media support for an ABC 7:30 report piece on the F-35 as outlined below. I have discussed with DAMD and in consideration of camera access/ clarity for shooting and comfortable F-35 aircraft speed, a C-17 with a ramp speed upto 250kts may be the best AMG platform s47F. Currently there looks to be C-17 capacity during the week 10-14 May. I expect that this will be a one day task and best with all platforms staged from WLM; however, such details along with the public affairs plan can be worked later by 464SQN.

For AMG – please confirm that suitability of the C-17 and the proposed week for a task.

For ACG – please confirm availability of min 1 x F-35 (expect 2 would be better...) of the proposed time.

For 464SQN – once date (and backup) are determined expect a handover for final coordination of events.

For RAAF PA – please confirm that AFHQ will release a CAF Taskord to ACAUST for this event.

Note, as I need to have a response back to AFHQ by 1600 tomorrow (16 Apr) your response to me by 1430 would be appreciated.

Cheers,

Don s47F  
GPCAPT  
A/DAOC  
02 6128 4802  
s22

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---

**From:** s47F, Angela FLTLT <angela.s47F@defence.gov.au> On Behalf Of RAAF PA  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 14 April 2021 4:31 PM  
**To:** s47F, Don GPCAPT <don.s47F@defence.gov.au>; 464SQN Military Public Affairs <464sqn.militarypublicaffairs@defence.gov.au>

## Hatherley, Rosemary MS 2

**From:** s47F Jason GPCAPT  
**Sent:** Thursday, 15 April 2021 11:28 AM  
**To:** s47F Don GPCAPT  
**Cc:** s47F, Timothy AIRCDRE; s47F, Carl AIRCDRE; s47F, Mark GPCAPT; s47F, Stephen AIRCDRE; s47F, Benjamin AIRCDRE; s47F, Kaarin GPCAPT; s47F, Donald GPCAPT; s47F, Fiona WGCDR; s47F, Angela FLTLT  
**Subject:** 210415:1127 - [s47F, Jason GPCAPT]- s47F, Don GPCAPT] Media enquiry 21-0270 - ABC 7.30 report - Joint Strike Fighter piece

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Action - DC, Action - ATS

### OFFICIAL

Don, Ack and affirm

*Easty*

Jason s47F  
Group Captain  
COS ACG

+612 403 40915 | s22  
[jasor@s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:jasor@s47F@defence.gov.au)

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---

**From:** s47F, Don GPCAPT  
**Sent:** Thursday, 15 April 2021 11:26 AM  
**To:** s47F, Jason GPCAPT; s47F, Kaarin GPCAPT; s47F, Donald GPCAPT; s47F, Fiona WGCDR; s47F, Angela FLTLT  
**Cc:** s47F, Timothy AIRCDRE; s47F, Carl AIRCDRE; s47F, Mark GPCAPT; s47F, Stephen AIRCDRE; s47F, Benjamin AIRCDRE  
**Subject:** FW: Media enquiry 21-0270 - ABC 7.30 report - Joint Strike Fighter piece [SEC=OFFICIAL]

### OFFICIAL

All,

Please note the imminent task of media support for an ABC 7:30 report piece on the F-35 as outlined below. I have discussed with DAMD and in consideration of camera access/ clarity for shooting and comfortable F-35 aircraft speed, a C-17 with a ramp speed upto 250kts may be the best AMG platform s47F. Currently there looks to be C-17 capacity during the week 10-14 May. I expect that this will be a one day task and best with all platforms staged from WLM; however, such details along with the public affairs plan can be worked later by 464SQN.

For AMG – please confirm that suitability of the C-17 and the proposed week for a task.

## Hatherley, Rosemary MS 2

**From:** s47F Angela FLTLT on behalf of RAAF PA  
**Sent:** Thursday, 15 April 2021 1:01 PM  
**To:** s47F Don GPCAPT  
**Cc:** s47F, Timothy AIRCDRE; s47F, Mark GPCAPT; s47F, Stephen AIRCDRE; s47F, Benjamin AIRCDRE; 464SQN Military Public Affairs; s47F Jason GPCAPT; s47F Donald GPCAPT; s47F Kaarin GPCAPT; s47F, Carl AIRCDRE; s47F Fiona WGCDR; s47F, Sandy GPCAPT; Crow, Daniel MR 1; s47F Fiona MS (fiona.i.s47F@defence.gov.au); RAAF PA  
**Subject:** 210415:1301 - [RAAF PA]-[T s47F, Don GPCAPT] Media enquiry 21-0270 - ABC 7.30 report - Joint Strike Fighter piece

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

### OFFICIAL

A/DAOC, Sir, Many thanks for everyone's efforts thus far with this.

In response to your RFI – yes, the intent is to issue a CAF TASKORD once CAF has made a decision with reference to your advice to be provided tomorrow.

Ange s47F

Angela s47F  
Flight Lieutenant  
SO3 Public Affairs – Air Force Headquarters  
RAAF Public Affairs

(02) 626 55692 | s22 | R1-6-C041 | Russell Offices, RUSSELL, ACT, 2610

**Royal Australian Air Force**  
Chief of Staff Branch - Air Force Headquarters



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**From:** s47F Fiona WGCDR  
**Sent:** Thursday, 15 April 2021 11:58 AM  
**To:** s47F, Carl AIRCDRE; s47F, Don GPCAPT; s47F, Jason GPCAPT; s47F, Kaarin GPCAPT; s47F Donald GPCAPT; s47F, t, Angela FLTLT  
**Cc:** s47F, Timothy AIRCDRE; s47F Mark GPCAPT; s47F, Stephen AIRCDRE; s47F, Benjamin AIRCDRE; 464SQN Military Public Affairs  
**Subject:** RE: Media enquiry 21-0270 - ABC 7.30 report - Joint Strike Fighter piece [SEC=OFFICIAL]

### OFFICIAL

Sir/Ma'am,

464SQN are happy to assist. Standing by for further detail as planning firms up.

Kind regards,



Fi

*Fiona*

s47F

Wing Commander (O5)  
Commanding Officer  
No. 464 Squadron

(02) 4723 1528 | s22 | Bld 145 | RAAF Glenbrook



## 464 Squadron Military Public Affairs

*Supporting Air Force's strategic objectives through the provision of  
timely, effective, influential and professional communications effects*

For Public Affairs support please email: [464sqn.militarypublicaffairs@defence.gov.au](mailto:464sqn.militarypublicaffairs@defence.gov.au)

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---

**From:** s47F, Carl AIRCDRE <[carl.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:carl.s47F@defence.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 15 April 2021 11:39 AM  
**To:** s47F, Don GPCAPT <[don.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:don.s47F@defence.gov.au)>; s47F, Jason GPCAPT <[jason.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:jason.s47F@defence.gov.au)>; s47F, Kaarin GPCAPT <[kaarin.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:kaarin.s47F@defence.gov.au)>; s47F, Donald GPCAPT <[donald.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:donald.s47F@defence.gov.au)>; s47F, Fiona WGCDR <[fiona.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:fiona.s47F@defence.gov.au)>; s47F, Angela FLT LT <[angela.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:angela.s47F@defence.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** s47F, Timothy AIRCDRE <[timothy.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:timothy.s47F@defence.gov.au)>; s47F, Mark GPCAPT <[mark.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:mark.s47F@defence.gov.au)>; s47F, Stephen AIRCDRE <[stephen.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:stephen.s47F@defence.gov.au)>; s47F, Benjamin AIRCDRE <[benjamin.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:benjamin.s47F@defence.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Media enquiry 21-0270 - ABC 7.30 report - Joint Strike Fighter piece [SEC=OFFICIAL]

### OFFICIAL

Don – we will provide whatever DGAIR is happy to task within our directed tasking lines.

C-17A would meet task requirements however while there may not be many tasks planned 10-14 May at this stage, the planned C-17A tasking in late Apr / early May has potential to constrain aircraft availability due to numbers of maintenance personnel in ISO (i.e. there is risk we will not be able to generate a C-17 on the day pending any other tasking).

I do note we have conducted filming of fast jet from back of C-130J. If ACG can manage 150 KIAS limit then that provides more options (and potentially reduces demand of C-17A).

Regards

**Carl** s47F  
**AIRCDRE**  
Commander Air Mobility Group

Senior Australian Defence Force Officer  
RAAF Base Richmond, NSW 2755

T: 02 4587 2000  
M: s22

## Hatherley, Rosemary MS 2

---

**From:** s47F Jacqueline MS on behalf of ACG Public Affairs  
**Sent:** Friday, 16 April 2021 9:26 AM  
**To:** 464SQN Military Public Affairs; s47F Eamon MR 1 s47F Clarice FLTTLT;  
s47F Bronwyn FLGOFF  
**Cc:** AMG Public Affairs; ACG Public Affairs; RAAF PA  
**Subject:** 210416:0925 - [ACG Public Affairs]-[464SQN Military Public Affairs] Media enquiry  
21-0270 - ABC 7.30 report - Joint Strike Fighter piece

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Action - ATS, Action - DC, Action - FR

### OFFICIAL

Hi 464SQN/RAAF PA,

Upon reading all of the emails s47F

AF is dealing with the 7.30 Report s47F

The 7.30 Report shot list s47F

Offer up the vision we already have of air to air; and identify the elements of the wish list that can be achieved ie can't do cockpit GoPro due to security issues.

s47F to get air to air we need to do a special trip and the get the C-130s etc – that will incur considerable expense – if they insist – then they own the cost as well.

s47F

Just some elements/optics to think about .... If they haven't been discussed already when you are all managing this.

s47F

Regards,  
Jacqui

**Jacqueline** s47F  
Strategic Communications  
**Head Quarters Air Combat Group**

Len Waters Building  
Level 4  
RAAF Base Williamtown

02 4034 0918  
s22



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---

**From:** s47F Belinda SQNLDR 3 **On Behalf Of** 464SQN Military Public Affairs  
**Sent:** Thursday, 15 April 2021 12:06 PM  
**To:** s47F Eamon MR 1 ; s47F Clarice FLTTLT ; s47F , Bronwyn FLGOFF s47F Jacqueline MS  
**Cc:** AMG Public Affairs ; ACG Public Affairs ; 464SQN Military Public Affairs  
**Subject:** FW: Media enquiry 21-0270 - ABC 7.30 report - Joint Strike Fighter piece [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Team,

This task is still in the planning phase (see attached corro) but heads up for the coming weeks. I'll flick through more details as they unfold.

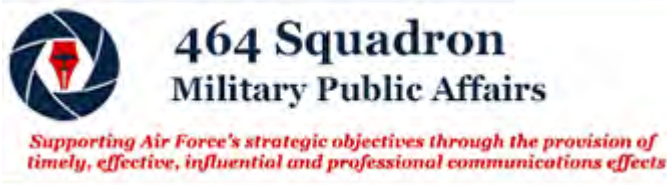
If you identify any issues or opportunities, please let me know and I'll feed back to RAAF PA.

Once dates are confirmed, we will also need to provide media escorts and possible SMEs.

Many thanks

**Bel** s47F  
Squadron Leader (O4)  
S02 Operations Military Public Affairs  
No 464 Squadron.

s22 | RAAF Base Edinburgh | [464sqn.militarypublicaffairs@defence.gov.au](mailto:464sqn.militarypublicaffairs@defence.gov.au)



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---

**From:** s47F , Angela FLTTLT <[angela.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:angela.s47F@defence.gov.au)> **On Behalf Of** RAAF PA  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 14 April 2021 4:01 PM  
**To:** s47F Don GPCAPT <[don.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:don.s47F@defence.gov.au)>; 464SQN Military Public Affairs <[464sqn.militarypublicaffairs@defence.gov.au](mailto:464sqn.militarypublicaffairs@defence.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** RAAF PA <[raaf.pa@defence.gov.au](mailto:raaf.pa@defence.gov.au)>; s47F r, Sarah WGCDR <[sarah.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:sarah.s47F@defence.gov.au)>; Daniel MR 1 <[daniel.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:daniel.s47F@defence.gov.au)>; s47F , Sanjay FLTTLT <[sanjay.vinoharan@defence.gov.au](mailto:sanjay.vinoharan@defence.gov.au)>; , Fiona MS <[fiona.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:fiona.s47F@defence.gov.au)>; s47F Sandy GPCAPT <[sandy.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:sandy.s47F@defence.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Media enquiry 21-0270 - ABC 7.30 report - Joint Strike Fighter piece [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

A/DAOC, Hi Sir, Thank you for your time on the phone.

## Hatherley, Rosemary MS 2

---

**From:** [REDACTED], Daniel MR 1 on behalf of RAAF PA  
**Sent:** Friday, 16 April 2021 10:08 AM  
**To:** ACG Public Affairs; [REDACTED] Fiona MS  
**Cc:** RAAF PA  
**Subject:** 210416:1007 - [RAAF PA]-[ACG Public Affairs] Media enquiry 21-0270 - ABC 7.30 report - Joint Strike Fighter piece

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Action - DC

### OFFICIAL

Hi Fiona

Some good input from Jacqui below.

Will need to discuss what our position is on this.

The risk for me is other organisations approaching asking us what the cost of catering for ABC was.

Cheers

Dan

**Daniel** [REDACTED]  
Air Force Strategic Communications Manager, Air Force Headquarters

s22 [REDACTED] | [daniel.\[REDACTED\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:daniel.[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au)

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---

**From:** s47F [REDACTED], Jacqueline MS On Behalf Of ACG Public Affairs  
**Sent:** Friday, 16 April 2021 9:26 AM  
**To:** 464SQN Military Public Affairs ; s47F [REDACTED], Eamon MR 1 ; s47F [REDACTED], Clarice FLT LT ; s47F [REDACTED], Bronwyn FLGOFF  
**Cc:** AMG Public Affairs ; ACG Public Affairs ; RAAF PA  
**Subject:** RE: Media enquiry 21-0270 - ABC 7.30 report - Joint Strike Fighter piece [SEC=OFFICIAL]

### OFFICIAL

Hi 464SQN/RAAF PA,

Upon reading all of the emails s47F [REDACTED]

## Hatherley, Rosemary MS 2

---

**From:** s47F , Don GPCAPT  
**Sent:** Friday, 16 April 2021 3:18 PM  
**To:** s47F Angela FLTLT  
**Cc:** s47F Timothy AIRCDRE; s47F Carl AIRCDRE; s47F Jason GPCAPT; s47F , GPCAPT; s47F Stephen AIRCDRE; s47F Benjamin AIRCDRE; s47F s47F Fiona WGCDR; s47F Donald GPCAPT; s47F Kaarin GPCAPT  
**Subject:** 210416:1518 - s47F Don GPCAPT]-[s47F Angela FLTLT] Media enquiry 21-0270 - ABC 7.30 report - Joint Strike Fighter piece

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

### OFFICIAL

Ange,

I've not received anything additional back other than the scarcity of C-17 availability. I'm advised that the speed of a C-27 with the ramp down is acceptable for the F-35 (it has been done before). Accordingly, I offer that the task is viable with C-27 and F-35 aircraft during the window of 10-14 May – pending any pop-up priority tasking. Suggest 11 May with 12 May a weather backup could work.

Handing back over.

Cheers,

DT  
GPCAPT  
A/DAOC

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---

**From:** s47F Don GPCAPT  
**Sent:** Thursday, 15 April 2021 11:26 AM  
**To:** s47F , Jason GPCAPT ; s47F , Kaarin GPCAPT ; s47F , Donald GPCAPT ; s47F Fiona WGCDR ; s47F Angela FLTLT  
**Cc:** s47F Timothy AIRCDRE ; s47F Carl AIRCDRE ; s47F Mark GPCAPT ; s47F Stephen AIRCDRE ; s47F Benjamin AIRCDRE  
**Subject:** FW: Media enquiry 21-0270 - ABC 7.30 report - Joint Strike Fighter piece [SEC=OFFICIAL]

### OFFICIAL

All,

Please note the imminent task of media support for an ABC 7:30 report piece on the F-35 as outlined below. I have discussed with DAMD and in consideration of camera access/ clarity for shooting and comfortable F-35 aircraft speed, a C-17 with a ramp speed upto 250kts may be the best AMG platform s47F Currently there looks to be C-17 capacity during the week 10-14 May. I expect that this will be a one day task and best with all platforms staged from WLM; however, such details along with the public affairs plan can be worked later by 464SQN.

For AMG – please confirm that suitability of the C-17 and the proposed week for a task.

## Hatherley, Rosemary MS 2

---

**From:** s47F David WGCDR 7  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 20 April 2021 1:46 PM  
**To:** RAAF PA; s47F, Angela FLTLT  
**Cc:** s47F Jason GPCAPT; s47F Bronwyn FLGOFF; s47F Jacqueline MS; s47F Matthew GPCAPT; s47F Timothy AIRCDRE; s47F Benjamin WGCDR; s47F Don GPCAP  
**Subject:** 210420:1345 -s47F David WGCDR 7]-[RAAF PA] Media enquiry 21-0270 - ABC 7.30 report - Joint Strike Fighter piece

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Action - DC, Action - ATS

### OFFICIAL

Hi Ange,  
ACG's preference would be to conduct the activity after 20 May (if supportable by AMG), but can accommodate 10-14 May if this window is deemed essential.

Thanks,  
Belly

David s47F  
WGCDR  
SO1PLANS HQACG  
RAAF Williamtown

P: +612 403 40890  
E: david s47F @defence.gov.au

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---

**From:** s47F, Don GPCAPT <don. s47F @defence.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 16 April 2021 3:18 PM  
**To:** s47F Angela FLTLT <angela. s47F @defence.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s47F Timothy AIRCDRE <timothy. s47F @defence.gov.au>; s47F Carl AIRCDRE <carl. s47F @defence.gov.au>; s47F Jason GPCAPT <jason. s47F @defence.gov.au>; s47F Mark GPCAPT <mark. s47F @defence.gov.au>; s47F Stephen AIRCDRE <stephen. s47F @defence.gov.au>; s47F Benjamin AIRCDRE <benjamin. s47F @defence.gov.au>; s47F Fiona WGCDR <fiona. s47F @defence.gov.au>; s47F Donald GPCAPT <dona. s47F @defence.gov.au>; s47F Kaarin GPCAPT <kaarin. s47F @defence.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Media enquiry 21-0270 - ABC 7.30 report - Joint Strike Fighter piece [SEC=OFFICIAL]

### OFFICIAL

## Hatherley, Rosemary MS 2

---

**From:** s47F Don GPCAPT  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 20 April 2021 2:09 PM  
**To:** s47F , Donald GPCAPT  
**Cc:** s47F Jason GPCAPT; s47F Bronwyn FLGOFF; s47F Jacqueline MS; s47F Matthew GPCAPT; s47F Timothy AIRCDRE; s47F Benjamin WGCDR; s47F Angela RAAF PA; s47F David WGCDR 7  
**Subject:** 210420:1409 - [s47F Don GPCAPT]-[s47F Donald GPCAPT] Media enquiry 21-0270 30 report - Joint Strike Fighter piece

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Action - DC, Action - ATS

### OFFICIAL

Haggis,

Note ACG's preference to conduct the JSF piece after 20 May. What do you forecast C-27 availability like for that week and the next? Is it viable?

DT  
GPCAPT  
A/DAOC

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---

**From:** s47F David WGCDR 7  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 20 April 2021 1:46 PM  
**To:** RAAF PA; s47F Angela FLTLT  
**Cc:** s47F , Jason GPCAPT; s47F t, Bronwyn FLGOFF; s47F , Jacqueline MS; s47F , Matthew GPCAPT; s47F Timothy AIRCDRE; s47F Benjamin WGCDR; s47F Don GPCAPT  
**Subject:** RE: Media enquiry 21-0270 - ABC 7.30 report - Joint Strike Fighter piece [SEC=OFFICIAL]

### OFFICIAL

Hi Ange,

ACG's preference would be to conduct the activity after 20 May (if supportable by AMG), but can accommodate 10-14 May if this window is deemed essential.

Thanks,  
s47F

David s47F  
WGCDR  
SO1PLANS HQACG  
RAAF Williamstown

P: +612 403 40890  
E: [david.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:david.s47F@defence.gov.au)

## Hatherley, Rosemary MS 2

---

**From:** s47F Donald GPCAPT  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 20 April 2021 2:43 PM  
**To:** s47F on GPCAPT  
**Cc:** s47F Jason GPCAPT; s47F Bronwyn FLGOFF; s47F Jacqueline MS; s47F Matthew GPCAPT; s47F imothy AIRCDRE; s47F Benjamin WGCDR; s47F Angela FLTLT; RAAF PA; s47F David WGCDR 7; s47F Donald GPCAPT  
**Subject:** 210420:1442 - [s47F Donald GPCAPT]-[s47F Don GPCAPT] Media enquiry 21-0270 - ABC 7.30 report - Joint Strike Fighter piece

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Action - DC, Action - ATS

### OFFICIAL

Don,

Apart from s47E(d) the C27J board is clear for both weeks after 20May. I'd suggest getting in as early as you can in case there are issues with the s47E(d) requiring sending another C27.

Cheers

*Don* s47F  
**GPCAPT**  
**A/DAMD (JOC)**  
**Ph: (02) 6128 4821**

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---

**From:** s47F, Martin SQNLDR  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 20 April 2021 2:39 PM  
**To:** s47F, Donald GPCAPT  
**Subject:** RE: Media enquiry 21-0270 - ABC 7.30 report - Joint Strike Fighter piece [SEC=OFFICIAL]

### OFFICIAL

Sir,  
Just the s47E(d) is all I'm aware of. At this stage the aircraft will only deploy, then remain in location, with no C-27J ALS tasks assigned s47E(d)

Martin s47F  
SQNLDR, RAAF  
Combat Plans, Air Mobility Division  
HQJOC, Kings Hwy, NSW 2621  
Ph.: +61 2 612 84894

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---

**From:** s47F, Donald GPCAPT <[donald.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:donald.s47F@defence.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 20 April 2021 2:22 PM  
**To:** s47F, Martin SQNLDR <[martin.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:martin.s47F@defence.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** s47F Donald GPCAPT <[donald.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:donald.s47F@defence.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Media enquiry 21-0270 - ABC 7.30 report - Joint Strike Fighter piece [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Drewbo,

At this stage, C27J is on s47E(d) so that will be the priority. That said, this far out there is no other C27J tasking that I can see – are you aware of any other activities?

Cheers

**Don** s47F  
**GPCAPT**  
**A/DAMD (JOC)**  
**Ph: (02) 6128 4821**

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---

**From:** s47F Don GPCAPT <[don.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:don.s47F@defence.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 20 April 2021 2:09 PM  
**To:** s47F Donald GPCAPT <[donald.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:donald.s47F@defence.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** s47F Jason GPCAPT <[jason.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:jason.s47F@defence.gov.au)>, s47F Bronwyn FLGOFF <[bronwyn.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:bronwyn.s47F@defence.gov.au)>, s47F Jacqueline MS <[jacqueline.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:jacqueline.s47F@defence.gov.au)>, s47F Matthew GPCAPT <[matthew.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:matthew.s47F@defence.gov.au)>, s47F Timothy AIRCDRE <[timothy.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:timothy.s47F@defence.gov.au)>, s47F Benjamin WGCDR <[benjamin.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:benjamin.s47F@defence.gov.au)>, s47F Angela FLTLT <[angela.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:angela.s47F@defence.gov.au)>, RAAF PA <[raaf.pa@defence.gov.au](mailto:raaf.pa@defence.gov.au)>, s47F David WGCDR 7 <[david.s47F@defence.gov.au](mailto:david.s47F@defence.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Media enquiry 21-0270 - ABC 7.30 report - Joint Strike Fighter piece [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Haggis,

Note ACG's preference to conduct the JSF piece after 20 May. What do you forecast C-27 availability like for that week and the next? Is it viable?

DT  
GPCAPT  
A/DAOC

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## Hatherley, Rosemary MS 2

---

**From:** s47F [redacted] Angela FLTLT on behalf of RAAF PA  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 27 April 2021 1:00 PM  
**To:** [redacted], Fiona MS (fiona [redacted]@defence.gov.au)  
**Cc:** RAAF PA; [redacted], Daniel MR 1  
**Subject:** 210427:1259 - [RAAF PA]- [redacted], Fiona MS (fiona [redacted]@defence.gov.au)]  
Finalised media enquiry: Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

### OFFICIAL

Fiona,

As requested, email trail with history, and email over quote synopsis for Media to convey to DMO.

//

As per email trail below, ABC's 7.30 Report is doing a story on the history of the F-35 program. Chief of Air Force, after consultation with previous MINDEF's office and CDF was of the view that we participate in the story in order to ensure Air Force position is properly reflected.

Previous MINDEF approved Air Force participation on the proviso that we:

- Undertake extensive preparation as outlined in the email trail below
- Ensure the interviews occur s47E(d) [redacted]

Air Force is currently liaising with the journalist, and making arrangements IAW this direction.

This includes investigating opportunities for air-to-air filming for the 7.30 crew.

Would appreciate it if you could please advise DMO of this activity and ascertain if they are comfortable with Air Force proceeding IAW the previous MINDEF's direction, and if they have additional input or direction to offer.

//

Ange s47F [redacted]

**Angela** s47F [redacted]  
Flight Lieutenant  
SO3 Public Affairs – Air Force Headquarters  
RAAF Public Affairs

(02) 626 55692 | s22 [redacted] | R1-6-C041 | Russell Offices, RUSSELL, ACT, 2610



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**From:** [redacted] Daniel MR 1 <[danie\[redacted\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:danie[redacted]@defence.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 19 March 2021 3:33 PM  
**To:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>; RAAF PA <[raaf.pa@defence.gov.au](mailto:raaf.pa@defence.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Finalised media enquiry: Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Hi guys

Just a quick update.

I've contacted [redacted] and provided an update on this one.

We are in discussions around timing of when Air Force is able to facilitate.

We'll keep in you in the loop as we progress.

Cheers

Dan

**Daniel** [redacted]  
Air Force Strategic Communications Manager, Air Force Headquarters

s22 [redacted] | [danie\[redacted\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:danie[redacted]@defence.gov.au)

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---

**From:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 19 March 2021 12:23 PM  
**To:** [redacted], Daniel MR 1 <[daniel\[redacted\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:daniel[redacted]@defence.gov.au)>; RAAF PA <[raaf.pa@defence.gov.au](mailto:raaf.pa@defence.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** FW: Finalised media enquiry: Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Hi Dan,

[redacted] has come in requesting an update on this interview request.

Noting it has been cleared through OMINDEF, will a PAO be getting in contact with her about this?

Kind regards,  
**Kate** <sup>s47F</sup> [redacted]  
**Defence Media** | Department of Defence

---

M: 02 6127 1999  
E: [media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)

Defending Australia and its National Interests  
[www.defence.gov.au](http://www.defence.gov.au)



## Hatherley, Rosemary MS 2

---

**From:** [REDACTED], Fiona MS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 27 April 2021 1:20 PM  
**To:** Media; s47F [REDACTED], Natalie MRS  
**Cc:** [REDACTED], Daniel MR 1; RAAF PA s47F [REDACTED] Sarah WGCDR  
**Subject:** 210427:1319 - [REDACTED], Fiona MS]-[Media] Finalised media enquiry: Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed  
**Categories:** Action - DC

### OFFICIAL

Good afternoon Natalie and Kate

As discussed this morning with Natalie, can you please provide the update below to DMO on the status of 7.30 Report story on the F-35 program.

Regards, Fiona

---

**Fiona** [REDACTED]  
Acting Director Communication  
Air Force Headquarters

02 5131 4503 | +61 s22 [REDACTED] | R1-GF-C024 | Russell Offices, RUSSELL, ACT, 2610



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---

**From:** s47F [REDACTED], Angela FLTLT On Behalf Of RAAF PA  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 27 April 2021 1:00 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED], Fiona MS  
**Cc:** RAAF PA ; [REDACTED], Daniel MR 1  
**Subject:** RE: Finalised media enquiry: Priority 2 IV request - 21-0270 - Joint Strike Fighter [SEC=OFFICIAL]

### OFFICIAL

Fiona,

As requested, email trail with history, and email over quote synopsis for Media to convey to DMO.

//

As per email trail below, ABC's 7.30 Report is doing a story on the history of the F-35 program. Chief of Air Force, after consultation with previous MINDEF's office and CDF was of the view that we participate in the story in order to ensure Air Force position is properly reflected.

**From:** [Media](#)  
**To:** s47F [Natalie MRS](#)  
**Cc:** [Media](#)  
**Subject:** 20210427 - Email - [REDACTED], Natalie MRS - FOR NS CLEARANCE: 21-0270 - ABC 7:30 - F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Program - Media  
**Date:** Tuesday, 27 April 2021 4:06:04 PM  
**Attachments:** [ABC enquiry F35.msg](#)

---

## OFFICIAL

Hi Natalie,

As discussed, please see below draft email for the DMO on the ABC 7:30 report.

---

Hi Nicole, Austin,

For your awareness, ABC's 7.30 Report is doing a story on the history of the F-35 program. After consultation with the previous DMO and Chief of Defence Force, the Chief of Air Force was of the view that we participate in the story in order to ensure Air Force's position is properly reflected.

The previous DMO approved Air Force participation on the provision that we:

- Undertake extensive preparation
- Ensure the interviews occur s47E(d) [REDACTED]

Air Force is currently liaising with the journalist and making arrangements in accordance with this direction.

This includes investigating opportunities for air-to-air filming for the 7.30 crew.

//

### Timeline of original enquiry:

- 7.30 report filed a request to interview a pilot for a story they are doing on the F-35A (see attached email)
- Chief of Air Force spoke with OMINDEF to discuss the merits of our participation
- Air Force responded with advice that we would be:
  - o Happy to assist with factual advice
  - o Provide a pilot to interview
  - o Provide a Senior Officer to speak to the F-35A's strategic value
  - o Request a review of the final product so we could provide factual recommendations
- Before this could be considered, Air Force requested an understanding of the creative concept
- The journalist wrote back and advised no further information could be provided as per their ethical standards, however Air Force would have right of reply

//

If you have any issues or questions, please let us know.

Thanks,

**Chloe** s47F [REDACTED]

**Defence Media** | Department of Defence

---

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600

E: [media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)

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**From:** s47F Natalie MRS  
**To:** Media  
**Subject:** 20210427 - Email - Media - FOR NS CLEARANCE: 21-0270 - ABC 7:30 - F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Program - s47F Natalie MRS  
**Date:** Tuesday, 27 April 2021 4:07:37 PM

---

## OFFICIAL

Excellent – thanks Chloe, good to go!

**Natalie** s47F Director Media  
**Media and Communications Branch** | Department of Defence

---

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600

**M:** s22

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---

**From:** Media <media@defence.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 27 April 2021 4:06 PM  
**To:** s47F, Natalie MRS <natalie.s47F@defence.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Media <media@defence.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FOR NS CLEARANCE: 21-0270 - ABC 7:30 - F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Program  
[SEC=OFFICIAL]

## OFFICIAL

Hi Natalie,

As discussed, please see below draft email for the DMO on the ABC 7:30 report.

---

Hi Nicole, Austin,

For your awareness, ABC's 7.30 Report is doing a story on the history of the F-35 program. After consultation with the previous DMO and Chief of Defence Force, the Chief of Air Force was of the view that we participate in the story in order to ensure Air Force's position is properly reflected.

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- Ensure the interviews occur s47E(d)

Air Force is currently liaising with the journalist and making arrangements in accordance with this direction.

This includes investigating opportunities for air-to-air filming for the 7.30 crew.

//

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- Air Force responded with advice that we would be:
  - o Happy to assist with factual advice
  - o Provide a pilot to interview
  - o Provide a Senior Officer to speak to the F-35A's strategic value
  - o Request a review of the final product so we could provide factual

**From:** [Media](#)  
**To:** s47F [Nicole MS](#); s47F [Austin MR](#)  
**Cc:** [Media](#); s47F [Bronwyn MRS](#); s47F [Emma MS](#); s47F [Kerry MS 1](#); s47F [Natalie MRS](#)  
**Subject:** 20210427 - Email - s47F, Nicole MS - FOR DMO AWARENESS: 21-0270 - ABC 7:30 - F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Program - Media  
**Date:** Tuesday, 27 April 2021 4:10:10 PM  
**Attachments:** [ABC enquiry F35.msg](#)

---

## OFFICIAL

Hi Nicole, Austin,

For your awareness, ABC's 7.30 Report is doing a story on the history of the F-35 program. After consultation with the previous DMO and Chief of Defence Force, the Chief of Air Force was of the view that we participate in the story in order to ensure Air Force's position is properly reflected.

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- Ensure the interviews occur s47E(d)

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//

### Timeline of original enquiry:

- 7.30 report filed a request to interview a pilot for a story they are doing on the F-35A (see attached email)
- Chief of Air Force spoke with OMINDEF to discuss the merits of our participation
- Air Force responded with advice that we would be:
  - o Happy to assist with factual advice
  - o Provide a pilot to interview
  - o Provide a Senior Officer to speak to the F-35A's strategic value
  - o Request a review of the final product so we could provide factual recommendations
- Before this could be considered, Air Force requested an understanding of the creative concept
- The journalist wrote back and advised no further information could be provided as per their ethical standards, however Air Force would have right of reply

//

If you have any issues or questions, please let us know.

Thanks,

**Chloe** s47F

**Defence Media** | Department of Defence

---

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600

E: [media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

**From:** s47F [redacted] [Natalie MRS](#)  
**To:** s47F [redacted] [Nicole MS](#); [Media](#); s47F [redacted] [Austin MR](#)  
**Cc:** s47F [redacted] [Bronwyn MRS](#); s47F [redacted] [Emma MS](#); s47F [redacted] [Kerry MS 1](#)  
**Subject:** 20210427 - Email - Chant, Nicole MS - FOR DMO AWARENESS: 21-0270 - ABC 7:30 - F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Program - Sawczak, Natalie MRS  
**Date:** Tuesday, 27 April 2021 4:51:41 PM

---

## OFFICIAL

Of course – we can do it during our catch-up at 10.

**Natalie** s47F [redacted] Director Media

**Media and Communications Branch** | Department of Defence

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Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600

M: s22 [redacted]

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---

**From:** s47F [redacted] Nicole MS <nicole.s47F [redacted]@defence.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 27 April 2021 4:50 PM  
**To:** Media <media@defence.gov.au>; s47F [redacted] Austin MR <austin.s47F [redacted]@defence.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s47F [redacted] Bronwyn MRS <bronwyn.s47F [redacted]@defence.gov.au>; s47F [redacted], Emma MS <emma.s47F [redacted]@defence.gov.au>; s47F [redacted] Kerry MS 1 <kerry.s47F [redacted]@defence.gov.au>; s47F [redacted], Natalie MRS <natalie.s47F [redacted]@defence.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR DMO AWARENESS: 21-0270 - ABC 7:30 - F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Program [SEC=OFFICIAL]

## OFFICIAL

Could someone please call me tomorrow to discuss this?

Thanks very much.

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---

**From:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 27 April 2021 4:10 PM  
**To:** s47F [redacted] Nicole MS <[nicole.s47F \[redacted\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:nicole.s47F [redacted]@defence.gov.au)>; s47F [redacted], Austin MR <[austin.s47F \[redacted\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:austin.s47F [redacted]@defence.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>; s47F [redacted] Bronwyn MRS <[bronwyn.s47F \[redacted\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:bronwyn.s47F [redacted]@defence.gov.au)>; s47F [redacted] Emma MS <[emma.s47F \[redacted\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:emma.s47F [redacted]@defence.gov.au)>; s47F [redacted] Kerry MS 1 <[kerry.s47F \[redacted\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:kerry.s47F [redacted]@defence.gov.au)>; s47F [redacted], Natalie MRS <[natalie.s47F \[redacted\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:natalie.s47F [redacted]@defence.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** FOR DMO AWARENESS: 21-0270 - ABC 7:30 - F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Program [SEC=OFFICIAL]

## OFFICIAL

Hi Nicole, Austin,

For your awareness, ABC's 7.30 Report is doing a story on the history of the F-35 program.

## Hatherley, Rosemary MS 2

**From:** s47F Angela FLTLT on behalf of RAAF PA  
**Sent:** Thursday, 29 April 2021 12:30 PM  
**To:** s47F Mark GPCAPT  
**Cc:** s47F Jason GPCAPT; s47F Bronwyn FLGOFF; s47F Jacqueline MS; s47F Matthew GPCAPT; s47F Timothy AIRCDRE; s47F Benjamin WGCDR; RAAF PA; s47F David WGCDR 7; s47F Donald GPCAPT; s47F Don GPCAPT; s47F Sandy GPCAPT; Russell, Fiona MS; Crow, Daniel MR 1  
**Subject:** 210429:1229 - [RAAF PA]-[Barry, Mark GPCAPT] Media enquiry 21-0270 - ABC 7.30 report - Joint Strike Fighter piece

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Action - DC, Action - ATS

### OFFICIAL

DAOC, Hi Sir,  
- GPCAPT Thornton when A/DAOC was coordinating response to this AFHQ request  
- Apologies for the lack of recent contact  
- However, since my last, the new Defence Minister's Office (DMO) has sought additional information WRT this media activity  
- As a result, it is on hold for the moment  
- OCAF/AFHQ is currently in discussion with the DMO with a view to obtaining approval to proceed from Minister Dutton  
- Should DMO approve the engagement, we will come back to you to reinvigorate the discussion  
- If approved to proceed, will seek your advice for viability of the air-to-air filming taking place after 20 Jun (s47E(d))

Ange s47F

Angela s47F  
Flight Lieutenant  
SO3 Public Affairs – Air Force Headquarters  
RAAF Public Affairs

(02) 626 55692 | s22 | R1-6-C041 | Russell Offices, RUSSELL, ACT, 2610



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**From:** s47F , Donald GPCAPT  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 20 April 2021 2:43 PM  
**To:** s47F Don GPCAPT  
**Cc:** s47F Jason GPCAPT s47F , Bronwyn FLGOFF ; s47F Jacqueline MS ; s47F Matthew GPCAPT ; s47F Timothy AIRCDRE ; s47F Benjamin WGCDR ; s47F Angela FLTLT ; RAAF PA ; s47F David WGCDR 7 ;



## Hatherley, Rosemary MS 2

**From:** s47F, Angela FLTLT on behalf of RAAF PA  
**Sent:** Thursday, 29 April 2021 12:35 PM  
**To:** s47F Mark GPCAPT  
**Cc:** s47F, Jason GPCAPT; s47F Bronwyn FLGOFF; s47F Jacqueline MS; s47F k, Matthew GPCAPT; s47F Timothy AIRCDRE; s47F Benjamin WGCDR; s47F David WGCDR 7; s47F Donald GPCAPT; s47F Don GPCAPT; s47F Sandy GPCAPT; Russell, Fiona MS; Crow, Daniel MR 1; RAAF PA 210429:1234 - [RAAF PA]- s47F, Mark GPCAPT] Media enquiry 21-0270 - ABC 7.30 report - Joint Strike Fighter piece  
**Subject:**

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Action - DC

### OFFICIAL

DAOC, Sir, Correction to my last, final line should read:

- If approved to proceed, will seek your advice for viability of the air-to-air filming taking place after 04 Jun s47E(d)

Ange T-S

Angela s47F  
Flight Lieutenant  
SO3 Public Affairs – Air Force Headquarters  
RAAF Public Affairs

(02) 626 55692 | s22 | R1-6-C041 | Russell Offices, RUSSELL, ACT, 2610

Royal Australian Air Force  
Chief of Staff Branch - Air Force Headquarters



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**From:** s47F, Angela FLTLT On Behalf Of RAAF PA  
**Sent:** Thursday, 29 April 2021 12:30 PM  
**To:** s47F Mark GPCAPT  
**Cc:** s47F Jason GPCAPT; s47F Bronwyn FLGOFF; s47F Jacqueline MS; s47F Matthew GPCAPT; s47F Timothy AIRCDRE; s47F Benjamin WGCDR; RAAF PA; s47F David WGCDR 7; s47F Donald GPCAPT; s47F Don GPCAPT; s47F Sandy GPCAPT; s47F Fiona MS; s47F Daniel MR 1  
**Subject:** RE: Media enquiry 21-0270 - ABC 7.30 report - Joint Strike Fighter piece [SEC=OFFICIAL]

### OFFICIAL

DAOC, Hi Sir,  
- GPCAPT Thornton when A/DAOC was coordinating response to this AFHQ request  
- Apologies for the lack of recent contact



## Hatherley, Rosemary MS 2

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**From:** s47F Mark GPCAPT  
**Sent:** Thursday, 29 April 2021 12:42 PM  
**To:** RAAF PA  
**Cc:** s47F Jason GPCAPT; s47F Bronwyn FLGOFF; s47F Jacqueline MS; s47F Matthew GPCAPT; s47F Timothy AIRCDRE; s47F Benjamin WGCDR; s47F David WGCDR 7; s47F Donald GPCAPT; s47F Don GPCAPT; s47F Sandy GPCAPT; Russell, Fiona MS; Crow, Daniel MR 1; s47F Matthew GPCAPT  
**Subject:** 210429:1241 - s47F Mark GPCAPT]-[RAAF PA] Media enquiry 21-0270 - ABC 7.30 report - Joint Strike Fighter piece

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Action - DC

### OFFICIAL

Hi Ange,

Thanks for the update. I will confirm viability window with ACG and AMG and let you know.

Regards

Mark s47F  
Group Captain  
Director Air and Space Operations Centre  
HQ Joint Operations Command  
Tel 02 6128 4802  
Mob s22

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**From:** s47F Angela FLTLT On Behalf Of RAAF PA  
**Sent:** Thursday, 29 April 2021 12:35 PM  
**To:** s47F Mark GPCAPT  
**Cc:** s47F Jason GPCAPT; s47F Bronwyn FLGOFF; s47F Jacqueline MS; s47F Matthew GPCAPT; s47F Timothy AIRCDRE; s47F Benjamin WGCDR; s47F David WGCDR 7; s47F Donald GPCAPT; s47F Don GPCAPT; s47F Sandy GPCAPT; s47F Fiona MS; s47F Daniel MR 1; RAAF PA  
**Subject:** RE: Media enquiry 21-0270 - ABC 7.30 report - Joint Strike Fighter piece [SEC=OFFICIAL]

### OFFICIAL

DAOC, Sir, Correction to my last, final line should read:

- If approved to proceed, will seek your advice for viability of the air-to-air filming taking place after 04 Jun s47E(d)

Ange s47F

## Hatherley, Rosemary MS 2

**From:** s47F Mark GPCAPT  
**Sent:** Friday, 30 April 2021 3:05 PM  
**To:** RAAF PA  
**Cc:** s47F Jason GPCAPT; s47F t, Bronwyn FLGOFF; s47F Jacqueline MS; s47F Matthew GPCAPT; s47F Timothy AIRCDRE; s47F Benjamin WGCDR; s47F David WGCDR 7; s47F Donald GPCAPT; s47F Don GPCAPT; s47F Sandy GPCAPT; s47F Fiona MS; s47F Daniel MR 1; s47F Matthew GPCAPT  
**Subject:** 210430:1504 - [s47F Mark GPCAPT]-[RAAF PA] Media enquiry 21-0270 - ABC 7.30 report - Joint Strike Fighter piece

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Action - DC

### OFFICIAL

Hi Ange,

In principle agreement from ACG and AMG to support this. Noting the non-specific nature of the date of the proposed activity I can't commit to a specific date and this would require further planning once known.

Regards

Regards

Mark s47F  
Group Captain  
Director Air and Space Operations Centre  
HQ Joint Operations Command  
Tel 02 6128 4802  
Mob s22

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---

**From:** s47F t, Angela FLTLT On Behalf Of RAAF PA  
**Sent:** Thursday, 29 April 2021 12:35 PM  
**To:** s47F Mark GPCAPT  
**Cc:** s47F Jason GPCAPT; s47F Bronwyn FLGOFF; s47F Jacqueline MS; s47F Matthew GPCAPT; s47F Timothy AIRCDRE; s47F Benjamin WGCDR; s47F David WGCDR 7; s47F Donald GPCAPT; s47F Don GPCAPT; s47F Sandy GPCAPT; s47F Fiona MS; s47F Daniel MR 1; RAAF PA  
**Subject:** RE: Media enquiry 21-0270 - ABC 7.30 report - Joint Strike Fighter piece [SEC=OFFICIAL]

### OFFICIAL

DAOC, Sir, Correction to my last, final line should read:

- If approved to proceed, will seek your advice for viability of the air-to-air filming taking place after 04 Jun s47E(d)

**From:** [REDACTED] [Daniel MR 1](#)  
**To:** [Media](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] [Fiona MS](#); s47F [REDACTED] [Natalie MRS](#); RAAF PA; s47F [REDACTED] [Sarah WGCDR](#); s47F [REDACTED] [Alesha SONLDR](#)  
**Subject:** 210511:1746 - [REDACTED] , Daniel MR 1]-[Media] Approved Media Engagement - F-35 - ABC 7.30 Report  
**Date:** Tuesday, 11 May 2021 5:46:23 PM  
**Attachments:** [20200511 - Rationale - F35A 730 Report.docx](#)  
[Program and Platform Media Analysis#2.docx](#)  
[20210511 - Media Prep - Chief of Air Force 730 Report.docx](#)  
[F-35A Q2 2020 Insights \(partial\).pdf](#)  
[F-35A Q3 2020 Insights.pdf](#)  
[F-35A Q4 2020 Insights.pdf](#)  
[F-35A Q1 2021 Insights.pdf](#)

---

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon Media

Recently, OMINDEF requested DCOMM-AF submit rationale for Defence engagement with the 7.30 Report's proposed coverage of the F-35.

We have consolidated Air Force's view on this in the following documents:

1. A 2-page rationale
2. Analysis of media coverage of the last 12 months of F-35A coverage
3. Current strategic media narrative and IF ASKED question responses
4. Four quarters of quantitative sentiment insights reports on F-35A

Please submit to OMINDEF at your earliest.

Also, would it be possible to obtain from OMINDEF a decision timeline on this? I will need to set the journalists expectations as she is in a holding pattern.

Kind regards

Dan

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## 7.30 Report Rationale

### Summary:

On 12 February, ABC's 7.30 Report filed a request with Defence Media for support for a story on the F-35A.

During its consideration, Defence requested ABC provide story boards and the ability to allow Air Force factual review of the final product. ABC declined this request citing their editorial guidelines.

After consultation with Chief of Air Force, OMINDEF, and CDF, Air Force formed the view that we participate in the story to ensure Defence messaging is appropriately weighted. This was approved by OMINDEF subject to:

1. Appropriate preparation of talent.
2. s47E(d) [REDACTED].

### Journalist

Angelique Donnellan is a reporter for the ABC's 7.30 Report. Angelique filed a story in January about the Attack Class submarine program. In that story, there was significant weight given to critics of the program. Defence and Naval group declined interviews and instead offered written responses.

### Rationale

Defence formed the view that with or without its participation, the 7.30 Report would proceed with the story.

s47E(d) [REDACTED]

While Defence does not expect to be able to fully shape the story, we believe the coverage will be fundamentally better with our involvement than without.

The risk of not participating includes loss of confidence in the aircraft's ability to perform its role or provide value for money for the Australian public.

s47E(d) [REDACTED]



## Summary of support

Chief of Air Force agreed to provide the following to support the story:

1. Interview with a pilot
2. Interview with a senior officer (potentially CAF) to speak about the strategic value of the aircraft to Australia and Air Force
3. Escort and assistance with filming.

Should ABC require Defence is also able to offer its gallery of footage of the F-35A.

## Current risk

1. Subsequent to the previous Minister's approval to proceed with the story on 17 March, Air Force has been in contact with ABC to advise that we are prepared to assist with their story. ABC has been understanding with our timelines concerning ANZAC Day and the RAAF Centenary. s47F [redacted]
2. s47E(d) [redacted]
3. s47E(d) [redacted]
4. s47E(d) [redacted].

## Mitigation

1. Due to operational commitments, Air Force's ability to support is limited to facilitation at the beginning of June
2. Air Force will provide extensive preparation and training to talent.

Contact officer: Daniel s47F [redacted]

Contact officer phone: s22 [redacted]

Clearance	Name	Appointment	Date and time
Cleared by:	WGCDR Matthew s47F [redacted]	CO 3 SQN	101647L Apr21
	AIRCDRE Robert s47F [redacted]	DG-ACC	111215L Apr21





# ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

## [Objective Reference]

### F-35A Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter – Program and Platform Media Analysis Q3 2019 – Q1 2021

#### Summary

There has been steady coverage on Australia's Joint Strike Fighter Program involvement and F-35A capability over the past 18 months, increasing around major project milestones (IOC, squadron conversion) and international news flash points.

Commentary on US JSF program commitments increased domestic media attention on the future of Australian JSF involvement and the value of Australia's JSF investment to date.

The COVID-19 pandemic generated renewed media interest, particularly by industry publications, in the F-35A delivery and service schedule.

Public affairs messaging and activity around the F-35A and JSF has remained consistent with the high-level strategic messaging of the 2020 Defence Strategic Update and Force Structure Plan.

#### Positive Engagement

- Neutral to positive coverage from news outlets (print, online, TV, socials) typically rose around key milestones/announcements such as declaration of IOC, BAESA depot induction or delivery of more aircraft.
- Overall, industry journalists and publications maintain neutral to positive trending sentiment when writing on the Australian F-35A capability and JSF program involvement.
- Local media and smaller news publications engage positively with F-35A flyovers, training activities, air shows or other community-based opportunities to view the capability.

#### Negative Engagement

- Negative coverage out of news outlets (print, online, TV, socials) typically focusses on the program cost/budget, deliverables, reported technical faults, crashes or incidents, schedule delays
- Negative coverage is also spurred by commentary on US JSF Program movements, or other international JSF program news items (spare parts shortages, technical failures) that may affect Australian involvement/investment.

## Reporting Periods – Key Insights

### Q3 1 July 2019 – 30 September 2019

#### Coverage and Sentiment

Across this period, Air Force received two **Priority 1** media enquiries including one from the Australian Financial Review, concerning Turkey's removal from the JSF Program. Media response reinforced Australia's cooperation with the F-35 Joint Program Office. The ABC also submitted an enquiry covering F-35 service life, procurement and acquisition timeframes, and suitability of the platform. <sup>s47E(d)</sup>

**Priority 2** media enquiries included another ABC query on RAAF Base Darwin's ability to host the F-35A.

Other notable media at this time included a high profile NYT report describing the US JSF program as 'dysfunctional'. Perceived deficiencies in the capability may have affected the F-35 reputation globally.<sup>1</sup>

Key Journalists	Key Publications
<sup>s47F</sup>	Australian Financial Review
	ABC
	Defence Connect

#### Issues/Events

- Initial pilot currency training commences in Australia. Pilot conversion training in US continues until late 2020.
- First two Australia-trained pilots to complete a RAAF F-35A transition course fly aircraft on July 15.

### Q4 1 October – 31 December 2019

#### Coverage and Sentiment

Across this period, Air Force received 2 **Priority 2** media enquiries on the F-35A from industry publications which generated nil or neutral coverage.

Negative coverage included a piece by the Lowy Institute on The Interpreter, describing Australia's F-35A purchase as "problematic" and quoted former Air Force chiefs.<sup>2</sup>

Positive coverage emerged with industry journals reporting a unit price reduction on the F-35A, and highlighted the critical role the capability plays in the global security environment.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/21/magazine/f35-joint-strike-fighter-program.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/australia-s-f-35s-lessons-from-problematic-purchase>

<sup>3</sup> [Unit price drop for F-35 Joint Strike Fighter - Defence Connect](#)

Key Journalists	Key Publications
s47F	ANZDR
	The Interpreter

#### Issues/Events

- Seven F-35A aircraft arrive at RAAF Base Williamtown.
- F-35 Joint Program Office and Lockheed Martin finalise a US \$34billion agreement for production and delivery of 478 F-35s.

### **Q1 1 January 2020 – 31 March 2020**

#### Coverage and Sentiment

Across this period, Air Force received one **Priority 1** media enquiry concerning an F-35A incident at RAAF Base Williamtown resulting in minor surface damage to the aircraft. No resulting article was published by the journalist.

Air Force received 3 **Priority 2** media enquiries from industry journalists concerning maintenance training and schedules. The resulting articles trended neutral in sentiment.

Negative domestic coverage emerged following reports out of the US of cracks in the aircraft's stealth coating.<sup>4</sup>

Key Journalists	Key Publications
s47F	ANZD
	Flight Global
	Contact
	Defence Connect

#### Issues/Events

- Opening of Australian and UK F-35 Reprogramming Laboratory located at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. MINDEF Media Release spurred industry articles.
- Conclusion of RAAF training mission at Luke Air Force Base.<sup>5</sup>

### **Q2 1 April – 30 June 2020**

#### Coverage and Sentiment

Across this period, there were approximately 1950 media items for the F-35A across Print, Magazine, Online, TV and Social Media. The majority of this coverage came from Online publications.

Air Force received 7 **Priority 1** media enquiries related to the F-35 delivery schedule and project costs, following comments made by s47F. Negative implications

<sup>4</sup> [Cracks appearing on new F-35As due to gun use - Defence Connect](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Australia's F-35s: Lessons from a problematic purchase \(lowyinstitute.org\)](#)



for industry and jobs in Australia resulted in these enquiries receiving broadly negative coverage, but they provided an opportunity for Defence to reinforce that delays should not impact FOC.<sup>6</sup> P1 responses to media (ABC, The Australian) also included positive messaging on sovereign industry opportunities. Head Air Capability, AVM Catherine Roberts, provided response to the Sydney Morning Herald on total JSF program costs. s47E(d)

Air Force received a further 4 **Priority 2** media enquiries on the capability, with a mix of positive and negative coverage. Approved media engagement with s47F produced positive reporting in The Weekend Australian, highlighting the F-35A service schedule and transition of 77SQN onto the F-35A.

Key Journalists	Key Publications
s47F	Seven West Media Defence Connect Aviation Week Network Mirage News.

#### Issues/Events

- F-35 maintenance remained a key media issue for Air Force in Q2 2020, carrying over from Q1.
- Discussion around the US JSF global program also increased following comments by s47F that F-35A parts manufacturing might be brought 'onshore'. s47E(d)
- Following US commentary, Australian's F-35A budget and costs to date received negative coverage.<sup>7</sup>

### Q3 1 July 2020 – 30 September 2020

#### Coverage and Sentiment

There were approximately 3865 media items for the F-35A across Print, Magazine, Online, TV and Social Media in this period. The majority of this coverage occurred through online publications.

There was one **Priority 1** media enquiry on the F-35A and JSF program during this period, submitted by s47F at The Australian. The resulting article trended negatively in sentiment, concerning the decision to defer Beyond Line of Sight (BLOS) communications and advanced Maritime Strike capabilities for the platform under the program's original budget.<sup>8</sup>

Air Force received one **Priority 2** media enquiry in this period, submitted by s47F at The Canberra Times. The resulting article trended negatively and concerned perceived faults

<sup>6</sup> MECC Media Quarter 2 Statistics Report - RAAF

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.watoday.com.au/politics/federal/trump-puts-thousands-of-australian-jobs-at-risk-with-f-35-jet-threat-20200515-p54tf0.html>

<sup>8</sup> <https://links.streem.com.au/the-australian-20200727-5r4NEvTnqRCg>

with the ODIN (Operational Data Integrated Network) replacement system for the ALIS (Autonomic Logistics Information System) utility.

Key Journalists	Key Publications
s47F	The Australian The Canberra Times Australian Aviation Reuters

#### Issues/Events

- Release of ASPI's 'Cost of Defence' Publication – scrutiny over F-35A life-of-project budget.
- Defence accepted its 30<sup>th</sup> F-35A from prime contractor Lockheed Martin.
- On September 30 Marine Corps F-35B fighter jet crashed in California during a mid-air refuelling. This did not generate significant domestic coverage.

### **Q4 1 October 2020 – 31 December 2020**

#### Coverage and Sentiment

There were approximately 2625 media items for the F-35A across Print, Magazine, Online, TV and Social Media, the largest percentage being online.

Following the announcement of the F-35 capability reaching IOC on 28 December, there was a noticeable spike in F-35 topic results on social media and online news sources which carried into Q1 2021. Air Force received 2 **Priority 1** media enquiries about the F-35 following the announcement of IOC. Subsequent media reports trended neutral to positive on this topic.

Air Force received a further 5 **Priority 2** media enquiries about the F-35. These included questions around IOC and 77SQN conversion to the F-35A, stemming mostly from defence industry publications. ADBR and Australian Aviation both produced positive reporting on IOC.<sup>9</sup> Contact Magazine produced a positive piece on the recruitment of former Jetstar workers to work on F-35A maintenance at the BAESA facility.

Internationally, coverage focussed on the US Department of Defense's proposed sale of an F-35 to the UAE, which trended negatively across Israeli publications.

Key Journalists	Key Publications
s47F	The Australian
	ADBR
	ANZ Defender
	APDR

#### Issues/Events

- Ferry commenced of 9 F-35A from the US to RAAF Base Williamtown on 03 November.
- Initial Operating Capability declared 28 December.
- 77SQN conversion from Super Hornet to F-35A.

<sup>9</sup> [Breaking: F-35A cleared for operations – Australian Aviation](#)

## Q1 1 January 2021 -31 March 2021

### Coverage and Sentiment

There were approximately 5120 media items for the F-35A across Print, Magazine, Online, TV and Social Media, the largest percentage being online.

Air Force received 4 **Priority 1** media enquiries on the F-35A during this period, resulting in a mix of positive and negative coverage. Responses provided to The Epoch Times produced positive coverage with articles on the BAESA maintenance depot and associated jobs growth, and the platform's participation on Exercise Cope North.<sup>10</sup> The capability received negative coverage in The Australian following US commentary on F-35 engine wear and reported CAF commentary about holding on increasing our JSF order from 72 to 100. Defence response confirmed that the Australian fleet had not experienced the engine wear issues identified in the US.

Air Force received 6 **Priority 2** media enquiries on the F-35A primarily concerning diversion training activities, deployment, and flyovers. The F-35A flyover activity in support of NSW Government Australia Day celebrations was a positive coverage opportunity. Positive coverage also emerged around the maintenance depot induction event and the associated industry and job opportunities.

Air capability, including the F-35A, received positive coverage in conjunction with RAAF Centenary media engagement. This was supported by Air Force senior leadership interviews, and the ABC documentary piece 'To the Stars: 100 Years of the RAAF'.

Key Journalists	Key Publications
s47F	The Australian
	Epoch Times
	Win News
	Aviation Digest

### Issues/Events

- BAE Systems Australia (BAESA) facility at RAAF Base Williamtown inducted its first F-35 aircraft on 8 February, at ceremony attended by the Prime Minister, MINDEF, MINDI and CAF.
- The latest F-35A aircraft to be received were A35-31, A35-32 and A35-33 on 11 February 2021.
- Air Force Centenary 31 March 2021.

<sup>10</sup> [Australian Air Force's Fifth Generation F-35's Ready to Fly \(theepochtimes.com\)](https://theepochtimes.com/australian-air-force-fifth-generation-f-35s-ready-to-fly/)

29 April 2020 to 30 June 2020

## Coverage Volume A breakdown of F-35A's coverage by media type based on volume of coverage

F-35A

s47E(d)

## Coverage Volume Breakdown A breakdown of media coverage by media type based on volume of coverage for F-35A

s47E(d)

# Key Journalists

Key Journalists ranked by volume of mentions.

Defence FOI 557/20/21  
Item 1 Serial 43

s47E(d)



F-35A

Darker (Print), Lighter (Online)

# Key Sources

Key Sources ranked by volume of mentions.

Defence FOI 557/20/21  
Item 1 Serial 43

s47E(d)

F-35A



# Key Publications

Key publications ranked by volume of mentions

Defence FOI 557/20/21  
Item 1 Serial 43

s47E(d)

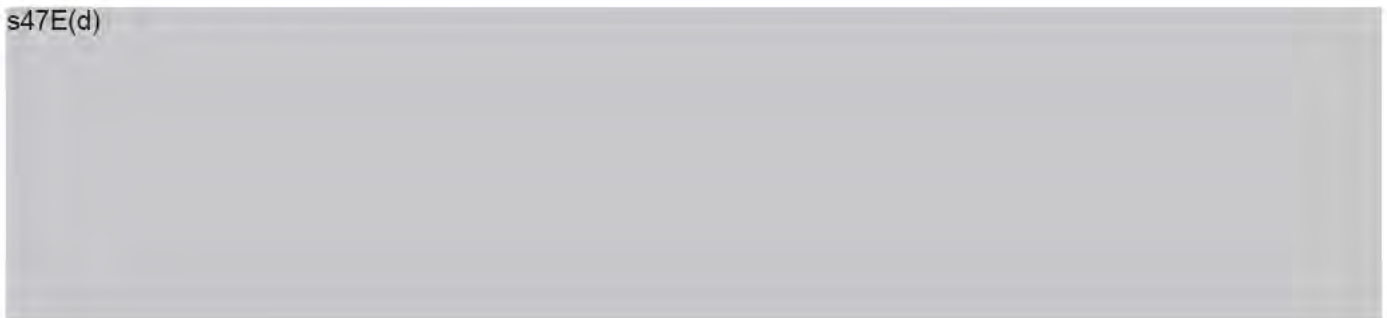


F-35A

## Media Impact Time

An average of F-35A's coverage by most frequent publication and broadcast time

s47E(d)



# Sentiment Analysis

A breakdown of coverage of F-35A by positive, trending, neutral and negative sentiment

Defence FOI 557/20/21  
Item 1 Serial 43

F-35A  
s47E(d)






1 July 2020 to 30 September 2020

## Coverage Volume A breakdown of F-35A's coverage by media type based on volume of coverage

F-35A


s47E(d)



## Coverage Volume Breakdown A breakdown of media coverage by media type based on volume of coverage for F-35A

F-35A

s47E(d)



# Key Journalists

Key Journalists ranked by volume of mentions.

Defence FOI 557/20/21  
Item 1 Serial 43

s47E(d)

F-35A

Darker (Print), Lighter (Online)

# Key Sources

Key Sources ranked by volume of mentions.

Defence FOI 557/20/21  
Item 1 Serial 43

s47E(d)

F-35A

# Key Publications

Key publications ranked by volume of mentions

Defence FOI 557/20/21  
Item 1 Serial 43

s47E(d)

F-35A

## Media Impact Time

An average of F-35A's coverage by most frequent publication and broadcast time

s47E(d)

# Sentiment Analysis

A breakdown of coverage of F-35A by positive, trending, neutral and negative sentiment

Defence FOI 557/20/21  
Item 1 Serial 43

F-35A

s47E(d)



## Themes Word Cloud

A breakdown of keywords by frequency of appearance in coverage about F-35A.

F-35A

s47E(d)




1 October 2020 to 31 December 2020

## Coverage Volume A breakdown of F-35A's coverage by media type based on volume of coverage

F-35A


s47E(d)



## Coverage Volume Breakdown A breakdown of media coverage by media type based on volume of coverage for F-35A

F-35A

s47E(d)

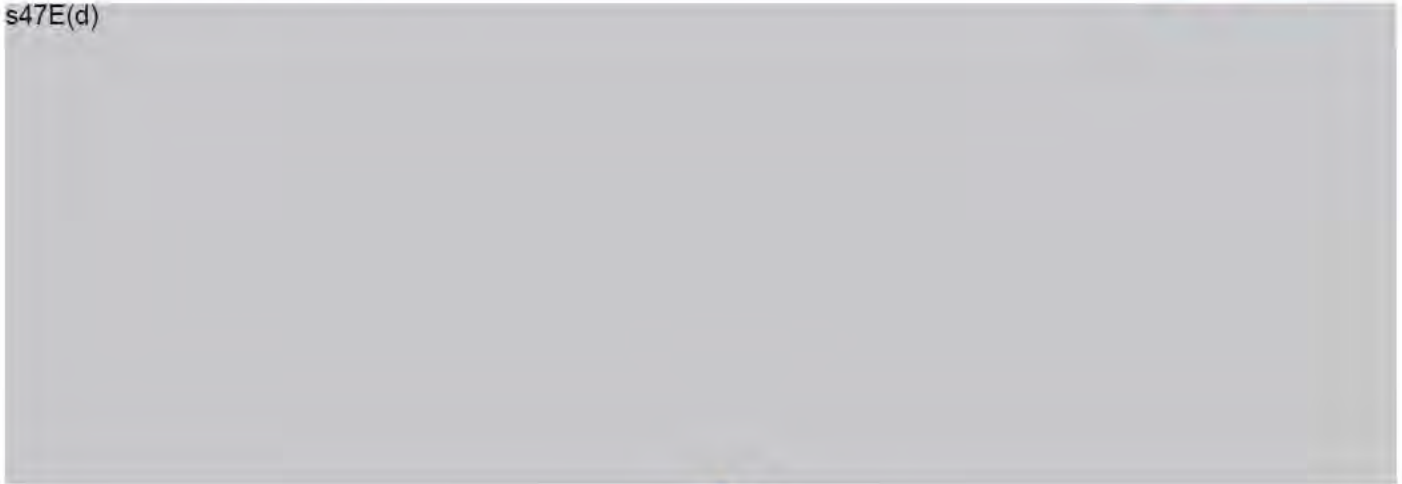


# Key Journalists

Key Journalists ranked by volume of mentions.

Defence FOI 557/20/21  
Item 1 Serial 43

s47E(d)



F-35A

Darker (Print), Lighter (Online)

# Key Sources

Key Sources ranked by volume of mentions.

Defence FOI 557/20/21  
Item 1 Serial 43

s47E(d)

F-35A



s47E(d)

F-35A

## Media Impact Time

An average of F-35A's coverage by most frequent publication and broadcast time

s47E(d)

# Sentiment Analysis

A breakdown of coverage of F-35A by positive, trending, neutral and negative sentiment

Defence FOI 557/20/21  
Item 1 Serial 43

F-35A

s47E(d)



# Themes Word Cloud

A breakdown of keywords by frequency of appearance in coverage about F-35A.

F-35A

s47E(d)

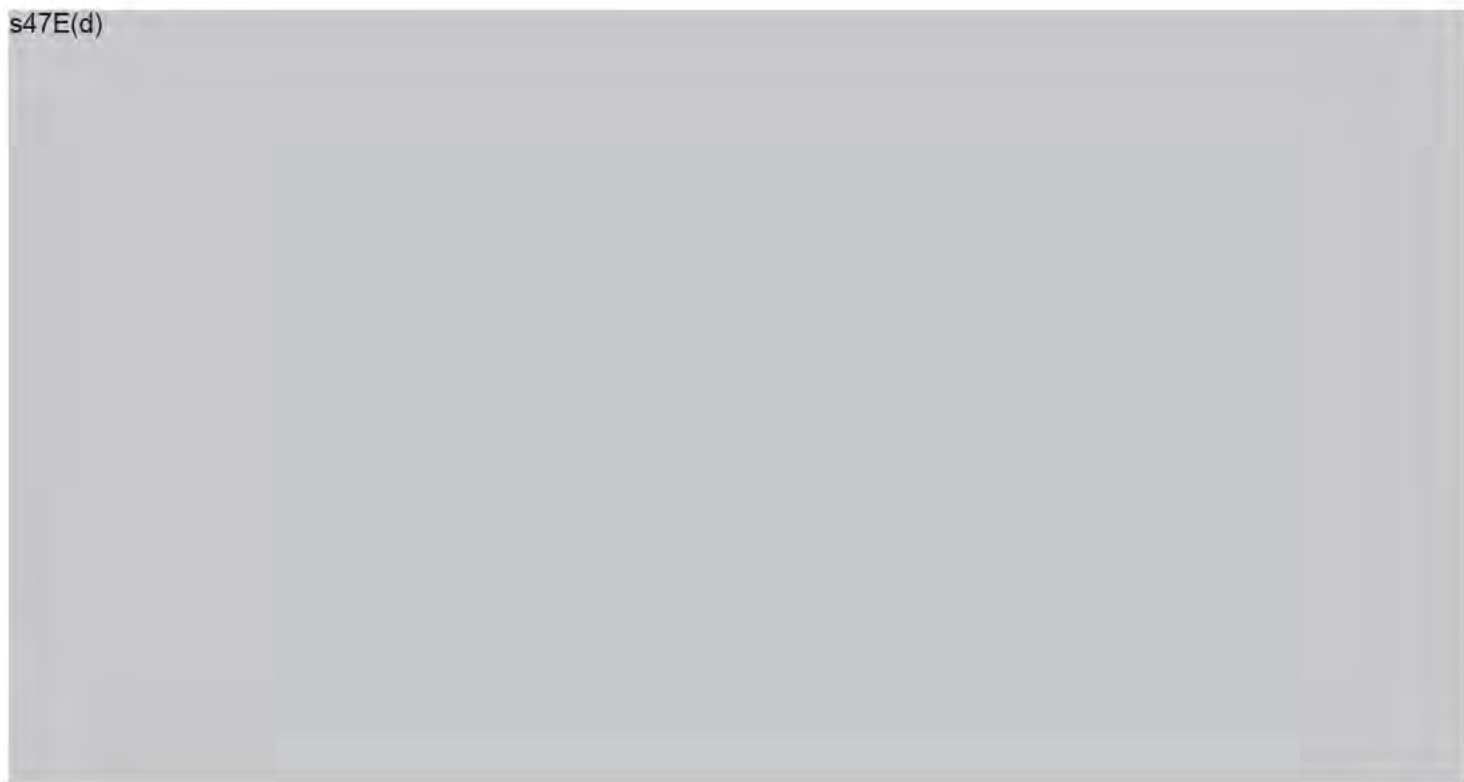


1 January 2021 to 31 March 2021

## Coverage Volume A breakdown of F-35A's coverage by media type based on volume of coverage

F-35A


s47E(d)



## Coverage Volume Breakdown A breakdown of media coverage by media type based on volume of coverage for F-35A

F-35A

s47E(d)



# Front Page Performance

A breakdown of F-35A's front page appearances

Defence FOI 557/20/21  
Item 1 Serial 43

F-35A

s47E(d)



## Key Journalists

Key Journalists ranked by volume of mentions.

s47E(d)



 F-35A

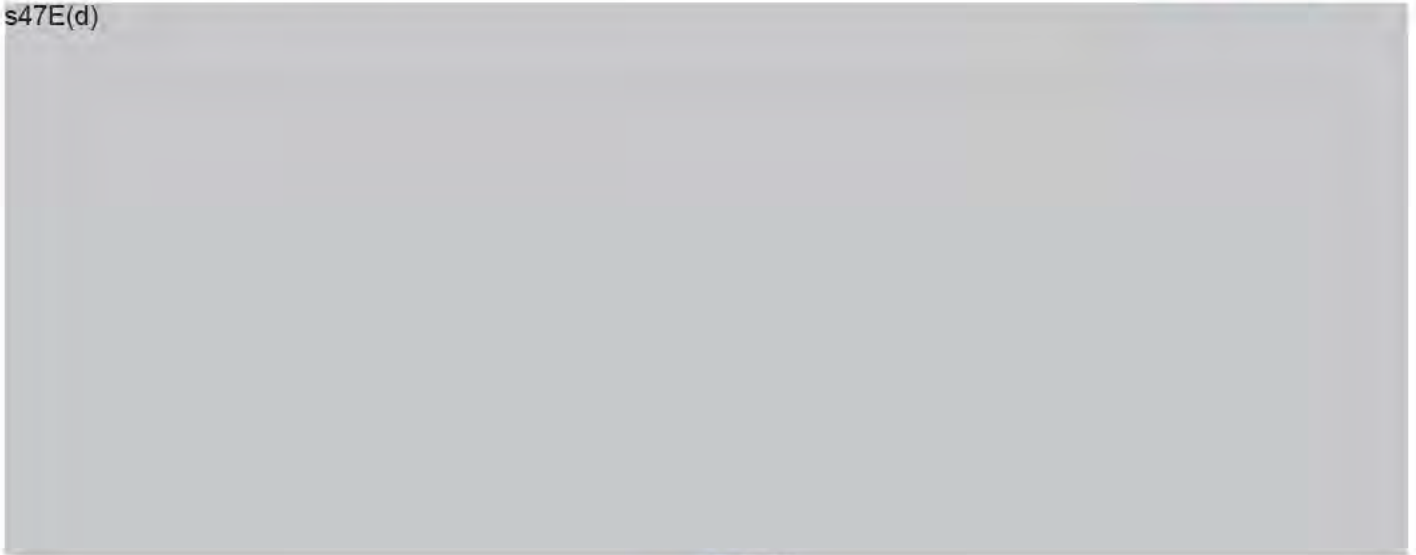
Darker (Print), Lighter (Online)

# Key Sources

Key Sources ranked by volume of mentions.

Defence FOI 557/20/21  
Item 1 Serial 43

s47E(d)

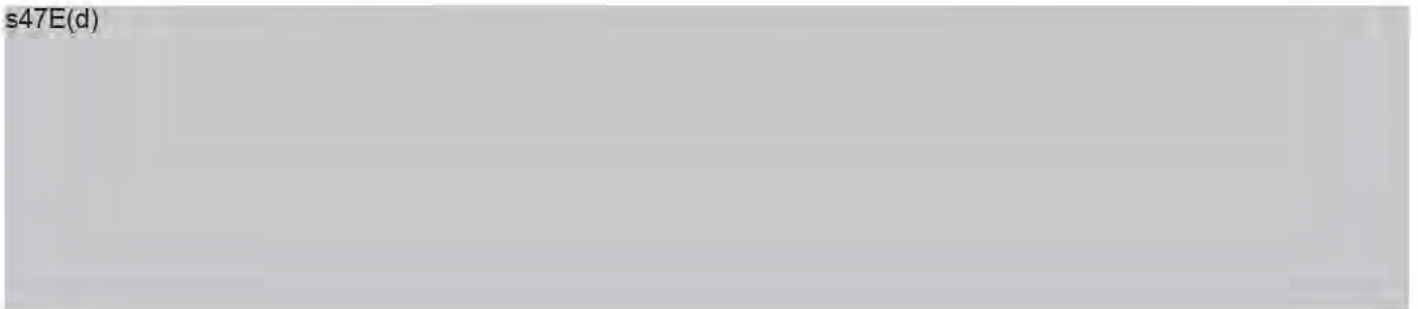


F-35A

## Media Impact Time

An average of F-35A's coverage by most frequent publication and broadcast time.

s47E(d)



# Sentiment Analysis

A breakdown of coverage of F-35A by positive, trending, neutral and negative sentiment

Defence FOI 557/20/21  
Item 1 Serial 43

F-35A

s47E(d)

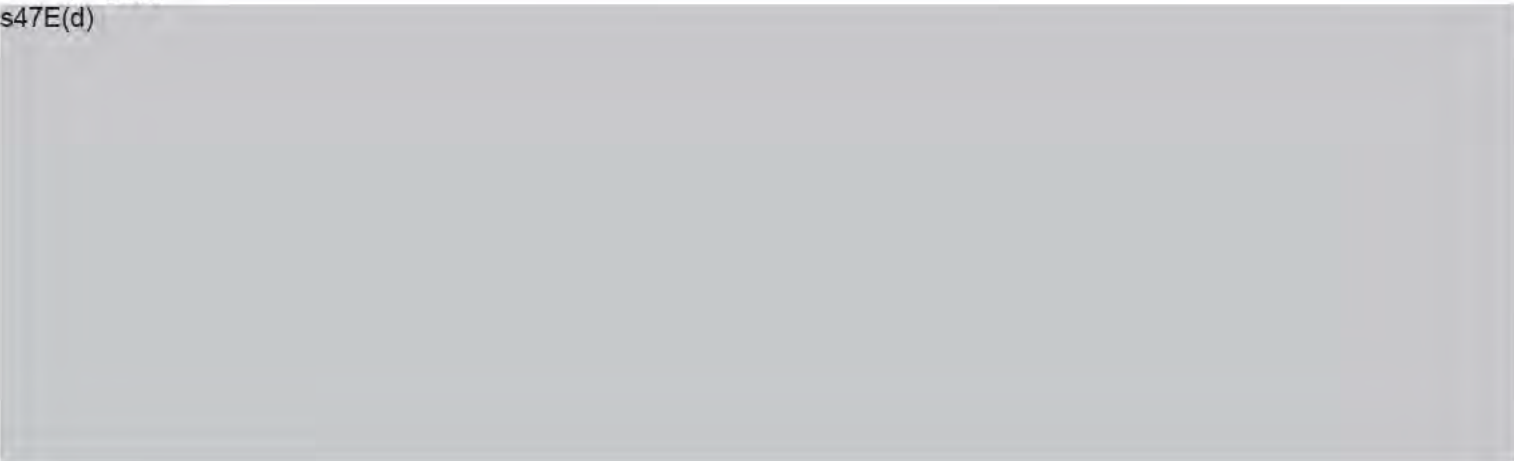


# Themes Word Cloud

A breakdown of keywords by frequency of appearance in coverage about F-35A

F-35A

s47E(d)





## Media Preparation

### 7.30 Report – DD MMM YYYY

#### Purpose

To ensure that Defence messaging surrounding the F-35A is given best treatment, Air Force is prepared to participate in the ABC's 7.30 Report.

This material is a living document and is subject to change as more information is made available.

#### Last updated

Thursday, 11 May 2021.

#### Outcomes

1. Air Force will have had the opportunity to communicate its messages around the F-35A's suitability for Australia
2. By engaging with ABC, Air Force will have maximised the visibility of its message and assisted the ABC to produce a balanced story.

#### Journalist

[Redacted]

#### Scope of discussion

Air Force has advised that we will provide a pilot to speak to the experience of flying the F-35A.

Air Force has advised that Chief of Air Force will be able to speak to the strategic value of the F-35A to Air Force and the Joint Force.

#### Framing

- You are happy to answer all the questions you can. However, there are matters which are either classified or fall under the responsibility of a different authority. In which case, you'll have to suggest they follow up with the appropriate person, i.e. (s47E(d) CDF, OMINDEF).



## Media Preparation

- You would very much enjoy speaking about:
  - The value of the F-35A to Australian security and air power.

### F-35A Statement of Confidence

#### Statement of on the Record F-35A

- As Chief of Air Force I have complete awareness of the full range of the F-35's capabilities. s47E(d)
- Our work has involved a comprehensive series of analysis and activities which has left me without a doubt that this is the right capability for Australia.
- For a program of this size and complexity, it should come as no surprise when technical challenges emerge.
- They emerge because of the robust monitoring the program has in place which then allows us to address those challenges as they are detected.
- No one capability is the answer to generating air power effects. Commentary to the contrary is misguided and uninformed.
- To generate air power effects, Air Force relies on a system of systems as well as the best trained people in the world to wield that system. The F-35A will form a critical component of how the ADF generates Air Power Effects for decades to come.

#### Narrative with examples

The F-35A is a high-end, contemporary system that can integrate across the joint force to enable the ADF to fight and win within our region and a complete step change on how we will conduct air combat.

Examples of the aircraft's step-change include:

- The low-observability of the F-35A makes it difficult for adversary systems to track the aircraft, allowing us to detect the enemy and employ air combat effects before they do.
- Despite its complexity, the aircraft was designed with aspects that make it easier to sustain in the field.
- The aircraft provides the pilots with incredible situational awareness which it can share with allied air, land and sea platforms in the battlespace, enhancing everyone's awareness.





## Media Preparation

### IF ASKED:

**There have been calls to restart production of the F-22. Would you buy them if you could?**

- To buy them now would mean re-starting production and upgrading the software - all for an aircraft which was first flown 30 years ago.
- There are now more advanced programs we could invest in before the F-22.

s47E(d)

- What I know is that our work has involved a comprehensive series of analysis and activities which has left me without a doubt that this is the right capability for Australia for what we need it to do today.

s47E(d)

- In its designated role, the F-35A is superior to anything in existence today – but whether any one aircraft is better than another is a dated view of air combat. That is not how we fight or deliver air combat effects.
- s47F
- Whether or not the Super Hornet or any other aircraft can 'beat' another capability one on one is not a useful conversation.
- No one capability is the answer to generating air power effects. Commentary to the contrary is misguided and uninformed.
- To generate air power effects, Air Force relies on a system of systems as well as the best trained people in the world to wield that system.
- s47E(d)



## Media Preparation

s47E(d)

[Redacted text block]

### **Will Air Force exercise the option to purchase the additional 28 aircraft under the program of record?**

- Defence continuously assesses our current and future capability needs to meet our national security requirements – we wouldn't be doing our job if we didn't.
- The Australian people should know that the government will always seek to invest in the best possible option presented by rigorous analysis, not in blind obedience to an optional number approved on a program of record.
- We will continue to review based on the strategic circumstances and advances in technology and capability.

s47E(d)

[Redacted text block]

s47E(d)

[Redacted text block]

- Through the Defence Strategic Update, the Australian government has mandated us to shape our environment, deter actions against our national interest, and respond with credible military force, if required.



## Media Preparation

- I do not take lightly my responsibility to act as a good steward of public money
- The Future will be characterised by invisible connections across air, land, maritime, space and cyber – with masses of data from sensor inputs being fused using artificial intelligence and machine learning - to rapidly convert data to information to knowledge to insight at unfathomable speeds.
- We must maintain our edge.
- Since World War Two, confident ethical militaries have underpinned the security and prosperity of the entire world.
- s47E(d) [REDACTED]

s47E(d) [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

s47E(d) [REDACTED]

- The Royal Australian Air Force has never operated a hi-low mix.
- We are very happy with where the F-35A fits in our overall capability mix.

s47E(d) [REDACTED]

- The Royal Australian Air Force first principles review budgeted for higher operating costs. That budget, approved by government, remains sufficient so there will be no additional cost to the Australian taxpayer.
- That said, Air Force and the Joint Project Office are constantly investigating and implementing new strategies to bring down the cost of sustainment.



## Media Preparation

Contact officer: Daniel Crow

Contact officer phone: s22

Clearance	Name	Appointment	Date and time
Cleared by:	GPCAPT Guy Adams	Director Joint Strike Fighter Division	061230L Apr21
	AIRCDRE Robert Denney	Director General – Air Combat Command	061600L Apr21
	AVM Cath Roberts	Head of Air Force Capability	070900L Apr21
	GPCAPT Guy Adams	Director Joint Strike Fighter Division	071319L Apr21
	AIRCDRE Robert Denney	Director General – Air Combat Command	071510L Apr21
	WGCDR Matthew Harper	CO 3 SQN, Air Command	101647L Apr21
	AIRCDRE Rob Denney	DG-ACC	111215L Apr21
	AM Mel Hupfeld	CAF	111330L Apr21
	AIRCDRE Rob Denney	DG-ACC	111345L Apr21
	<u>AM Mel Hupfeld</u>	<u>CAF</u>	<u>111648L Apr21</u>



**From:** s47F [REDACTED] [Kurravi MR](#)  
**To:** s47F [REDACTED] [Natalie MRS](#)  
**Cc:** [Media](#)  
**Subject:** 20210512 - Email - s47F [REDACTED], Natalie MRS - FOR REVIEW - RAAF Participation in 7.30 Report Rationale - s47F [REDACTED] Kurravi MR  
**Date:** Wednesday, 12 May 2021 2:52:17 PM  
**Attachments:** [210512 RAAF Participation in 7.30 Report Rationale.docx](#)

---

## OFFICIAL

Hi Natalie,

Please see the revised version of the rationale behind RAAF participating in the 7.30 Report Story about the F-35As for your to review.

Let me know if you need anything else.

Cheers,

Kurravi

**Kurravi** s47F [REDACTED] | Communications Officer

**Defence Media** | Department of Defence

---

P: 02 6132 7493 M: s22 [REDACTED]

Alternate E: [media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)

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**From:** s47F Bronwyn MRS  
**To:** Media  
**Subject:** 20210514 - Email - Media - FOR INFO: Media Engagement - F-35 - ABC 7.30 Report - s47F Bronwyn MRS  
**Date:** Friday, 14 May 2021 2:18:00 PM

---

OFFICIAL  
Team,

Can we please put this one on the 'with OMINDEF for clearance' list so we can keep visibility of it?

Thanks!

BG

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-----Original Message-----

From: Media <media@defence.gov.au>  
Sent: Friday, 14 May 2021 12:49 PM  
To: s47F Nicole MS <nicole.s47F@defence.gov.au>; s47F Austin MR <austin.s47F@defence.gov.au>  
Cc: s47F Media <media@defence.gov.au>; s47F Bronwyn MRS <bronwyn.s47F@defence.gov.au>; s47F Kerry MS 1 <kerry.s47F1@defence.gov.au>; s47F Emma MS <emma.s47F1@defence.gov.au>  
Subject: FOR INFO: Media Engagement - F-35 - ABC 7.30 Report [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL  
Good afternoon Nicole and Austin,

As requested, please find attached the rationale for Defence engagement with the 7.30 Report's proposed coverage of the F-35.

The document also includes current strategic media narrative on the topic and talking points, including 'if asked' responses.

Would be grateful for your indication on when we can proceed with this engagement as this has been on hold for a while.

Please let me know if you need any further details.

Kind regards,

Natalie

Natalie s47F | Director Media  
Media and Communications Branch | Department of Defence

---

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600  
M: s22

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**From:** [Media](#)  
**To:** [Daniel MR 1: Media](#)  
**Cc:** [Fiona MS: s47F](#), [Natalie MRS: RAAF PA: s47F](#), [Sarah WGCDR: s47F](#), [Alesha SQNLDR](#)  
**Subject:** 20210601 - Email - [Daniel MR 1 - Approved Media Engagement - F-35 - ABC 7.30 Report - Media](#)  
**Date:** Tuesday, 1 June 2021 2:01:23 PM

---

## OFFICIAL

Hi Dan,

As you've discussed with Natalie, are you able to please get in touch with [\[redacted\]](#) and politely decline this opportunity?

We will send around finalised shortly.

Kind Regards,

**Kyle** [s47F](#) | Communication Officer  
**Defence Media** | Department of Defence

---

P: 02 5130 4191 M: [s22](#)

Alternate P: 02 6127 1999

Alternate E: [media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)

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-----Original Message-----

From: [\[redacted\]](#), Daniel MR 1 <[daniel.\[redacted\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:daniel.[redacted]@defence.gov.au)>

Sent: Tuesday, 11 May 2021 5:46 PM

To: Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>

Cc: [\[redacted\]](#), Fiona MS <[fiona.\[redacted\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:fiona.[redacted]@defence.gov.au)>, [s47F](#), Natalie MRS <[natalie.\[redacted\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:natalie.[redacted]@defence.gov.au)>, RAAF PA <[raaf.pa@defence.gov.au](mailto:raaf.pa@defence.gov.au)>, [s47F](#), Sarah WGCDR <[sarah.\[redacted\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:sarah.[redacted]@defence.gov.au)>, [s47F](#), Alesha SQNLDR <[alesha.\[redacted\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:alesha.[redacted]@defence.gov.au)>

Subject: Approved Media Engagement - F-35 - ABC 7.30 Report [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon Media

Recently, OMINDEF requested DCOMM-AF submit rationale for Defence engagement with the 7.30 Report's proposed coverage of the F-35.

We have consolidated Air Force's view on this in the following documents:

1. A 2-page rationale
2. Analysis of media coverage of the last 12 months of F-35A coverage
3. Current strategic media narrative and IF ASKED question responses
4. Four quarters of quantitative sentiment insights reports on F-35A

Please submit to OMINDEF at your earliest.

Also, would it be possible to obtain from OMINDEF a decision timeline on this? I will need to set the journalists expectations as she is in a holding pattern.

Kind regards

Dan

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**From:** [REDACTED] Daniel MR 1  
**To:** Media; RAAF PA; [REDACTED] Fiona MS  
**Subject:** 210601:1711 - [REDACTED], Daniel MR 1]-[Media] Finalised media enquiry - \*21-0270 - ABC 7.30 - Joint Strike Fighter  
**Date:** Tuesday, 1 June 2021 5:11:26 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

## OFFICIAL

Afternoon Media

Bron's advice to Fiona was that Defence Media make contact with the journalist to advise of the change.

Will leave approach to you guys but I had planned to go back with:

1. Unfortunately, Defence is now unable to provide support
2. Express regret for any inconvenience
3. Advise her to submit questions relating to the story through Defence Media

Kind regards

Dan

**Daniel** [REDACTED]

Air Force Strategic Communications Manager, Air Force Headquarters

s22 [REDACTED] | [daniel\[REDACTED\]@defence.gov.au](mailto:daniel[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au)

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---

**From:** Media  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 1 June 2021 4:11 PM  
**To:** RAAF PA ; [REDACTED], Fiona MS ; [REDACTED], Daniel MR 1  
**Cc:** Media  
**Subject:** Finalised media enquiry - \*21-0270 - ABC 7.30 - Joint Strike Fighter [SEC=OFFICIAL]

## OFFICIAL

Good afternoon,

FYSA the below response has been provided to [REDACTED], ABC 7.30 on F-35.

Opportunity to participate declined.

This was cleared by OMINDEF.

Kind regards,

**Kyle** <sup>s47F</sup> [REDACTED] | Communication Officer

**Defence Media** | Department of Defence

---

P: 02 5130 4191 M: s22 [REDACTED]

Alternate P: 02 6127 1999

Alternate E: [media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)

---

**From:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Friday, March 19, 2021 12:01 pm

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** Media



**Subject:** RE: ABC enquiry F35 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for following up, we appreciate your patience.

Someone will be in contact with you this afternoon regarding your request.

Kind regards,

**Kate**

**Defence Media** | Department of Defence

---

M: 02 6127 1999

E: [media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)



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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, 19 March 2021 11:36 AM

**To:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>

**Subject:** Re: ABC enquiry F35 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**⚠ EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe. ⚠

Hi, I just wanted to check in on my F35/Williamstown filming request. Any progress to report?

Thanks so much

---

**From:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Thursday, 25 February 2021 11:31 AM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>

**Subject:** RE: ABC enquiry F35 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for the information, I will relay this on for you.

Kind regards,

**Kate**

**Defence Media** | Department of Defence

---

M: 02 6127 1999

E: [media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)



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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wednesday, 24 February 2021 10:42 AM

**To:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>

**Subject:** Re: ABC enquiry F35 [SEC=OFFICIAL]



**⚠️ EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe. **⚠️**

Hi thanks for coming back to me. Please see response below.

Unfortunately, we do not provide such detail for any stories we put together for 7.30. I think you'd appreciate the ABC must maintain editorial independence, and our audience would judge us harshly if we provided the level of detail you're after. As I mentioned in my previous email though, we would like to speak to a pilot to get a first-hand account of what the F35 is like, while also analysing issues the program has faced, which are all on the public record.

Also note that 7.30 has the most robust fact checking process. We will be providing you with right of reply to all issues raised in the story.

We are very keen to film at Williamstown and hope that you will agree to participate in the story. Thank you

---

**From:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, 23 February 2021 4:28 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>

**Subject:** RE: ABC enquiry F35 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Hi [REDACTED],

We are looking to find out what the 'plot structure' of the story will be and how the interviews will be interwoven (e.g. the sequence they will progress in).

If you have any story board or briefs which would give a deeper understanding of the story you're wishing to portray, could you please provide them?

I hope that helps.

Kind regards,

**Kate**

**Defence Media** | Department of Defence

---

**M:** 02 6127 1999

**E:** [media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)



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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, 23 February 2021 10:33 AM

**To:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>

**Subject:** Re: ABC enquiry F35 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**⚠️ EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe. **⚠️**

Hi Kate, thanks for the email. As I mentioned on the phone just looking for clarity on exactly what extra information Air Force is looking for. If there are specific issues you want addressed, please send them through so I can tailor a response. Broadly, the issues we plan to discuss in the story are already in the public domain. Thanks

---

**From:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>

**From:** [Media](#)  
**To:** [RAAF PA](#); [REDACTED] [Fiona MS](#); [REDACTED] [Daniel MR 1](#)  
**Cc:** [Media](#)  
**Subject:** 210602:1414 - [Media]-[RAAF PA] Finalised media enquiry - \*21-0270 - ABC 7.30 - Joint Strike Fighter  
**Date:** Wednesday, 2 June 2021 2:14:59 PM

---

**OFFICIAL**

Good afternoon,

The following email was provided to [REDACTED] from 730.

Kind regards,

Kerrie

**Kerrie** [REDACTED] | Assistant Director  
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**From:** Media

**Sent:** Wednesday, 2 June 2021 1:41 PM

**To:** [REDACTED] ; Media

**Subject:** RE: ABC enquiry F35 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for your time on the phone.

As discussed, Defence is unable to facilitate your request.

Kind regards,

**Kerrie**  
**Defence Media** | Department of Defence

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**E:** [media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)

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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, 12 February 2021 12:44 PM

**To:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>

**Subject:** ABC enquiry F35

**⚠ EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe. **⚠**

Hi, I work for the ABC's 7.30 program and I'm putting a story together on the Joint Strike Fighter.

I'd like to suss out the possibility of doing some filming at Williamtown. I'd be keen to interview a pilot about what it's like to fly the F35 and how it compares to previous jets. It would be good to get some overlay of the pilot in the jet. Some overlay of pilot training would also be excellent if that was possible.

If any of this is doable, I'd be keen to do the filming sometime the week starting the 22nd



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**FOI Request:** *Item 2 A document detailing the cost per flight hour for the F35s and projected lifetime costs of the project.*

### **F-35 FLEET COSTINGS**

- Defence does not maintain a format of information which readily satisfies the provision of information relating to hourly operating costs and maintenance hours per flight hour. Producing this would unreasonably divert resources from Defence operations.
- The CASG Sustainment budget for the period FY2013-14 to FY2024-25 is AUD4.5bn. In FY2020-21, the annual CASG sustainment budget was AUD267m.
- Defence is currently preparing a submission to Government regarding future sustainment costs.
- Over the FY 2020-21 period, the F-35A fleet has increased from 26 to 37.
- Defence provides public reporting of Flying Hours and Budget information in the following documents:
  - Defence Annual Reports - <https://www.defence.gov.au/annualreports/>
  - Portfolio Budget Statements - <https://www.defence.gov.au/Budget/PBS.asp>
  - Portfolio Additional Estimates - <https://www.defence.gov.au/Budget/PAES.asp>

**FOI Request:** *Item 3 - Compiled list of any mechanical and/or engine issues and/or spare parts issues identified with the F35 fleet from **January 2020 to 31 May 2021** which the FOI is processed. Please list each issue separately plus brief overview of issue and date of occurrence.*

### **F-35 FLEET MECHANICAL/PARTS ISSUES**

#### **F-35 General Air Vehicle Operations**

- With the large variety of complex systems that make up the F-35, there is often need to replace failed components to make a system serviceable.
- Detailed below are a range of mechanical failures and parts issues for the air vehicle (propulsion listed separately) up until May 2021.
  - Canopy – Delamination of transparency coating
    - Caused by cabin air leaking into the canopy frame and causing the internal coating to delaminate
    - Aircraft continue to fly in this condition while awaiting spares
    - New canopies are being manufactured with vent holes in the canopy frame to alleviate the delamination issue.
  - Panel Nutplate Fasteners
    - Disbond of anchor nuts when removing panels
    - Production issue has since been addressed



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- Not an airworthiness issue, causes additional maintenance to re-adhere nutplates.
- Seat Harness – Straps fraying
  - Minor fraying as observed on legacy aircraft
  - Not an airworthiness risk
  - Limits are published in technical documentation to support serviceability determination
- Radome damage – Multiple bird strikes
  - Several radomes have been damaged/replaced due to bird strikes
- Integrated Power Package (IPP) - Oil leak
  - The IPP is the F-35 version of an Auxiliary Power Unit (APU)
  - Oil leak on the IPP, requiring repair / replace of O-rings
- Leading Edge Flap Bullnose (Panel 5337) – Delamination
  - Impact damage to the Leading Edge Flap
  - Could not be locally repaired; required a complex repair to remediate.

**Propulsion Fleet Degraders**

- **General.** F135 issues have garnered international media attention. However, Australia has not experienced these issues to the same levels as other partners with only a few modules being replaced since operations began in Australia, Dec 2018.
- Engine Fan Module
  - Foreign Object Damage (FOD) caused predominately by bird strikes has resulted in Fan replacement.
- Engine Power Module
  - Bird strikes have resulted in Power Module removal
  - Mainly due to bird debris blocking air cooling vents rather than damage to components.



### Additional references

- Defence provides public reporting of Flying Hours and Budget information in the following documents:
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  - Portfolio Budget Statements - <https://www.defence.gov.au/Budget/PBS.asp>
  - Portfolio Additional Estimates - <https://www.defence.gov.au/Budget/PAES.asp>
- Official government reporting on the F-35 project in Australia:
  - Project Data Summary Sheets (PDSS) - [https://www.anao.gov.au/sites/default/files/Auditor-General\\_Report\\_2020-2021\\_19\\_PDSS\\_new\\_air\\_combat\\_capability.pdf](https://www.anao.gov.au/sites/default/files/Auditor-General_Report_2020-2021_19_PDSS_new_air_combat_capability.pdf)
  - Major Projects Report (MPR) - <https://www.anao.gov.au/work/major-projects-report/major-projects-report-2019-20>
- From the United States, the most recent official reports on the F-35 Program's spare parts and sustainment issues can be found at:
  - United States Department of Defense Office of Inspector General report: Audit of the F-35 Program Office's Beyond Economical Repair Process for Parts (Friday, September 4, 2020) - <https://www.oversight.gov/report/dod/audit-f-35-program-office%E2%80%99s-beyond-economical-repair-process-parts>
  - United States Government Accountability Office report - F-35 Sustainment - Enhanced Attention to and Oversight of F-35 Affordability Are Needed (Thursday, April 22, 2021) - <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-21-505t>