



# 180<sup>TH</sup> FIGHTER WING, TOLEDO, OH OHIO AIR NATIONAL GUARD

## NEWS ADVISORY IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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### **180<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing answers U.S. Air Force F-35A data-call**

(Swanton, Ohio) – The 180<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, Ohio National Guard, is one of 18 Air National Guard installations across the nation that responded to a data-call by the U.S. Air Force to help determine the next two recipients for the F-35A Joint Strike Fighter.

The data-call by the U.S. Air Force will provide quantitative information to the Air Force and will be the basis for developing a short-list of candidates for intensive review this summer. The data call consisted of information on mission requirements, capacity, cost factors and environmental requirements.

The 180FW has sent the information required for the submission and Col. Craig Baker, 180FW commander, is enthusiastic about the wing's chances.

"The 180FW is at the forefront of the Air National Guard, and the dedication and innovation of the 180FW Airmen will ensure the wing remains viable long into the future," said Baker.

Maj. Gen. Mark E. Bartman, Ohio adjutant general and former 180FW commander, agrees. "Currently the 180FW, with its Block 42 F-16s, provides protection to more than 60 percent of the U.S. population and deploys around the globe to address all threats. But the threat environment is becoming more complicated and the F-35A represents a quantum leap in air dominance capability," Bartman said. "With the conversion to the F-35A's advanced stealth, integrated avionics, and sensor fusion the 180FW can maintain its position as a premier fighter unit in the U.S. Air Force."

As the wing works toward obtaining the F-35A mission, the support of the community is an invaluable asset. The Air National Guard is a community-based organization, and the members of the 180FW, whose families live and work in the areas they serve, rely heavily on strong community support as they perform their missions.

In recent months, letters of support for bringing the F-35A to the 180FW have been sent to Secretary of the Air Force, the Honorable Deborah Lee James, from local chambers of commerce, the mayors association and the Ohio General Assembly. The Secretary has also received letters of bipartisan support from Congressional leaders including Sen. Sherrod Brown (D), Sen. Rob Portman (R), U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-09), U.S. Rep. Bob Latta (R-05) and U.S. Rep. Mike Turner (R-10).

"The 180th Fighter Wing continues to not only be one of the top Air National Guard units in the nation, defending us both at home and abroad, but is also a major partner in the local community and State of Ohio. The installation, its location and its first-class men and women are uniquely qualified to execute the F-35A mission, which will provide greater ability in defending the homeland," Congressman Latta commented.

Congresswoman Kaptur added, "The outstanding service record, dedication to mission success and unsurpassed community support set the 180th Fighter Wing apart from the field. They are the total package and will be highly competitive in this process."

The final evaluation process is expected to be completed this fall, and those primary installations are forecasted to begin receiving the F-35 fighter in the summer of 2022. As the 180FW works through the selection process they are committed to ensuring that the community is kept well informed and maintaining an already strong community support.

**NOTE: For more information on the selection process and criteria, please visit:**

**<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/198367/180th-fighter-wing-candidate-f-35a-mission>**