History Of The F-35B Swivel Duct

By Kevin Renshaw

A critical component of the F-35B short takeoff/vertical landing, STOVL, variant of the Lightning II is the three-bearing swivel duct nozzle, or 3BSD. The nozzle, mounted at the back of the aircraft, allows the thrust from the Pratt & Whitney F135 engine to be vectored from straight aft for conventional flight to straight down for STOVL operations. The 3BSD can move through ninety-five degrees of motion seamlessly with no change in engine operation. The nozzle also provides yaw control during hover and during transitions to hover.

F-35 Flight Test Update

By Eric Hehs

This thirteenth installment overall in the series of F-35 flight testing reviews presents a variety of
surface markings, one F-35A tends to look like the next F-35A. Soon, however, a small, aerodynamically clean bump on the upper surface between the two vertical tails will distinguish Norwegian F-35As from other F-35s.

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