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NEWS RELEASE

Lot 8 Raptor delivers early

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio - The Air Force accepted delivery of the 144th F-22A Raptor from Lockheed Martin on December 14, 2009, more than 17 days earlier than originally scheduled.

The first of Lot 8, this aircraft marks the start of the second of three multi-year lots that bundled 60 Raptors into a single contract at significant savings to the Air Force.

"Completing the first multi-year lot is a major milestone for the Air Force," said Lt. Col. Rob Strasser, F-22A Production Squadron commander.

"The F-22A production line is a mature operation, the result of years of lessons learned."

Production for the F-22A will end after the last of four aircraft in Lot 10 are delivered in early 2012. The final fleet size will be 187.

"Our Air Force commends the great Americans who assemble the world's only operational 5th-generation fighter, and encourages them to 'finish strong,'" Lt. Col. Strasser said.

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