F-35B LIGHTNING STEALTH JET MADE ITS UK DEBUT

On 8 July Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince George met Royal Air Force Red Arrows pilots and Air Cadets at the world’s biggest airshow. Their Royal Highnesses attended the Royal International Air Tattoo (RIAT), at RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire, as Britain’s new supersonic F-35B Lightning stealth jet made its UK debut with a thrilling flying display.

During the Royal Visit, the Duchess – who is the Patron of the RAF Air Cadets – met twelve Air Cadets in celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the Air Training Corps. Earlier more than 750 air cadets paraded before the Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Sir Andrew Pulford, and the Air Cadets’ Ambassador, Honorary Group Captain Carol Vorderman.

Picture caption

Jets from the Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team, the Red Arrows, seen in formation with two Typhoons and the F-35B Lightning II.

The special formation took place at the Royal International Air Tattoo, Gloucestershire, and marked the arrival into the UK of the F-35B.

The world’s first vertical landing supersonic stealth strike fighter jet, the F-35B Lightning II comes into service with the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force from 2018. That year will see celebrations commemorating the formation of the Royal Air Force in 1918 when the Royal Naval Air Service and the Royal Flying Corps were merged as one service.

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