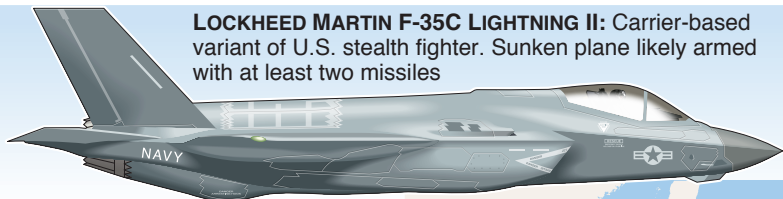


U.S. working to recover F-35 warplane

The U.S. Navy is racing to recover an F-35 fighter jet that fell into the South China Sea – before the Chinese get there first

LOCKHEED MARTIN F-35C LIGHTNING II: Carrier-based variant of U.S. stealth fighter. Sunken plane likely armed with at least two missiles



Jet costs roughly \$100 million and is packed with classified technology

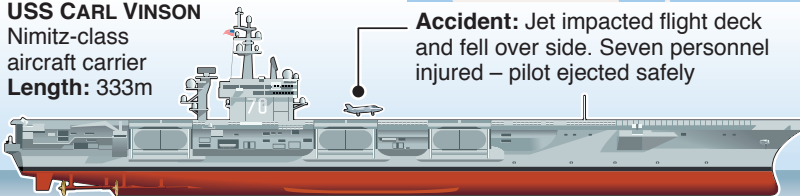
Length	15.7 metres
Wingspan	13.1 metres
Maximum speed	Mach 1.6
Range	2,200km
Payload	8,160kg

Jan 24: F-35 falls into sea after suffering "landing mishap" on deck of **USS Carl Vinson** aircraft carrier. Plane lies on seabed in international waters (location unconfirmed)

— **Nine-dash line:** China claims most of South China Sea and could try to claim F-35 salvage rights

USS CARL VINSON

Nimitz-class aircraft carrier
Length: 333m



Accident: Jet impacted flight deck and fell over side. Seven personnel injured – pilot ejected safely

Propulsion: Two nuclear reactors

Speed: 30+ knots

Crew: 5,200