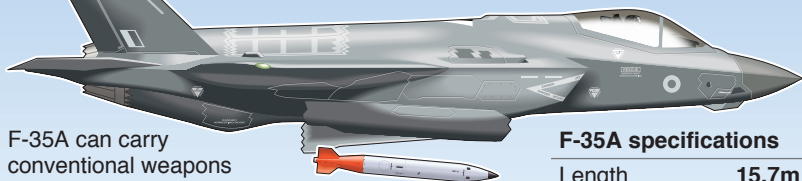


UK to buy nuclear-capable aircraft

Britain is reintroducing fighter jets capable of carrying tactical atomic weapons to support NATO's airborne nuclear mission

LOCKHEED MARTIN F-35 LIGHTNING II

U.S.-made stealth jet – UK buying 12 of **F-35A** variant



F-35A can carry conventional weapons or nuclear bombs

F-35A specifications

| | |
|---------|----------|
| Length | 15.7m |
| Speed | Mach 1.6 |
| Range | 2,200km |
| Payload | 8,160kg |

B61-12 nuclear bomb: NATO's nuclear mission involves allied aircraft being equipped with U.S. bombs stockpiled in Europe

Length: 3.6m



Tail kit: Guides bomb to target

Low yield warhead: Intended for battlefield use

F-35B variant, currently operated by **RAF** and **Royal Navy**, has shorter range and carries fewer weapons

F-35B specifications

| | |
|---------|----------|
| Length | 15.5m |
| Speed | Mach 1.6 |
| Range | 1,667km |
| Payload | 6,800kg |



Aircraft not able to carry nuclear bombs

Fan propulsion system allows for short take-off and vertical landing (STOVL)

UK expected to buy total of **138 F-35** jets