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USPS ANNOUNCES PURCHASE OF F-35 JETS FOR RURAL DELIVERIES

WASHINGTON – The United States Postal Service today announced the acquisition of eleven F-35 Joint Strike Fighters from Lockheed Martin for use in rural postal deliveries, mainly in Alaska. The total acquisition cost of the aircraft will be \$2.2 billion. These aircraft will be the Vertical Take-Off or Landing variant (VTOL). This vertical landing facility will allow the aircraft to land in remote parts of Alaska that are currently underserved by the USPS.

The aircraft will operate from the underused Eielson AFB and provide a much needed boost to the local economy. Dignitaries expected to attend the roll-out of the aircraft later this year (or possibly next year or the year after that, depending on Lockheed Martin) include Lance Armstrong and the families of the late US Senators, Robert C. Byrd and Ted Stevens.

USPS was compelled to acquire the aircraft in order to service the large number of Border Patrol agents who are currently being moved to Alaska as part of *Operation Daisy Chain*. This deployment is a Dept. of Homeland Security initiative to secure the US-Canadian border against the wave of Canadian refugees expected to cross into Alaska to take advantage of lower-cost healthcare after the full implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

Moreover, the US Treasury has decided that payroll services to the Border Patrol will be provided only in \$1 coins, which means USPS needs an advanced airlift facility.

Long-term the USPS also expects to acquire a Gerald R. Ford-class aircraft carrier with long-range refueling capabilities to service the new fleet of F-35s. The ship has provisionally been given the name: *USS Boondoggle*.

Commenting on the purchase, Postmaster General Patrick R. Donahoe said: "In the context of our operating loss of \$2.4 billion in fiscal year 2012, it's actually not that much money."

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A self-supporting government enterprise, the U.S. Postal Service is the only delivery service that reaches every address in the nation: 152 million residences, businesses and Post Office Boxes. The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations. With more than 31,000 retail locations and the most frequently visited website in the federal government, usps.com, the Postal Service has annual revenue of more than \$65 billion and delivers nearly 40 percent of the world's mail. If it were a private-sector company, the U.S. Postal Service would rank 42nd in the 2012 Fortune 500. The Postal Service has been named the Most Trusted Government Agency for seven years and the fourth Most Trusted Business in the nation by the Ponemon Institute.

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The National Postal Forum, a not-for-profit education corporation, was established in 1968 by a group of postal customers/mailers who were committed to an ongoing partnership with the U.S. Postal Service. The Forum's goal, then and now, is to provide education to business mailers and communication/feedback between the Postal Service and its business customers for a more responsive and efficient mail communications system. Held annually, the National Postal Forum is a combination educational conference/trade show offering a wide range of opportunities for attendees. For more information, visit npf.org.