

Pike's Peak Regional Airshow returns to Colorado Springs

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. – A F-35 Lightning II fighter jet piloted by Maj. Kristin BEO Wolfe showcased its thunderous blare and unique maneuvers at the Pike's Peak Regional Airshow Sept. 24-25.

After a two-year hiatus, the gates opened at 8 a.m. with over 40 military aviation static displays, an array of food vendors from funnel cakes to snow cones and an educational STEM-focused kid zone. There was something for everyone to enjoy before the air performances began at 12 p.m. Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Apache Pilot Todd Toombs who volunteered as a vendor said he was impressed with the turnout.

"The line to see the Apache has been steady since people arrived," Toombs said. "It's a lot of fun allowing people the opportunity to see the aircraft up close and ask questions."

Toombs said the children were eager to press every button in the cockpit.

Jamie Hunt who attended the airshow with her two children said the event exceeded her expectations.

"The smile on my son's face getting into a Blackhawk and watching the F-35 performance was totally worth the sunburn on the back of my legs," Hunt said.

The airshow wrapped up at 3:30 p.m. with the Heritage Flight. The World War II-era P-47 Thunderbolt joined the F-35, the Air Force's most advanced fighter aircraft, in flight to honor the history of the Air Force.

"The Heritage Flight brought tears to my eyes," Hunt said. "Seeing them fly together was so inspiring."

According to KRDO, a local radio station, 30,000 people were expected to attend over the weekend.

A record-breaking attendance resulted in unforeseen traffic delays and a shortage of parking spots on Saturday at the Colorado Springs Airport where the event took place. Hunt said it took her one hour to drive three-quarters of a mile to the parking area.

Karen Walters, one of the several event coordinators, said there has never been an issue with parking in previous years.

“At 1 p.m. we ran out of parking,” Walters said. “People got out of their cars to watch the performances from the shoulder of the road.”

The Pike’s Peak Regional Airshow announced on their Facebook page that anyone unable to park on Saturday would be allowed to attend the Sunday show without repurchasing tickets; additional parking would be provided.

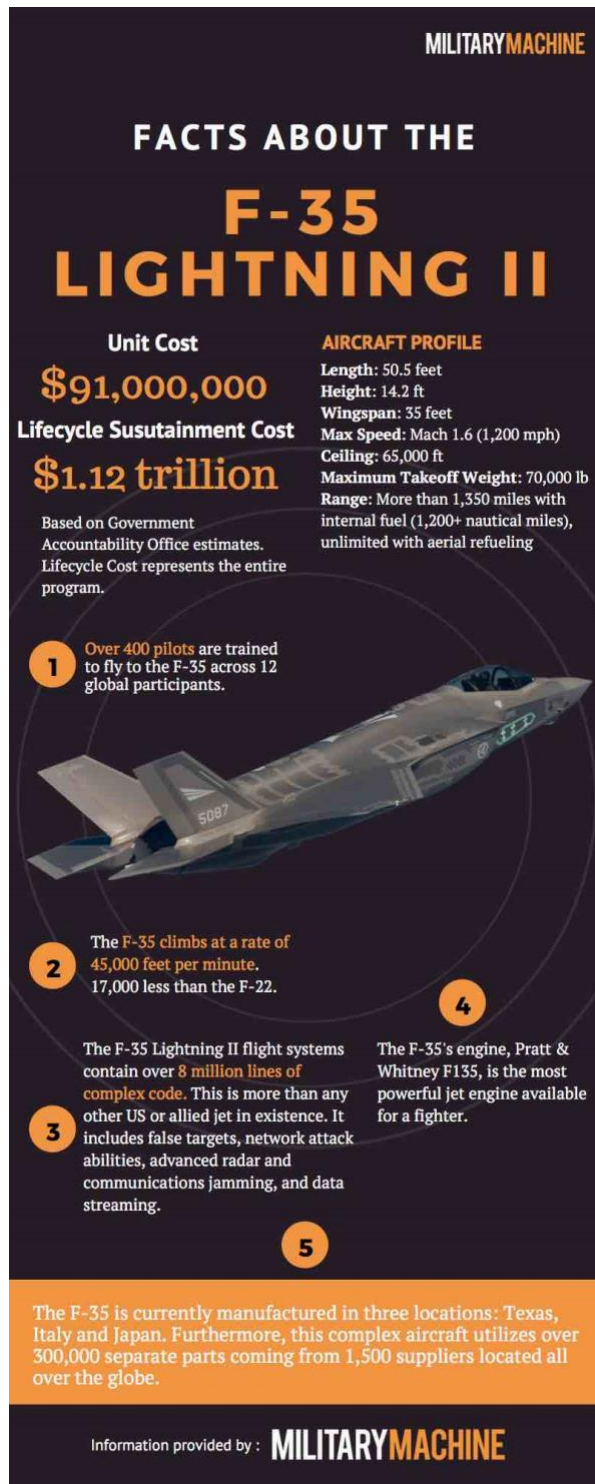
The airshow proceeds contributed to three Colorado Springs museums dedicated to preserving U.S. military heritage: The Fort Carson 4th Infantry Division Museum, the Peterson Air and Space Museum and the National Museum of WWII Aviation.



Participants stand in line to experience the inside cabin of the CH-47 Chinook at the Pike's Peak Regional Airshow, Sept. 24, 2022. The B-25 Mitchell could be seen flying in the distance. Photo by Meghann Greenhill



Mathew Greenhill points to the F-35 for his son to see at the Pike's Peak Regional Airshow, Sept. 24, 2022. Hearing protection was encouraged. Photo by Meghann Greenhill



Fast Facts on the F-35 Lightning II. Colin Ritsick, Aug. 7, 2018, Military Machine

<https://militarymachine.com/f-35-lightning-ii-facts/f-35-infographic/>