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First F-35 Stealth Fighter Jets Arrive in Israel

On Dec. 12, the first two of Israel's F-35 stealth fighter jets touched down at Nevatim Air Base. Israel is the first country after the United States to receive the fifth-generation aircraft and had agreed to purchase a total of 50 from U.S. defense company Lockheed Martin. The F-35s departed from a Lockheed Martin facility in Texas last week, briefly stopped near Portugal, and spent the weekend in Italy. After a brief weather-related delay, the planes touched down Monday evening in Israel and were greeted by a ceremony attended by Israeli President Reuven Rivlin, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman, U.S. Secretary of Defense Ash Carter and U.S. Ambassador Dan Shapiro. "The aircraft will change the rules of the game," said Rivlin. "Our enemies already know that Israel is not worthwhile to harm."

Our Synagogue partners with AIPAC, America's pro-Israel lobby, in educating our community on issues affecting the U.S.-Israel relationship. We encourage you to learn more by contacting AIPAC at synagogue@aipac.org or by visiting www.aipac.org.