

F-35 Lightning II Test Pilot

Billie Flynn
Lockheed Martin



Billie Flynn is a Lockheed Martin Fellow and the senior experimental test pilot for the F-35 program. He is also the F-35 Demo Pilot who displayed the Lightning II at the 2017 Paris Air Show.

In 2003, Billie joined Lockheed Martin as a test pilot for the F-16 E/F Super Viper. In June 2012, he became the 39th pilot to fly the F-35 when he took off in an F-35B. He continues today conducting flight test on all F-35 variants.

Prior to joining Lockheed Martin, Billie served in the Canadian Armed Forces for

23 years and flew the CF-18 Hornet operationally in both Canada and Germany. From 1984 to 1988, he was posted to the 409 Tactical Fighter Squadron based in Canadian Forces Base Baden-Soellingen in Germany, attending the Tactical Leadership Programme at Jever Air Base. He left Germany in 1989 to attend the United States Naval Test Pilot School in Patuxent River, Maryland. From 1990-94, he flew as the Canadian Air Force exchange test pilot at the F-16 Combined Test Force at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

In 1997, he was assigned as Commanding Officer of 441 Tactical Fighter Squadron in Cold Lake, Alberta. During this period, he commanded the Canadian Task Force in Aviano, Italy, during Operation Allied Force. He flew 25 combat missions over Kosovo and the former Republic of Yugoslavia, where his unit received Battle Honours from Queen Elizabeth II, the first such distinction for a Canadian fighting unit since World War II. Following his tour as Commander, he retired from the Canadian Forces. In 1999, he became a test pilot for the European Aerospace and Defence Company based in Munich, Germany. During this time, he tested the Eurofighter Typhoon, focusing on flight control development and radar testing, as well as testing the F-4 E/F and Tornado fighters.

Billie was born in Rostrup, Germany. He graduated from the Royal Military College of Canada with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering. He has a Master of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering from California State University Fresno, a Master of Science Degree in Aviation Systems from the University of Tennessee, as well as a Master's in Business Administration Degree from the University of Ottawa. In 2008, Billie was inducted as a Fellow in the Society of Experimental Test Pilots (SETP) and served as SETP President from 2010-2011. He has more than 5000 flight hours in more than 80 different aircraft.