



Ministry of Defence

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## A look at the Defence news 23 – 29 May

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**Last week, the Royal Netherlands Air Force's first two F-35 fighter aircraft arrived on Dutch soil, with the honour falling to Leeuwarden air base. A summary of Defence news in the week of 23 – 29 May.**



F-35 fighter aircraft lands on Dutch soil.

The aircraft, which were in their future home country for the first time, will stay here for three weeks. This is also the period during which the noise-level test flights will be conducted for which Minister of Defence Jeannine Hennis-Plasschaert had the aircraft flown to the Netherlands. This gives local residents living close to air bases Leeuwarden and Volkel the opportunity to compare the noise levels of the F-35 to those of the F-16. The new fighter aircraft will also be on display on the RNLAf open days on 10 and 11 June.

### Results of F-35 noise-level test flights

The first results of the F-35 noise-level test flights are now available. The outcome of a survey and noise measurements shows that in general, locals living close to Leeuwarden and Volkel air bases notice only minor differences between the noise levels of the current F-16 and the F-35.

### Marine Corps open to women

From 1 January 2017, the Marine Corps will be open to women. Female candidates will have to meet the same requirements as their male colleagues. The reason behind this decision is that these days, it is an outdated idea to exclude women by definition from a particular profession. The starting point, however, remains that the current

### Prime Minister welcomes Invictus Games athletes

"You have made the Dutch proud." These were the words Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte used to welcome the Dutch Invictus Games athletes. These 30 injured military and ex-military athletes had been invited to the Ministry of General Affairs in The Hague. The Prime Minister expressed his admiration for the athletes' achievements. They were awarded 18 medals at the international sporting event for wounded, injured or sick armed services personnel and their associated veterans, which was held in the American city of Orlando.

