



GREATER MADISON  
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

# NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (December 7, 2016)**

**Contact: Erik Greenfield, Communications Manager, 608-443-1952 (office), 608-669-7884 (cell)**

## **Madison-Based 115<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing One of Five Finalists for State-of-the-Art F-35A Aircraft**

***Chamber President applauds Air Force announcement***

MADISON – Today the United States Air Force announced it has selected the Madison-based 115<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing of the Air National Guard as one of five finalist sites for the F-35A aircraft. The Air Force will announce at a later date the two bases that will receive the next-generation jets.

In response to today's announcement, Chamber President Zach Brandon released the following statement:

"Today's news is not only great for the 115<sup>th</sup> but also for the Greater Madison economy. Being chosen for the F-35s would mean a tremendous investment in the base, adding to its already-substantial effect on the region. With \$100 million in annual economic impact, as well as providing emergency response services for Dane County Regional Airport and tuition support for area students who serve in the Guard, the 1,200 airmen of the 115<sup>th</sup> make significant contributions to our community.

"We are thrilled but not surprised by this announcement. The Air Force has rightfully recognized the incredible work being done at the 115<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing and the base's tremendous potential going forward.

"With its exceptional facilities, infrastructure and personnel – as well as its strategic proximity to Volk Field and the Air Refueling Wing in Milwaukee – it is clear that the 115<sup>th</sup> is uniquely positioned to be the future home of the F-35. The Chamber and the Badger Air Community Council look forward to working with our federal, state and local leaders over the coming months to help make that case."

***About the Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce:***

The Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce is the voice of business with nearly 1,300 organizations – ranging from one-person shops to corporations with more than 9,500 employees – working to bring the Greater Madison area to its full potential. The Greater Madison region is a leader in innovation. From cutting-edge technologies to distinctive retail shops to inventive services and products, our members vary greatly but are united by the region's entrepreneurial spirit. More information can be found at [greatermadisonchamber.com](http://greatermadisonchamber.com).

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