



F-35 LIGHTNING II PAX RIVER INTEGRATED TEST FORCE

Squadron Leader Andy Edgell, Royal Air Force Test Pilot | VX-23

Squadron Leader Edgell commenced his Royal Air Force (RAF) career in 1999 as an Officer Cadet at Southampton University Air Squadron. Based at the Ministry of Defence (MOD) Boscombe Down, Edgell completed his Elementary Flying Training on the Bulldog and Tutor whilst studying Aerospace Engineering at Southampton University. Upon graduating with a First Class (Hons) bachelor's degree, Edgell attended Initial Officer Training at RAF College Cranwell in 2002. He then launched into a three-year fast jet training programme.

In 2003, Edgell reported to 207(R) Squadron, RAF Linton-on-Ouse, for Basic Fast Jet Training on the Tucano and, the following year, he progressed to 208(R) Squadron, RAF Valley, for Advanced Fast Jet Training flying the Hawk T Mk1.

Edgell was then assigned to 4 Wing Cold Lake where he conducted tactical weapons training at the NATO Flying Training in Canada, flying the Hawk 115. Upon completing Fast Jet Training in 2006, he reported to Joint Force Harrier (JFH) to fly the Harrier GR7 and GR9.

In 2006, Edgell joined JFH at RAF Wittering to conduct a 13-month conversion to the Harrier at the 20(R) Squadron Operational Conversion Unit. He was subsequently assigned to "Happy IV" (AC) Squadron at RAF Cottesmore as a first tourist until the squadron's disbandment in March 2010. During this tour, Edgell matured as an aviator — as he operated from HMS Ark Royal and HMS Illustrious, he acquired Electronic Warfare Instructor and 4-ship (Division) Lead qualifications and ultimately led combat operations over Afghanistan in support of Operation HERRICK. Upon "Happy IV" disbanding, Edgell continued his Harrier career serving in 800 Naval Air Squadron (NAS) until the demise of JFH and the final flight of the Harrier on December 15, 2010.

During his final six months at 800 NAS, Edgell successfully applied to the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School (USNTPS) located at Naval Air Station Patuxent River. In 2011, Edgell embarked upon the test pilot phase of his career by joining USNTPS Class 141. After graduation in 2012, he briefly relocated to the UK to complete a Staff Tour at the Air Warfare Centre Flying Division Headquarters, MOD Boscombe Down.

Edgell returned to Patuxent River to conduct developmental test on the F-35B and F-35C Lightning II aircraft as a proud member of the Air Test and Evaluation Squadron (VX) 23 "Salty Dogs." As the project pilot for all UK weapons testing, Edgell was the subject matter expert for carriage and release of Paveway IV, AIM-120 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile and AIM-132 Advanced Short Range Air-Air Missile. In this capacity, he was responsible for the safe, effective and efficient planning, execution and reporting of the UK F-35B weapons program, leading, managing and training a highly diverse team of technicians, engineers, administrative support staff and test pilots.

Recently qualified to conduct F-35B envelope expansion during Short Takeoff and Vertical Landing (STOVL) operations, Edgell conducted the first ski-jump military launch of the F-35B in June 2015.

