

Europe: U.S. Nuclear-capable Bombers Drill for Strikes in “Highly Contested Environments”

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The Aviano Air Base was employed for NATO’s first air wars, those in Bosnia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the 1990s. The F-35 is capable of delivering B61-12 nuclear bombs. (See videos below.)

U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Air Forces Africa

November 15, 2022

See this: [555th FS F-16 Fighting Falcons take off for Falcon Strike 2022](#)

Exercise Falcon Strike 2022 – an Italian Air Force training exercise which focuses on fifth and fourth-generation integration between NATO Allies operating the advanced F-35A Lightning II stealth fighter – kicked off today, continuing through Nov. 28, at Italy’s Amendola Air Base.

U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Air Forces Africa has routinely supported the annual exercise, which, **for the first time, will incorporate the 48th Fighter Wing’s F-35 aircraft from the 495th “Valkyries” Fighter Squadron**, the **first organically available fifth-generation assets within U.S. European Command’s area of responsibility**. RAF Lakenheath continually supports training and operations across the theater since their F-35s initial arrival in December 2021.

Aviano Air Base’s 31st Fighter Wing will also support the exercise from the 555th “Triple Nickel” Fighter Squadron flying the F-16 Fighting Falcon, which will support fourth-generation fighter air warfare training.

“Falcon Strike 2022 provides our Airmen and Allies critical opportunities to

train how we fight - together,” said Gen. James Hecker, USAFE-AFAFRICA commander. “Any opportunity to train and operate as a coalition force strengthens the Alliance as we face more dynamic threats in **highly contested environments.**” [Hecker is also top commander of NATO’s Allied Air Command.]

During Falcon Strike, **Hecker will also host the F-35 European Air Chiefs Meeting, which brings together fifth-generation Allies to discuss F-35 interoperability, opportunities, and challenges in a dynamic theater.**

Terrible: USAF drop B61-12 missile using B-2 Bomber & F-35 Is Literally Earth Shattering

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