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COVER: Gunner’s Mate 2nd Class Bruce Alvarez mans a .50-caliber machine gun aboard the USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN-76) as the carrier conducts an aircraft compatibility testing in the Atlantic on 16 January. (USN/Riley McDowell)

THIS PAGE: Increasing numbers of Lockheed-Martin F-35C Lightning IIs are joining the Fleet — evidenced by this photograph of a Lightning II from VFA-125 coming aboard USS Nimitz (CVN-68) in the Pacific on 18 January. (USN/James Hong)