F35 Joint Strike Fighter

Is it the right aircraft for Australia?

Air Marshal Brown: "There is an issue with the difference between single-engine and dual-engine aircraft..."

Australian F 35 – Single Engine

Can they fly the same Middle East missions with the same safety for the Crew?



Australian F 18 – Dual Engine

Middle East missions are between eight and 10 hours.



Source Senate FADT Committee Hansard - 2 June 2015

Senator LAMBIE: Is it correct that the F18 is a twin-engine jet fighter which provides a great deal of mechanical reliability and safety for the air crew on their current Middle Eastern missions, and can fly with only one engine running?

Air Marshal Brown: That is correct, a twin-engine aircraft. The F18 is quite capable of flying on one engine. **Senator LAMBIE:** Could the same Middle Eastern air combat missions that the F-18s are currently flying be undertaken with the same degree of reliability and safety by the new F35 single-engine jet fighters? **Air Marshal Brown:** There is an issue with the difference between single-engine and dual-engine aircraft...