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## **THIRD BATCH OF F-16 C/D BLOCK 52 AIRCRAFT ARRIVES IN PAKISTAN**

**ISLAMABAD 20 NOVEMBER, 2010:** Third batch of 6 x F-16 C/D Block 52 fighter aircraft arrived at PAF Base, Shahbaz (Jacobabad) today.

Vice Admiral LeFever, Chief, Office of Defence Representative in Pakistan handed over the aircraft on behalf of the US Government to Air Marshal Tahir Rafique Butt, Vice Chief of the Air Staff Pakistan Air Force, who accepted them on the behalf of the Government of Pakistan.

Pakistan attaches great significance to its air defence needs; Pakistan had signed a contract with the US Government in 2005-06 for the acquisition of 18 F-16 C/D Block 52 aircraft. Under this arrangement, PAF would receive these state-of-the-art aircraft from the US Government in staggered batches. In this connection, six similar aircraft have already arrived in Pakistan this year. The deliveries of the remaining aircraft would be completed by next month.

The F-16 C/D Block 52 aircraft is a high tech fighter aircraft equipped with state-of-the-art avionics suite and latest weapons having Night Precision Attack capability. These aircraft are part of PAF plans to modernize and enhance its Air Defence capabilities. A number of PAF and US officials attended the ceremony.