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UNCLASSIFIED



(U) Open-Source Image Depicting Flight Path and Area of Possible Impact

(U) **Japanese F-35 Crashes East of Misawa Air Base:** Debris believed to be from the Japanese F-35A fighter vertical tails, was discovered Wednesday after the jet departed Misawa Air Base and disappeared from radar during a routine training exercise the night prior, according to a Japanese Ministry of Defense announcement. Radar lost contact with the stealth fighter 25 minutes into a training flight with three other aircraft approximately 135 kilometers east of Aomori Prefecture. Japan has sent out U-125A search-and-rescue aircraft, UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters, and P-3C maritime surveillance aircraft, as well as three Japan Coast Guard vessels to search for the lost F-35. A U.S. Navy P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft and the guided missile destroyer USS *Stetham* are assisting the Japanese air and maritime assets to find the missing aircraft and its pilot. **Comment:** This is the first incident involving a Japanese F-35A fighter and only the second F-35 crash since the fighter's maiden flight in 2008. Defense Minister Takeshi Iwaya told reporters that the Air Self-Defense Force will ground the 12 remaining F-35As stationed at the Misawa Air Base until the investigation is complete.

(B)(1) Classified IAW E.O. 13526, Sec 1.4 (b), (c)

(U) POC—(B)(6) Privacy

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