

What role does military aviation play during modern times?

Questions/Key Points	Notes
<p>Is there a better strategy to use, that causes less civilians to die?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Overall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The wars of the past century have pretty much shaped military aviation as a whole ■ Principles like strategic bombing and strong air-to-air combat remain ○ Middle East <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ https://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep24881.9 ■ https://media.defense.gov/2010/May/26/2001330261/-1/-1/0/AFD-100526-020.pdf ■ Strategic bombing is still a primary strategy ○ Military Industrial Complex <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ https://www.britannica.com/topic/military-industrial-complex ■ Because the military is so heavily tied up in the industries and companies that produce its technologies, it is difficult to make changes to funding/spending without causing a lot of disruption in the civilian domain as well
<p>Is it even possible to reduce our military spending without causing ripple effects in other parts of the economy?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Space "Defense" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://www.defense.gov/Explore/News/Article/Article/2348614/space-force-chief-us-doesnt-want-war-in-space-must-be-prepared-for-it/ ○ It's kinda hilarious how the military has to take over literally every domain, including space ○ https://www.spaceforce.mil/About-Us/About-Space-Force/ ○ Space Force is a new branch of the US armed forces ○ A runoff from the Cold War "Space Race" (which the soviets won lol) ○ Another form of deterrence theory in which we need to "prepare" for a space war, but avoid it if we can ● Contractor corporations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://fas.org/asmp/profiles/deffirm.html ○ Much of the engineering for military aircraft is done by private corporations that are given grants by the government. For example, Boeing, Lockheed, Raytheon, etc ● Airshows/Demo teams <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Blue Angels <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Navy ■ https://www.blueangels.navy.mil/history/ ■ Created a demo team in 1946 to raise public interest and morale in military aviation ■ Currently flying F/A-18 Hornets ○ Thunderbirds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ AF ■ https://www.af.mil/About-Us/Fact-Sheets/Display/Article/104552/thunderbirds/ ■ Has similar purposes to the Blue Angels - recruitment, interest, etc ■ Created in 1953; now flying the F-16 ● Controversies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Budget

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Is the F-35 really so problematic, or is it just a talking point that's being blown out of proportion?

- <https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2079489/dod-releases-fiscal-year-2021-budget-proposal/>
- Is the US spending too much money on military aircraft?
- We allocate billions and billions of dollars towards defense spending. Some of it might be justified, others more questionable
- F-35
 - <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/21/magazine/f35-joint-strike-fighter-program.html>
 - <https://scientificamerican.com/article/what-went-wrong-with-the-f-35-lockheed-martins-joint-strike-fighter/>
 - <https://www.thenation.com/article/archive/f35-fighter-jet-pentagon/>
 - "Joint Strike Fighter Program" - wanted an aircraft that would be flown by AF, Navy and Marines
 - Project led by Lockheed
 - The entire project will cost over 1 trillion dollars
 - Lots of maintenance issues, technical difficulties, but it is still being produced
 - Much criticism of the aircraft performing in mediocrity, possibly because of the way it was designed for the all three branches to use it
 - Designed with stealth in mind which limited its performance, but it's not even very "stealthy"

Summary

In the Middle East, US aviation strategy is still mostly dominated by strategic bombing and airstrikes. Recent improvements in aviation technology and space technology might change the way wars will be fought in the future. The largest criticism of military aviation today is its large budget and the amount of money the military spends on projects that may or may not even be considered a success.