

COSTLY WEAPONS

Military reformers are targeting big-ticket weapons systems to cut wasteful spending.

F-35 LIGHTNING II JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER JET

Initial cost: \$233 billion for 2,866 planes

Current cost: \$379 billion for 2,457 planes

Initial delivery target: 1,966 planes by 2019

Current delivery target: 585 planes by 2019

Problems: The plane's internal cannon cannot be used because it pulls the plane to one side; the \$500,000 pilot's helmet has less night-vision capability than current helmets; software development lags and often does not work; the plane cannot adequately perform close-air support.

USS GERALD R. FORD (CVN-78) AIRCRAFT CARRIER

Initial cost: \$11 billion

Current cost: \$13 billion

Initial target delivery: 2014

Current target delivery: Sometime in 2017

Problems: The most expensive warship in history has been cited for faulty software, electricity-producing turbines, air traffic control, aircraft-arresting gear and launch/recovery of warplanes.

LITTORAL COMBAT SHIPS

Initial cost: \$220 million for 55 ships

Current cost: \$478 million for 40 ships

Initial operational capability: Six years late in 2013

Problems: The ships' sea frame design does not meet speed and range requirements; the ships are lacking in survivability and lethality; construction quality and basic engineering are troubling.

Sources: Michael Gilmore, director of the Pentagon's Operational Test and Evaluation Office, in an August memo, as reported by Bloomberg News; Project on Government Oversight; congressional testimony; Government Accountability Office