

JULY 08 - 10, 2020 WASHINGTON, D.C.

FY2021 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS THE RACE TOWARDS THE **6TH GENERATION FIGHTER**

The US and its global partners are being drawn into an operating environment which is contested, informationcentric and multi-domain. This new environment will require a new stealth fighter, one that incorporates paradigm-changing technologies such as autonomous systems, AI and accelerated real-time analytics.

In order to accomplish this, the US Air Force is realigning their budget to reduce funding for outdated, legacy systems and reallocating those resources towards the development of advanced air capabilities such as the 5th and 6th generation fighters.

The FY21 budget reflects this future-focused approach in a number of ways. For starters, Next-Generation Air

Dominance, the program tasked with developing new, 6th generation fighter capabilities to maintain air superiority, saw a boost in budget requested from \$905 million in FY20 to \$1.044 billion in FY21. Though 21% of the total USAF procurement budget (\$25.4 Billion) will go towards modification of in-service aircraft, the FY21 budget also suggests the service will retire over 100 legacy aircraft to make way for new, multi-domain tech.

However, that's not all. Scroll down to find out where the USAF and its joint partners such as the U.S. Navy are investing to accelerate the development and deployment of advanced future air capabilities.

THE U.S. AIR FORCE FY 2021 BUDGET-AT-GLANCE

\$207.2 Billion Total U.S. Air Force FY 2021

Funding Request



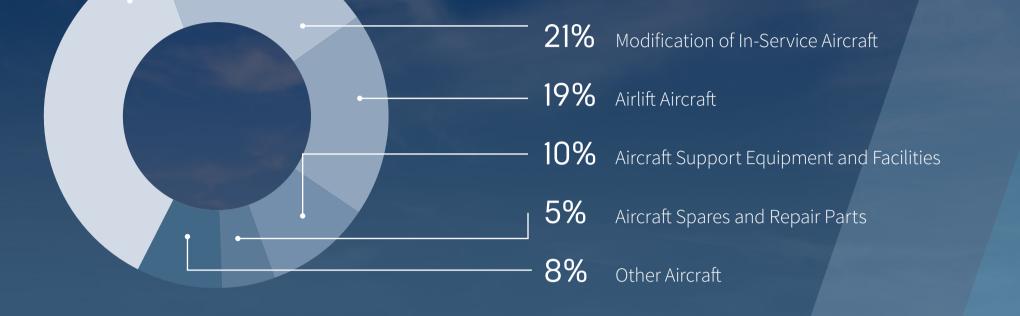
25.4 Billion FY21 Procurement Funding

\$17.9 Billion Allocated towards Aircraft

37% Combat Aircraft

S37.3 Billion FY21 RDT&E Funding

THE U.S. AIR FORCE FY 21 AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT BREAKDOWN



FY21 PROCUREMENT BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS BY FIGHTER AIRCRAFT

THE F-35 JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER



The F-35 Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) is a 5th generation strike fighter for the Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and U.S. Allies. The F-35 consists of three variants: the F-35A Conventional Take-Off and Landing (CTOL), the F-35B Short Take-Off and Vertical Landing (STOVL), and the F-35C Carrier variant (CV).

It should also be noted that, in light of the various troubles and controversies surrounding the **F-35 Program,** on March 17, 2020, 130 House members urged the DoD to increase the number of F-35s requested in FY21 by 24%. As they stated in a letter to the Senate and House Armed Services committees they stated, "It is essential that we continue to increase production of our nation's only 5th generation stealth fighter in order to ensure the United States maintains air dominance and to further reduce overall program costs."

*Image sourced from https://www.f35.com/news/detail/18303

F-15EX / F-15 EAGLE MOD



\$1.6 billion in procurement funding for 12 F-15EXS

F/A-18 E/F SUPER HORNET



F-22 RAPTOR FUNDING

.06 Billion **Total USAF Funding** Requested

\$393 million in procurement

\$851 million for modification related procurement and RDT&E

Supports the 5th generation fighter fleet to gain and maintain air superiority and provide global precision attack over the battlefield.

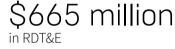
*Image sourced from https://www.boeing.com/defense/f-15ex/#/gallery

HORNETS \$84.2 million

towards RDT&E

This will likely be the last year the Navy purchases this aircraft as future funding will be directed towards developing next generation capabilities.

*Image sourced from https://www.military.com/equipment/f-a-18e-fsuper-hornet



Will fund critical planned modernization for F-22 aircraft via incremental capability upgrades and key reliability and maintainability improvements. Includes integration of AIM-120D and AIM-9X, additional electronic protection, improved geolocation and the development of advanced sensor upgrades.

*Image sourced from https://www.lockheedmartin.com/en-us/ products/f-22.html

USAF RDT&E BUDGET REQUEST HIGHLIGHTS BUILDING THE 6TH GENERATION FIGHTER

\$37.3 Billion

U.S. Air Force Total Research Development Test and Evaluation (RDT&E) Funding

▲6% from FY20

USAF RDT&E BUDGET REQUEST BREAKDOWN



%	Operational Systems Development
9%	Demonstration and Validation
%	Engineering & Manufacturing Development
%	Management Support
%	Applied Research
%	Advanced Technology Development
%	Basic Research

KEY USAF PROGRAMS



NEXT-GENERATION AIR DOMINANCE (NGAD)

NGAD refers to a portfolio of systems that likely includes a conceptual sixth-generation fighter. The aim of this program is to resource the most promising technologies needed to close air superiority gaps as identified in the Air Superiority 2030 flight plan. Though details are slim at this point, to learn more about what the DoD expects from the 6th Generation fighter, see here.



T-7A TESTING & DEVELOPMENT

The Advanced Pilot Training (APT) System, 'T-7A' will provide the aircraft, simulators, and advanced training capabilities needed to train future Air Force pilots to fly fourth and fifth-generation fighter aircraft. Funding will support the final testing and development of Boeing's T-7A. In September 2018, Boeing won the \$9.2 billion contract to develop and produce the Air Force T-X pilot trainer and is set to deliver 351 jets and 46 simulation systems by 2034.



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REAR ADMIRAL RICHARD T. BROHY

Commander **Naval Aviation Warfighting Development Center**



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