

## How much?

gon, a former Senate staff member who dealt with the armed forces told me.

The current procurement system favors highly sophisticated weapons, usually made in small numbers. The F-22, widely considered the world's best stealth fighter, costs three hundred and fifty million dollars per plane. The U.S.S. Gerald R. Ford aircraft carrier costs thirteen billion and takes as long as a decade to build. A single Tomahawk cruise missile, used to attack ships or radar installations, costs about two million. (Last month, a U.S. submarine launched two dozen Tomahawks at Iran in a single night.) Earlier this year, when two F-18 fighter jets slid off the deck of the U.S.S. Harry S. Truman in the Red Sea, some hundred and twenty million dollars' worth of machinery sank to the ocean floor.

On top of that, many components of American weapons are outsourced

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