

More Reasons to Oppose Weapons

The F-35, a fifth generation fighter jet, is “the most expensive weapons program ever undertaken by the Pentagon” and slated to cost over \$1.4 trillion over the course of the program, according to weapons-watch expert, William Hartung.¹ Its purpose is aimed at other sovereign nations, as explained by U.S. Senator Richard Burr, North Carolina, speaking in his home district at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, one of maintenance hubs for the F-35: “...we need to, to make sure at least the nation-states aren’t threats in the future.”²

And that isn’t all the weapons industry and warhawks are looking forward to in the future. While engineers are still working to get the kinks out of the F-35, examples of upcoming US military technology include not only new/upgraded nuclear weaponry, but also an “‘X-fighter’ successor to the F-35 jet, space control capabilities, advanced sensors, missile and cyber defence, new unmanned air/surface/undersea vehicles, high-speed strike weapons, a new type of jet engine, high-energy lasers, rail gun technology, robotics and autonomous weaponry.”³

Bob Jones, our Washington, D.C., correspondent, contributed to this report.

Endnotes

1. Hartung, William “Pentagon Budget Outlook: Cloudy With a Chance of Slush,” March 17, 2015, [Huffington Post](#)
2. Hibbs, Mark, “Burr Joins Officials in Celebrating F-35,” April 3, 2015, [Carteret County News-Times](#).
3. “Remote Control warfare briefing #09,” February 24, 2015, [remoteproject.org](#), of Network for Social Change, hosted by Oxford Research Group