

# Pros and cons of the stealth bomber

The Northrop B-2 stealth bomber is the world's most expensive aircraft. The U.S. military want a fleet of 75 B-2s to maintain the strength of the strategic bomber force



Half of the existing bomber fleet is almost 30 years old

**Arguments for:**  
Congress has already authorised the building of 15 aircraft at a cost of \$2.6 billion per plane.  
**Cost: \$39.2 billion**



## Arguments against:

The cost of the extra 60 aircraft that the Air Force wants is \$360 million per plane  
**Extra cost: \$21.6 billion**

In the post-Cold War world the United States can let its bomber force shrink.

A small fleet of B-2s, the existing B-1Bs and the older B-52s would defeat any existing air defences

