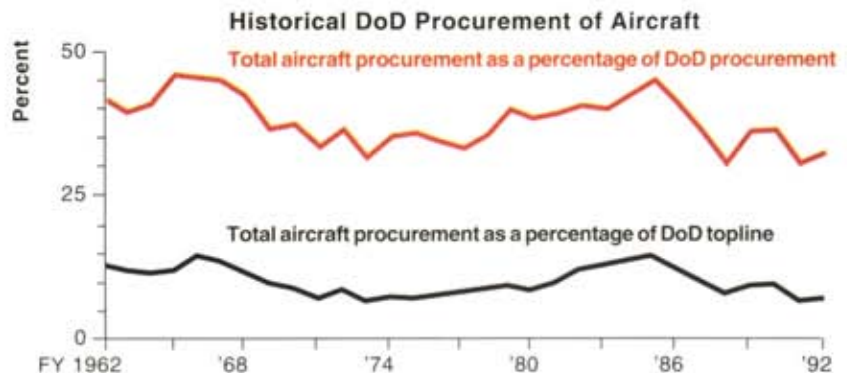
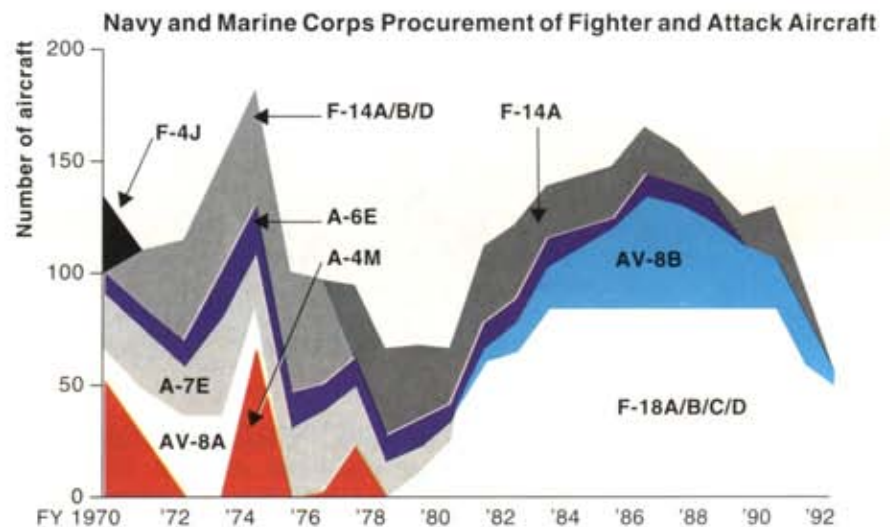
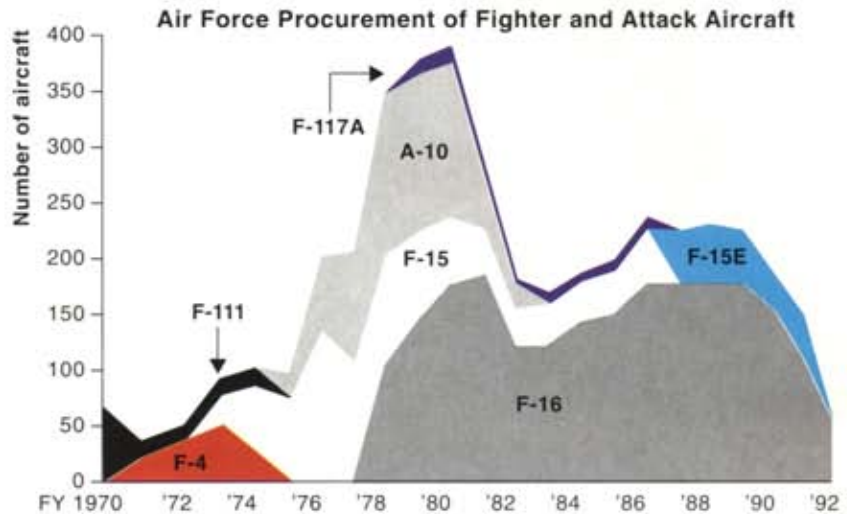


The Chart Page

Compiled by **Tamar A. Mehuron**, Associate Editor

Boom and Bust in Fighter Procurement

Defense budgets tend to jump up rapidly in response to a specific stimulus and then erode at a relatively modest rate over an extended period. Procurement can be viewed as the most historically dynamic part of the defense budget. When budgets go up, it is a disproportionate "winner." When they go down, it loses big as well. Procurement of aircraft by the services reflects this boom-and-bust pattern. The pattern is evident in the bottom graph, though it is less pronounced than in the other charts. This is partly because procurement of aircraft as a whole in modern times has been a consistently high DoD budget priority and has consumed a relatively constant percentage of the budget.



Source: Kevin N. Lewis, "Planning Future U.S. Fighter Forces," RAND Corp., Santa Monica, Calif., 1993.