

LOCKHEED SAYS CUTTING F-22S WOULD COST THOUSANDS OF JOBS



Bethesda, Maryland-based Lockheed Martin, the prime contractor for the F-22 fighter jet, said thousands of jobs would be lost if President Obama decides not to continue funding for the advanced but costly plane. Larry Lawson, Lockheed's general manager for the F-22 program, said the program is responsible for about 95,000 jobs at 1,000 suppliers. Obama must decide by March 1st whether to spend \$523 million on 20 more of the radar-evading planes beyond the 183 already planned. Pentagon leaders, including Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates, have expressed doubt that more F-22s are needed, especially since the military plans to buy several thousand F-35s, a much cheaper plane.

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