

# **DISCONTINUATION OF THE F-22 RAPTOR: WHY, HOW, AND WHAT IT MEANS**

# THE F-22 RAPTOR

- F-22 Raptor contract granted to Lockheed Martin in the early 1990s
- Considered a fifth-generation fighter jet
- Its advanced technology allows for greater agility, improved stealth, and ground-to-air missile defense capabilities
- New supercomputers allow pilots to focus more on one-on-one air combat techniques



# INITIAL REASONS FOR PROCUREMENT

- Prepare against Chinese and Russian air threats (remnants of Cold War fears)
- Replace the aging legacy fighters; approximately 800 F-15s and F-16s
- Strengthen U.S. ground-to-air missile defenses



## REASONS FOR CUTTING SPENDING

- Crippling economic climate
- Ineffectiveness of F-22 jets in the U.S.'s current wars
- Two decades of rising development and production costs; already have 187 planes
  - Cost of each plane in 1991 was \$57 million and then rose to \$339 million in 2009
- The F-35 Joint Strike Fighter



## OPPONENTS OF SPENDING TERMINATION

- Labor unions claimed that F-22 production termination would leave approximately 25,000 workers unemployed
- Politicians of potentially laid-off employees stepped forward to support their constituents
- Fears of the further increased cost of production if the line were to be reopened
- Fears of China's fifth generation fighter planes
- Beliefs that the decision was purely budget driven



## PRESIDENT OBAMA'S STANCE

- In 2009, President Obama targeted the DoD to incur over 80% of the government's discretionary budget cuts
- Viewed the F-22 Raptor, as well as the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, as poor investments
- Threatened to veto any House or Senate bill that approved further spending for F-22 procurement



# APPROPRIATIONS VS. AUTHORIZATION

- Authorization bills provide parameters for the creation, modification, or continuation of government programs
- Appropriations bills allow for the physical disbursement of funds and ensures that all money allocated to a program is spent within that fiscal year



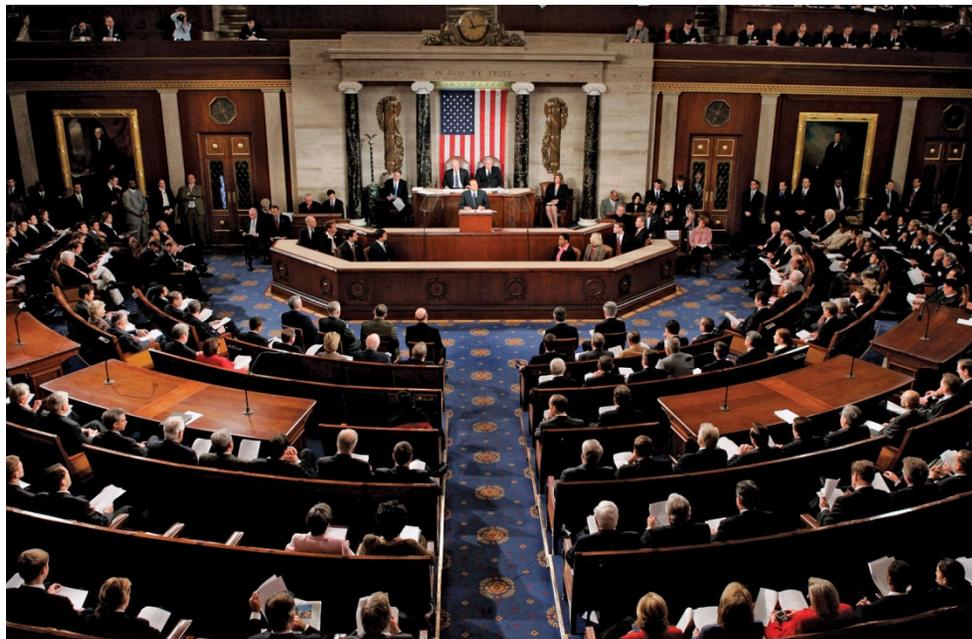
## SENATE AUTHORIZATION BILL

- The initial draft of the bill, which was unanimously approved, allowed for \$1.75 billion in F-22 Raptor funds
- The actual provision for F-22 spending was only approved 13-11
- President Obama sternly threatened to veto this bill
- To avoid a showdown with the White House, the Senate amended the bill to remove funding



# HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS BILL

- Initially allowed for \$369 billion in F-22 funding for procurement of 12 more aircrafts
- Obama also threatened to veto their bill
- After the Senate removed F-22 Raptor spending, the House also amended their bill



## WHY NOW?

- The support of Secretary Gates and top military officials
- President Obama's veto threats
- The financial strain of two wars that do not necessitate F-22 procurement
- Steadily declining economic climate
- The cost effectiveness of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter



# THE SIGNIFICANCE

- Changing the fiscal habits of the Department of Defense
- One of the rare instances where a big ticket defense project has been terminated while it was in progress
- Reprioritizing the Department of Defense's budget in relation to the overall governmental budget

