

OPINION

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Can't afford B-21

The Air Force has just revealed its latest bomber. It is the B-21.

The fact is, it is not needed. Bombers are not relevant to war fighting. Multiple, and conclusive, research projects show strategic bombing has not been persuasive. In fact, the primary effect of massive devastation of homeland has been to strengthen the resolve of the enemy.

These airplanes are expensive. According to the Wall Street Journal, each B-21 will cost \$700 million. That is the advertised price. Then there is training (flying hours are limited even now) and maintenance. It will have gobs of software, which is susceptible to hackers.

The way to perform the B-21's mission is with drones at a safe distance. The Ukrainians have proven a long-distant air base in Russia can be attacked without endangering their pilots. From target acquisition to explosive delivery, drones can perform the mission before U.S. Air Force pilots can do their preflight and get suited up — all with no risk to our brave sons and daughters flying over hostile territory.

We cannot afford the B-21.

Star Carey, Canyon Lake