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'IS fighting US using American weapons'

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**RT:** *At the end of September the Pentagon signed a \$251 million deal to buy more Tomahawk missiles. Can the U.S. financially afford leading such a war?*

**Max Abrahms:** I think the US can indeed afford this war, but I certainly agree with the thrust of your question: wars of course are very expensive. The Pentagon has estimated that the US is spending about \$8 million per day on this air campaign. Interestingly, if you look at share's prices of major defense contractors, major defense firms, and places like Lockheed Martin, General Dynamics, and Raytheon since August 8 - when the US has begun military operations against ISIS- you see the price of their stocks going up. These companies are gaining larger and larger contracts like for the Tomahawk missiles in the case of Boeing for their precision guided munitions. Basically the cost of this war will not be distributed equally among companies, among the American public. Many sectors will probably pay a price for the war but other ones like in the defense industry are profiting.

**RT:** *Shares of weapons manufacturers are going up right now. Do you think these companies would like to prolong the fighting?*

**MA:** The short answer is: "yes." In terms of the companies' own interest, in terms of their profit, in terms of their revenue, surely war facilitates that if you are in the defense industry in the same way that if you are a physician; you are not going to be paid very much if there is no sickness. If you roll back the clock before this summer when Islamic State started making gains throughout Syria and Iraq there was an expectation that the Pentagon was going to dramatically cut its

