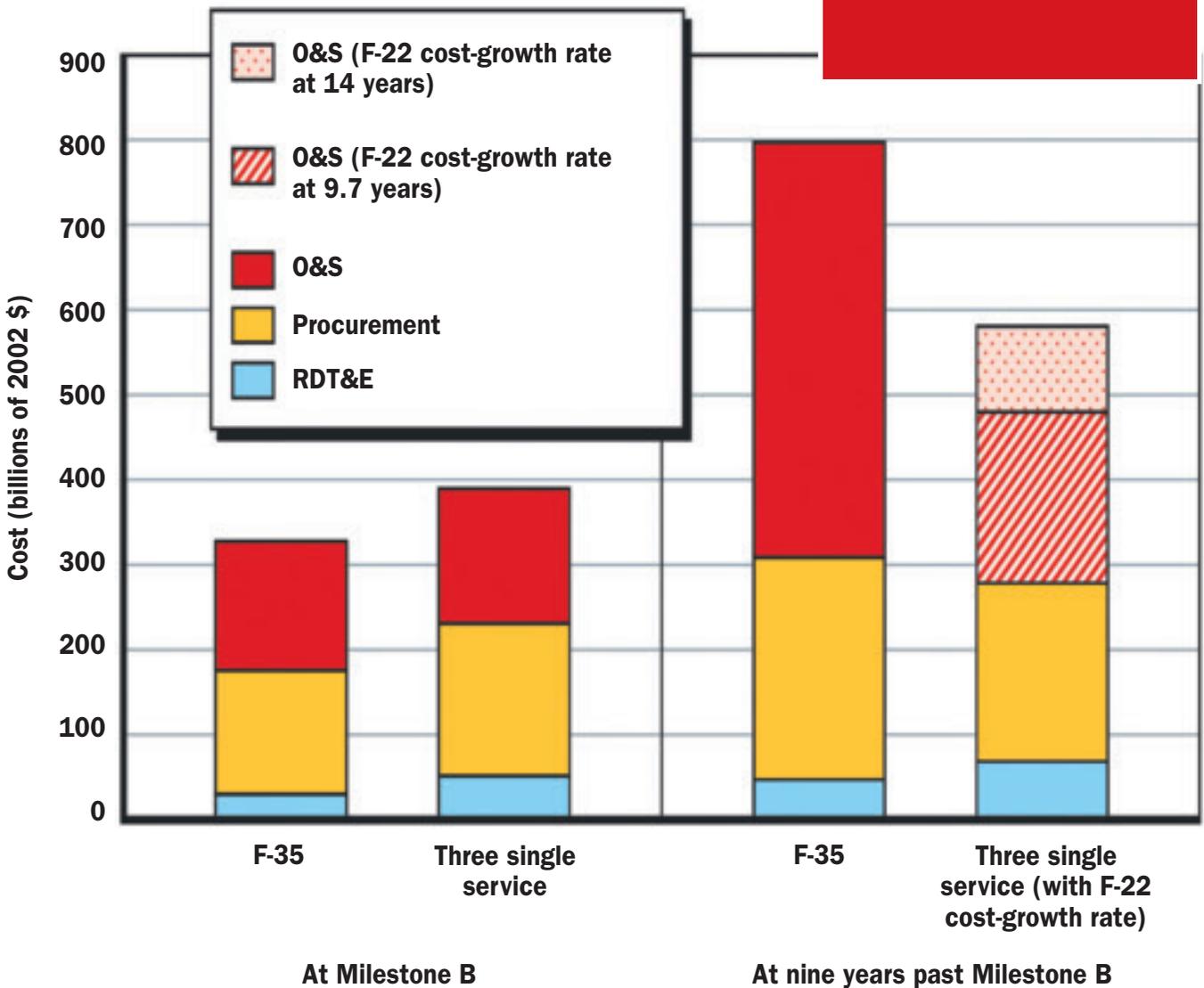


## Facts About Joint Fighters

Do joint fighter programs save money? That is the provocative title of a RAND comparison of joint and single-service programs over 50 years. RAND's answer is a resounding, "No." It states: "The need to accommodate different service requirements in a single design or common design family can lead to greater program complexity, increased technical risk, and common functionality or increased weight

beyond that needed for some variants, potentially leading to higher overall cost, despite these efficiencies." This has ramifications for today's triservice F-35 program. RAND says the F-35 "is not on the path" to its advertised savings. As the chart shows, the life-cycle cost of the F-35, nine years past Milestone B, will far exceed the cost of separate fighter programs for the Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps.

*For the F-35, things looked good at Milestone B. The estimate is not so good for nine years after this point. In fact, the cost of three separate-service programs would be three-quarters that of the F-35.*



Source: "Do Joint Fighter Programs Save Money?" by Mark A. Lorell, Michael Kennedy, Robert S. Leonard, Ken Munson, Shmuel Abramzon, David L. An, and Robert A. Guffey. RAND Corp., Dec. 13, 2013, Santa Monica, Calif. Full text available at [www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/MG1225.html](http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/MG1225.html).