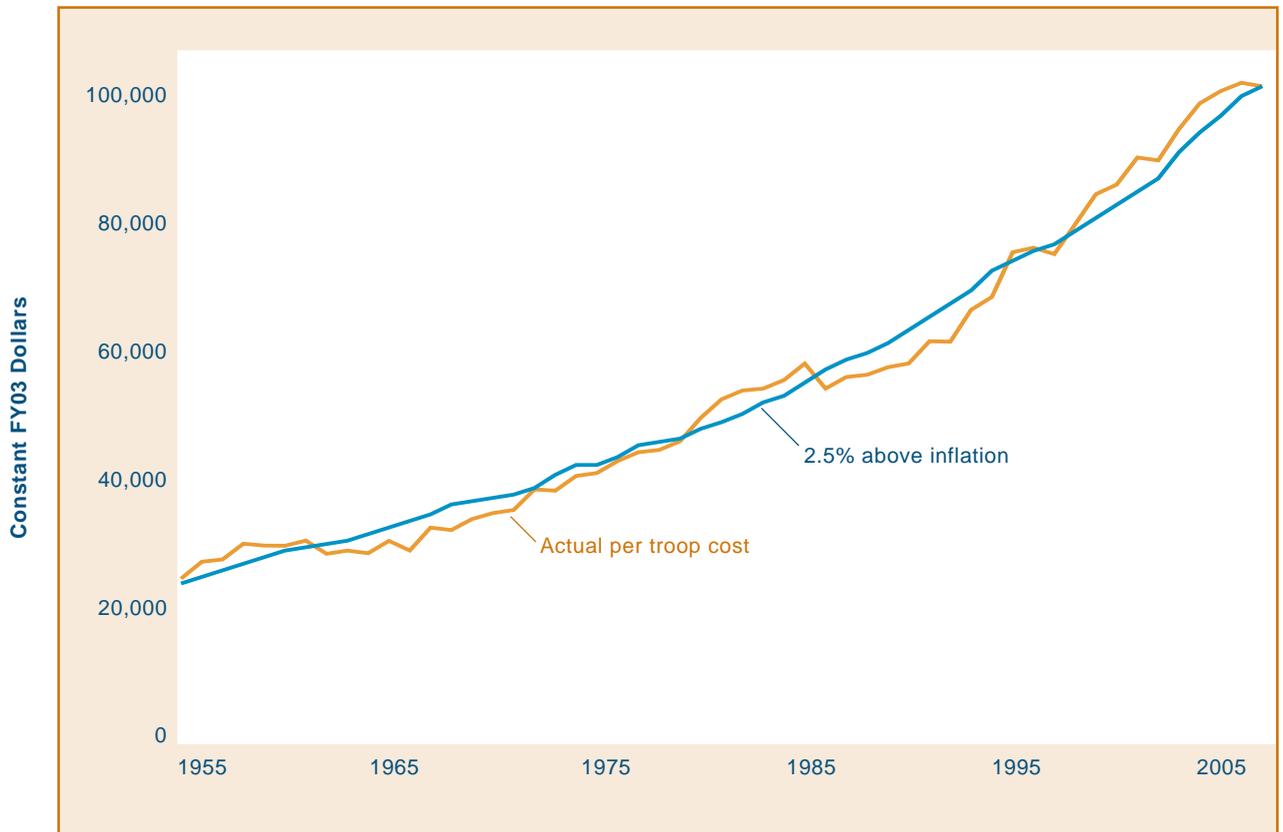


# The Chart Page

By Tamar A. Mehuron, Associate Editor

## The Growth in Operating Cost

*Since 1955, military operation and maintenance costs have grown steadily at a rate of about 2.5 percent above inflation. The Congressional Research Service views this as a “fact of life” military requirement. Although CRS notes that the war on terror added substantial cost to the Fiscal 2003 defense budget, analysts point to this graph, showing O&M funding per active duty member, to demonstrate that the upward trend in O&M funding is not a recent phenomenon. Many factors could contribute to the steady increase. These include the infusion of high-tech weaponry, the aging of equipment, and maintenance of an oversized base structure.*



Source: Congressional Research Service