

*FROM GAO TRANSITION SITE: Managing Weapon Systems Programs  
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## **Air Force**

The Air Force's total acquisition portfolio will demand unprecedented levels of funding in an increasingly constrained budget environment as officials attempt to simultaneously recapitalize the fighter, bomber, and airlift forces. Over the next 5 years, the Air Force acquisition budget is projected to average more than \$67 billion annually.

Development costs for current Air Force acquisition programs have increased an average of 48 percent above initial estimates. Eight Air Force programs reported Nunn-McCurdy unit cost breaches within the last 3 years.

The Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) — DOD's largest acquisition program procuring aircraft for the Air Force, Navy, Marines, and U.S. allies — also recently declared a Nunn-McCurdy unit cost breach. This program faces considerable risks stemming from its decision to reduce test assets and the flight-test program to pay for development and manufacturing cost increases.

Highlights of [GAO-08-388](#) (PDF)