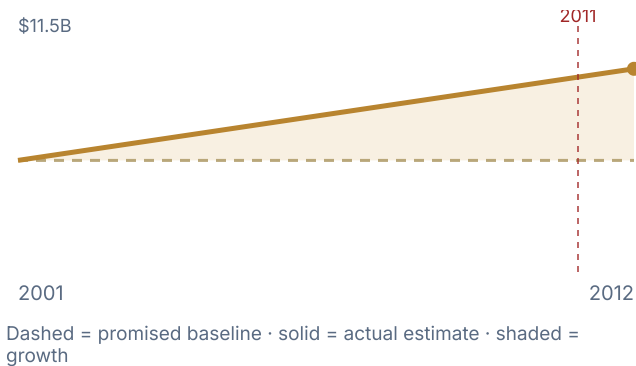


RQ-4 Global Hawk

RQ-4 · Air Force · Northrop Grumman
TRUNCATED

+81%
\$5.5B (2001) → \$10.0B (2012)



BASELINE
\$5.5B (2001)
COST GROWTH
+81%
UNITS
63 → 45
UNIT-COST CHANGE
+153%
QUANTITY EFFECT
-\$1.6B
CONFIDENCE
high · reconciled

CURRENT ESTIMATE
\$10.0B (2012)
COST BASIS
BY
QUANTITY CHANGE
-29%
SCHEDULE SLIP
—
UNIT-COST EFFECT
+\$6.1B
IOC
planned 55-month cycle → 2011 (Block 30)

ASSESSMENT

Unit cost rose 153%, tripping a critical Nunn-McCurdy breach in 2011 — so the buy fell from 63 (briefly 77) to 45 and the Air Force tried to retire the newest Block 30s the following year. The total still ended 81% over the 2001 estimate, for 18 fewer aircraft.

DOCUMENTED EVENTS

2011 Nunn-McCurdy breach (critical)

SOURCE

GAO-13-294SP, RQ-4A/B assessment pp.113-114 — Program Performance table, constant FY2013 \$M: first full estimate 03/2001 \$5,548.9M / 63 aircraft vs latest 08/2012 \$10,021.0M / 45; PAUC +152.8%; cycle 55 → 125 months. GAO-12-400SP pp.77-78: April 2011 critical Nunn-McCurdy breach reported to Congress; restructure 77 → 55; Jan 2012 Block 30 termination plan.