



Battleland

Military intelligence for the rest of us

MILITARY SPENDING

Costly Flight Hours

By Mark Thompson @MarkThompson_DC | April 02, 2013



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An F-16 readies for takeoff.

Last week, *Battleland* **bemoaned** the increasing difficulty finding cost-per-flight-hour data for U.S. military aircraft.

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In a flash, longtime defense watcher – from a perch on Capitol Hill, as well as a stint at the Government Accountability Office – Winslow Wheeler piped up to say he recently sought, and got, such **data** from the Air Force comptroller’s office.

He adds that he has tried to get similar data from the Navy, without luck. *What’s up with that, Admiral Kirby?*

The Air Force provided Wheeler with cost-per-flight-hour for dozens of aircraft.

Here’s a sample of what it costs to keep these Air Force aircraft airborne for one hour last year (the so-called “ownership” cost-per-flight-hour, which includes modifications):

A-10C Warthog Attack Plane — \$17,716



USAF

AC-130U Spooky Gunship — \$45,986

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B-1B Lancer Bomber — \$57,807



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B-2A Spirit Stealth Bomber — \$169,313



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B-52H Stratofortress Bomber — \$69,708



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C-130J Hercules Cargo Plane — \$14,014



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C-17 Globemaster Cargo Plane — \$23,811



C-20B VIP Plane (Senior Pentagon Officials) — \$32,212

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C-32A VIP Plane (Vice President, Cabinet Officers) — \$42,936



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C-5B Galaxy Cargo Plane — \$78,817



USAF

CV-22B Osprey Tilt-Rotor — \$83,256



USAF

E-3B Sentry AWACS Radar Plane — \$39,587

USAF

E-4B Flying Headquarters — \$163,485

USAF



USAF

F-16C Viper Fighter — \$22,514



USAF

F-22A Raptor Fighter — \$68,362



USAF

HH-60G Pave Hawk Helicopter — \$24,475

USAF

KC-10A Extender Tanker — \$21,170

USAF



USAF

MQ-1B Predator Drone — \$3,679



USAF

MQ-9A Reaper Drone — \$4,762



USAF

RQ-4B Global Hawk Drone — \$49,089

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T-38C Talon Jet Trainer — \$9,355

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T-6A Texan II Turboprop Trainer — \$2,235

USAF



USAF

UH-1N Huey Helicopter — \$13,634

USAF

VC-25A Air Force One — \$161,591

USAF

