

F-16s vs. A/R UAVs: Payload, Range, and Affordability

A/R UAVs will have lower unit and flying hour costs compared to a typical manned fighter.

	Range (takeoff to recovery)	Payload in Pounds	Launch and Recovery	Average Unit Cost	Cost per Flying Hour Compared to F-16
F-16C fighter	Air refuelable	16,000 external carriage	Long, improved runways	About \$70 million	Estimated \$21,000
LCAAT medium-large UAV (Valkyrie) with limited missions systems	3,000 nm	600–1,200+ internal could include: Sensors Non-kinetic mission systems Decoy Comm node	Rocket-assisted takeoff (RATO), parachute recovery; may use runways of 5,000' or less	\$2 million to \$3 million	Less than 10%
LCAAT medium-large UAV (Valkyrie) with limited missions systems and variants	3,000 nm	600–1,200+ internal could include: Sensors Non-kinetic mission systems Air-to-air missiles Air-to-ground weapons	RATO, parachute recovery; may use runways of 5,000' or less	\$10 million to \$20 million depending on missions systems	Less than 10%