



FY2025 Budget Request: Department of Defense-Military (Subfunction 051)

October 21, 2024

On March 11, 2024, the Biden Administration released an FY2025 budget requesting a total of \$7.5 trillion in budget authority. Of this total, \$850 billion (11.35%) covered discretionary spending for Department of Defense (DOD) military programs (Budget Subfunction 051) and \$22 billion covered mandatory spending for DOD military programs. This CRS Insight summarizes requested discretionary spending, end strength, and acquisition efforts for this budget subfunction (See **Table 1**).

DOD's discretionary budget request—also called the *base budget*—presents the Administration's view of the funding required to implement the National Defense Strategy by staffing, training, and equipping the armed forces under acceptable risk within spending limits established by the Fiscal Responsibility Act (P.L. 118-5). The base budget request excludes DOD [unfunded priorities](#) and [supplemental funding requests](#).

Congress annually determines whether to authorize and/or fund individual line items in the base budget at amounts greater than, less than, or equal to the Administration's requested figure.

How does Congress utilize DOD's budget request?

Congress assesses the Administration's budget request through committee hearings, markups, floor debates, and votes to determine which DOD military programs should be authorized and funded at particular dollar amounts. The House and Senate Armed Services Committees (HASC and SASC) generate versions of a National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) to [authorize](#) particular programs at particular dollar amounts. The House and Senate Appropriations Committees (HAC and SAC) generate versions of a Department of Defense Appropriations Act and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act to [appropriate](#) public funds toward authorized DOD Military programs.

Accessing authoritative data sources to evaluate DOD's budget request

Congressional staff seeking authoritative DOD budget request information may consult several authoritative sources. The Office of Management and Budget's [website](#) for the President's Budget situates DOD funding alongside other agencies through a [budget appendix](#) and [historical tables](#). Each federal agency is also required [by law](#) to make its unclassified budget request documents available on an agency

Congressional Research Service

<https://crsreports.congress.gov>

IN12447

website. DOD provides [summary budget documents](#) on its Chief Financial Officer (CFO) [website](#), including an FY2025 defense [budget overview](#), an overview of [acquisition program costs](#), and a set of funding tables known as the [Green Book](#) containing DOD-specific historical data and future cost estimates. The DOD CFO website also contains spreadsheets summarizing requested dollar amounts for each appropriation account at the line-item level, called “[Dash-Ones](#)” because of their document titles. Finally, each armed service provides detailed budget justifications on its own agency website, including narrative descriptions connecting programs to defined mission areas. For ease of access, the DOD CFO’s budget website provides [links](#) to these agency websites.

Congressional staff seeking authoritative information from these data sources may find discrepancies among dollar values for a given appropriation account due to variation in OMB and DOD methodologies for constructing funding tables. **Table 1** provides summary information based upon DOD’s [Defense Budget Overview](#), cross-referenced to OMB’s [DOD Budget Appendix](#). Since Congress had not enacted FY2024 appropriations when DOD submitted its FY2025 budget request to Congress, **Table 1** takes FY2024 enacted values from explanatory statements accompanying the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (P.L. 118-42) and Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (P.L. 118-47).

Table 1. Department of Defense FY2025 Budget Request (Base)

(by major appropriation title in billions of nominal dollars of budget authority)

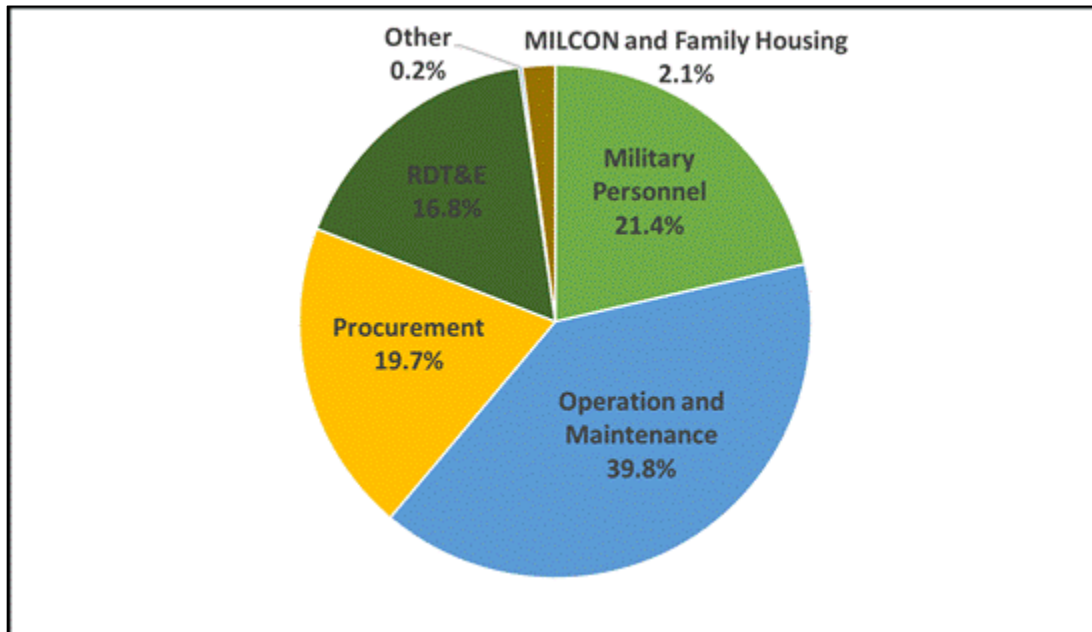
| Appropriation | FY2023 Enacted | FY2024 Enacted | FY2025 Request | Dollar Change FY2024 Requested -FY2025 Requested | Percent Change FY2024 Requested -FY2025 Requested |
|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--|---|
| Military Personnel | \$174.0 | \$176.2 | \$181.9 | +\$5.6 | +3.2% |
| Operation and Maintenance | \$318.5 | \$318.5 | \$337.9 | +\$11.4 | +3.5% |
| Procurement | \$162.8 | \$171.3 | \$167.5 | -\$3.8 | -2.2% |
| RDT&E | \$139.4 | \$147.7 | \$143.2 | -\$4.6 | -3.1% |
| Other | \$2.2 | \$1.8 | \$1.7 | -\$0.1 | -6.3% |
| Subtotal, Defense Bill | \$796.9 | \$823.6 | \$832.2 | +\$8.6 | +1.0% |
| MILCON | \$16.7 | \$16.7 | \$15.6 | -\$1.1 | +6.7% |
| Family Housing | \$2.3 | \$2.0 | \$2.0 | -\$0.0 | -0.3% |
| Subtotal, MILCON Bill | \$19.0 | \$18.7 | \$17.5 | +\$1.1 | +6.0% |
| Total, DOD Base Budget | \$815.9 | \$842.3 | \$849.8 | +\$7.5 | +0.9% |

Source: Department of Defense, *Defense Budget Overview: United States Department of Defense Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Request*, March 2024, p. A-7; FY2024 Enacted values based on CRS analysis of legislation and floor amendments.

Notes: FY2023 Actual excludes \$35.8 billion supplemental funding. See *Ibid.*, p. A-10. FY2024 Enacted excludes supplemental funding for Ukraine, Israel, and Indo-Pacific Security enacted as Divisions A, B, and C of P.L. 118-50. “Other” includes Revolving and Management Funds and Offsetting Receipts.

Figure 1 displays FY2025 requested amounts by appropriation, as a percentage of the \$850 billion total.

Figure 1. Department of Defense FY2025 Budget Request (Base)
By major appropriation title as percentage of total base budget request

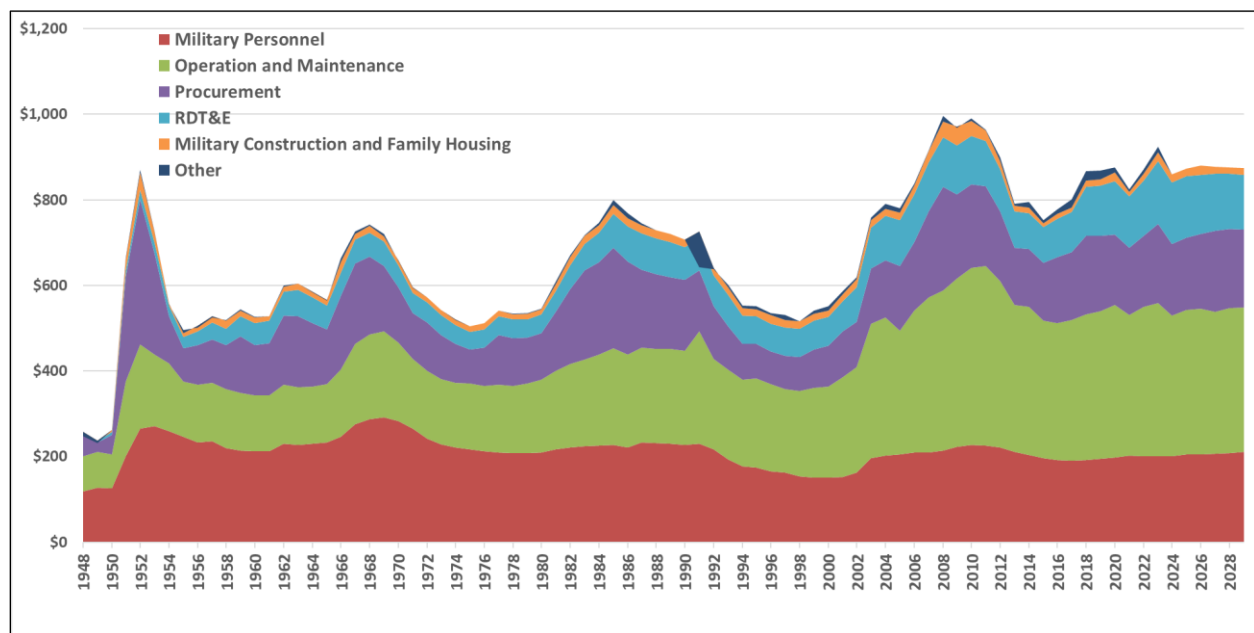


Source: CRS analysis of Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)/Chief Financial Officer, *Defense Budget Overview: United States Department of Defense Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Request*, March 2024, p. A-7.

Notes: “Other” includes Revolving and Management Funds and Offsetting Receipts.

Figure 2 provides historical context, displaying congressional appropriations of DOD budget authority from FY1948 through the FY2025-FY2029 Future Years Defense Program (FYDP).

Figure 2. Department of Defense Budget Authority by Public Law Title, FY1948-FY2029
In billions of constant FY2025 dollars



Source: CRS analysis of Department of Defense, *National Defense Budget Estimates for FY2025*, April 2024, [Table 6-8](#).

Notes: FY2025 through FY2029 values reflect requested or projected amounts. Military personnel amounts include “Retired pay, defense.” “Other” includes Revolving and Management Funds; and Trust, Receipts, and Other. DOD’s April FY2024 Green Book does not incorporate FY2024 enacted funding. As a result, FY2024 values reflect requested, not enacted values. Figures exclude War Outyear Placeholder.

DOD FY2025 Requested End Strength (Troop Levels)

End strength refers to the total authorized quantity of servicemembers on hand at the end of a fiscal year. DOD requested Congress to authorize 1.28 million active duty servicemembers and 0.77 million reserve servicemembers for FY2025. **Table 2** provides a breakout of these requests by service component.

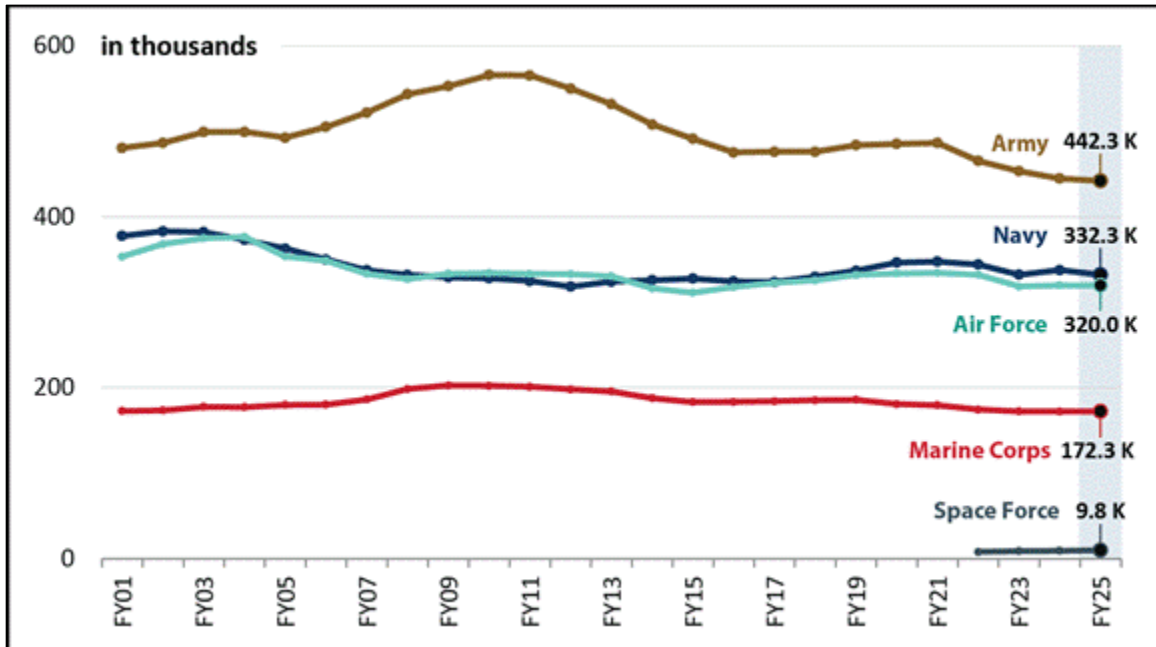
Table 2. Department of Defense FY2025 End-Strength Request
in number of servicemembers

| Military Service | FY2023 Actuals | FY2024 Enacted | FY2025 Requested | Change FY2023-FY2025 | Change FY2024-FY2025 |
|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Army | 453,551 | 445,000 | 442,300 | -11,251 | -2700 |
| Navy | 332,322 | 337,800 | 332,300 | -22 | -5,500 |
| Marine Corps | 172,577 | 172,300 | 172,300 | -277 | 0 |
| Air Force | 318,698 | 320,000 | 320,000 | +1,302 | 0 |
| Space Force | 8,879 | 9,400 | 9,800 | +921 | +400 |
| Total Active Duty | 1,286,027 | 1,284,500 | 1,276,700 | -9,327 | -7,800 |
| Army Reserve | 176,680 | 174,800 | 175,800 | -880 | +1,000 |
| Army National Guard | 325,066 | 325,000 | 325,000 | -66 | - |
| Navy Reserve | 55,072 | 57,200 | 57,700 | +2,628 | +500 |
| Marine Corps Reserve | 33,036 | 32,000 | 32,500 | -536 | +500 |
| Air Force Reserve | 66,216 | 69,600 | 67,000 | +784 | -2,600 |
| Air National Guard | 104,974 | 105,000 | 107,700 | +2,726 | +2,700 |
| Total, Selected Reserve | 761,044 | 763,600 | 765,700 | +4,656 | +2,100 |
| Grand Total, DOD | 2,047,071 | 2,048,100 | 2,042,400 | -4,671 | -5,700 |

Source: CRS analysis of Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)/Chief Financial Officer, *Defense Budget Overview: United States Department of Defense Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Request*, March 2024, pp. [A-5](#), [A-6](#); and CRS analysis of the explanatory statement accompanying P.L. 118-47 at House of Representatives, *Congressional Record*, vol. 170, (No. 51), Book II (March 22, 2024), p. [H1507](#).

Notes: “Actuals” refers to the quantity of personnel on hand at the end of FY2023 (September 30, 2023). whereas “enacted” refers to authorized end strength which may or may not match actual end strength by the end of the FY2024.

Figure 3. Department of Defense Active Duty End Strength by Service, FY2000-FY2025



Source: CRS analysis of DOD appropriations acts, DOD budget requests, and Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs' *Defense Manpower Profile Reports*.

Notes: FY2000-FY2023 = actual end strength. FY2024 values = enacted (authorized). FY2025 values = requested.

FY2025 Combat Force Structure Overview

DOD's military personnel requirements are closely associated with the organization and structure of each service's combat forces. **Table 3** reports the department's FY2025 requested combat force structure.

Table 3. Department of Defense Requested FY2025 Combat Force Structure Overview

| Service | FY2023 | FY2024 | FY2025 | Change FY2024-FY2025 |
|------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------------------------|
| Army Active | | | | |
| Brigade Combat Teams (BCT) | 31 | 31 | 31 | - |
| Combat Aviation Brigades | 11 | 11 | 11 | - |
| Army National Guard | | | | |
| BCT | 27 | 27 | 27 | - |
| CAB/Theater Aviation Brigade | 10 | 10 | 10 | - |
| Army Reserve | | | | |
| CAB | 2 | 2 | 2 | - |
| Navy | | | | |
| # of Battle Force Ships | 291 | 296 | 287 | -9 |
| Carrier Strike Groups | 10 | 10 | 10 | - |
| Marine Corps Active | | | | |

| Service | FY2023 | FY2024 | FY2025 | Change FY2024-FY2025 |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------------------------|
| Marine Expeditionary Forces | 3 | 3 | 3 | - |
| Infantry Battalions | 21 | 21 | 21 | - |
| Marine Corps Reserve | | | | |
| Marine Expeditionary Forces | 0 | 0 | 0 | - |
| Infantry Battalions | 8 | 8 | 8 | - |
| Air Force Active | | | | |
| Combat Coded Squadrons | 43 | 42 | 40 | -2 |
| Aircraft Inventory | 3,915 | 3,796 | 3,735 | -61 |
| Air Force Reserve | | | | |
| Combat Coded Squadrons | 3 | 3 | 2 | -1 |
| Aircraft Inventory | 295 | 315 | 290 | -25 |
| Air National Guard | | | | |
| Combat Coded Squadrons | 20 | 20 | 18 | -2 |
| Aircraft Inventory | 954 | 921 | 878 | -43 |

Source: Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)/Chief Financial Officer, *Defense Budget Overview: United States Department of Defense Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Request*, March 2024, p. A-4.

Notes: FY2025 values reflect force structure as requested in March 2024. DOD's FY2025 budget request documents did not include FY2024 enacted values. As a result, FY2024 figures reflect requested, not enacted, FY2024 values.

The combat force structure overview provides a *net quantity* for aircraft inventory and battle force ships. The net quantity includes new acquisitions and retirement or divestment of aircraft and ships. The FY2024 NDAA (P.L. 118-31, Section 151) required DOD to submit a [budget exhibit](#) “that includes the savings built into the budget for force structure retirements and divestments submitted with the President’s Budget request.” **Table 4** provides DOD’s reported FY2025 aircraft and ship retirements/divestments and associated summary cost savings.

Table 4. FY2025 Department of Defense planned retirement/divestments of Ships and Aircraft by Service

Quantity and expected cost (savings) in millions of nominal dollars

| System/Service | Quantity | FY2025 Estimated Cost (savings) |
|-------------------------|------------|---------------------------------------|
| Aircraft | | |
| Air Force | 251 | (\$2,589.8) |
| Army | 83 | (\$62.6) |
| Marine Corps | 48 | (\$159.4) |
| Navy | 75 | (\$203.5) |
| USSOCOM | 27 | (\$18.8) |
| Aircraft Total | 484 | (\$3,034.1) |
| Navy Ships Total | 19 | (\$224.7) |
| Grand Total | 503 | (\$3,258.8) |

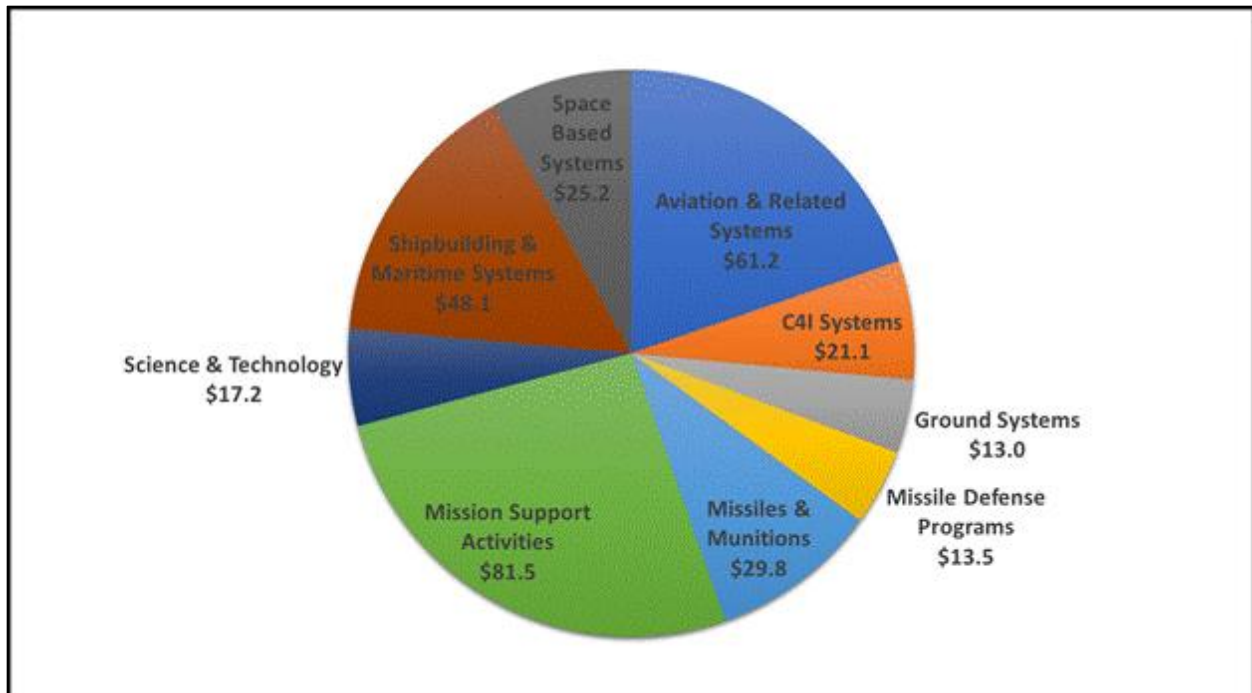
Source: DOD, *Report on Force Structure Changes for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Defense Budget*, April 2024, p. 8.

Notes: Justifications for each retirement/divestment are included in the source document.

Figure 4 reports DOD’s FY2025 total requested investments in the RDT&E and Procurement appropriations, sorted by weapon system type and mission area.

Figure 4. Department of Defense Combined RDT&E and Procurement Investments, FY2025 Requested

In billions of nominal dollars



Source: Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)/Chief Financial Officer, *Program Acquisition Cost by Weapon System: United States Department of Defense Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Request*, March 2024, p. 1.

Notes: Total covers all DOD RDT&E and Procurement budget requests. Categorization is selected by DOD “to simplify display of the various weapon systems being developed and procured in FY2025.” Science & Technology includes RDT&E budget activities 1-3. C4I refers to command, control, communications, computers, and intelligence.

Table 5 provides more detail on selected weapon system investments in each mission area (excluding “Science & Technology” and “Mission Support Activities.”) Hyperlinks in the table’s left column provide one-page narrative descriptions of each program, along with links in the center column to selected CRS products contextualizing the program.

Table 5. Selected Department of Defense Major Weapon Systems, FY2025 Requested
 Combined RDT&E and Procurement funding in millions of nominal dollars

| Major Weapon System | Program Title | FY2025 Requested |
|---|--|------------------|
| Aviation and Related Systems – Joint Service | | |
| F-35 | Joint Strike Fighter (airplane) (<i>RL30563, IF12357</i>) | \$12,430.8 |
| V-22 | Osprey (tilt rotor aircraft) | \$538.8 |
| C-130J | Hercules (cargo airplane) (<i>IF10546</i>) | \$806.0 |
| MQ-1C | Gray Eagle (uncrewed aircraft) | \$30.5 |
| MQ-9 | Reaper (uncrewed aircraft) | \$305.1 |
| MQ-4C / RQ-4 | Triton/Global Hawk/NATO AGS (uncrewed aircraft) | \$750.1 |
| AO | Armed Overwatch / Targeting (propeller driven airplane) | \$337.5 |
| Aviation and Related Systems – US Army (USA) | | |
| AH-64E | Apache: Remanufacture/New Build (attack helicopter) (<i>IF10546</i>) | \$659.9 |
| CH-47 | Chinook (heavy cargo helicopter) | \$720.3 |
| UH-60 | Black Hawk (medium cargo helicopter) (<i>IF10546</i>) | \$792.2 |
| FLRAA | Future Long-Range Assault Aircraft (tilt rotor aircraft) | \$1,260.2 |
| Aviation and Related Systems – US Navy (USN) | | |
| MQ-25 | Stingray (uncrewed re-fueling aircraft) | \$898.0 |
| F/A-18 | Super Hornet (fighter airplane) (<i>IF10546</i>) | \$1,805.6 |
| E-2D | Advanced Hawkeye (air control airplane) | \$499.1 |
| CH-53K | Heavy Lift Replacement Helicopter | \$2,685.0 |
| Aviation and Related Systems – US Air Force (USAF) | | |
| B-21 | Raider (strategic bombing aircraft) (<i>R44463, IF12357</i>) | \$5,338.5 |
| B-1, B-2, B-52 | Bombers (strategic aircraft) | \$1,394.4 |
| KC-46A | Pegasus Tanker (air to air re-fueling aircraft) (<i>RL34398</i>) | \$2,973.3 |
| VC-25B | Presidential Aircraft Recapitalization | \$433.9 |
| F-22 | Raptor (fighter airplane) | \$1,629.7 |
| F-15 | Eagle (fighter airplane) (<i>IF11521, R46801</i>) | \$2,361.1 |
| HH-60W | Combat Rescue Helicopter | \$243.9 |
| T-7A | Advanced Pilot Training (T-7 trainer airplane and simulators) | \$319.2 |
| MH-139A | Grey Wolf (medium cargo helicopter) | \$333.4 |
| E-7A | Airborne Warning and Control System Replacement (<i>IF12045</i>) | \$418.5 |
| C-40 | C-40 Fleet Expansion (commercial derivative airplane) | \$328.7 |
| C4I Systems – USA | | |
| TNT | Tactical Network Technology | \$280.8 |

| Major Weapon System | Program Title | FY2025 Requested |
|---|---|------------------|
| HMS | Handheld, Manpack, and Small Form Fit Radios | \$708.4 |
| C4I Systems – Joint Service | | |
| Cyberspace | Cyberspace Activities | \$3,958.8 |
| CJADC2 | Combined Joint All-Domain Command and Control (CJADC2) Programs (communications) | \$1,433.0 |
| Ground Systems – Joint Service | | |
| JLTV | Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (armored all-terrain vehicle) (IF11729) | \$1,179.5 |
| Ground Systems – USA | | |
| M-I | Abrams Tank Modification/Upgrades | \$1,020.2 |
| AMPV | Armored Multi-Purpose Vehicle (personnel carrier) | \$527.7 |
| NGSW | Next Generation Squad Weapon | \$389.4 |
| PIM | Paladin Integrated Management (cannon upgrades) | \$460.2 |
| Stryker | Stryker Family of Armored Vehicles (eight-wheeled vehicles) | \$469.4 |
| M10 | M10 Booker (Mobile Protected Firepower) (light tank) | \$508.7 |
| FMTV | Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles (four-wheeled trucks) | \$153.5 |
| FHTV | Family of Heavy Tactical Vehicles (heavy equipment transport) | \$148.9 |
| XM30 | XM30 Combat Vehicle (Bradley Replacement) (armored, optionally-manned ground combat vehicle) (IF12094) | \$504.8 |
| Ground Systems – USMC | | |
| ACV | Amphibious Combat Vehicle (IF11755) | \$870.5 |
| Missile Defense Programs – Joint Service | | |
| GMD | Ground-based Midcourse Defense (intercontinental ballistic missile interceptor) (IF10541) | \$2,526.2 |
| THAAD | Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (highly mobile short- and medium-range ballistic missile interceptor) (IF10541) | \$639.9 |
| Aegis | Sea-Based Weapons System (ballistic missile defense) (RL33745) | \$1,307.7 |
| Missile Defense Programs – USA | | |
| PATRIOT / PAC-3 | PATRIOT Advanced Capability (anti-air missile) (IF10541) | \$1,006.7 |
| PAC-3 / MSE | PAC-3/Missile Segment Enhancement (IF10541) | \$963.1 |
| Missiles and Munitions – Joint Service | | |
| JDAM | Joint Direct Attack Munition | \$200.4 |
| SDB I | Small Diameter Bomb I | \$42.3 |
| SDB II | Small Diameter Bomb II | \$454.1 |
| JASSM | Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile (IF11353) | \$1,008.6 |
| AIM-9X | Air Intercept Missile - 9X | \$259.4 |
| AMRAAM | Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile | \$810.2 |

| Major Weapon System | Program Title | FY2025 Requested |
|--|--|------------------|
| Chem-Demil | Chemical Demilitarization | \$775.5 |
| JAGM | Joint Air-to-Ground Missile | \$148.1 |
| LRASM | Long Range Anti-Ship Missile | \$696.8 |
| AMMO | Ammunition | \$5,160.0 |
| AARGM-ER | Advanced Anti-Radiation Guided Missile | \$826.2 |
| GMLRS | Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System | \$1,241.9 |
| Javelin | Javelin Advanced Anti-Tank Weapon System | \$398.1 |
| <i>Missiles and Munitions – USA</i> | | |
| PrSM | Precision Strike Missile (<i>IF11353</i>) | \$676.6 |
| <i>Missiles and Munitions - USN</i> | | |
| Trident II | Trident II Ballistic Missile Modifications (<i>IF10519</i>) | \$2,465.7 |
| SM-6 | Standard Missile-6 | \$1,223.5 |
| RAM | Rolling Airframe Missile | \$160.2 |
| NSM | Naval Strike Missile (<i>IF11353</i>) | \$206.1 |
| Tomahawk | Tactical Tomahawk Cruise Missile (<i>IF11353</i>) | \$765.4 |
| <i>Missiles and Munitions – USAF</i> | | |
| LGM-35A | Sentinel (<i>IF11681</i>) (ground-based intercontinental ballistic missile) | \$3,731.9 |
| LRSO | Long Range Stand-Off Weapon (nuclear-capable cruise missile) (<i>IF10519, IF12357</i>) | \$833.8 |
| Shipbuilding and Maritime Systems – USN | | |
| CVN 78 | Gerald R. Ford Class Nuclear Aircraft Carrier (<i>RS20643</i>) | \$2,339.4 |
| SSBN 826 (<i>R41129</i>) | Columbia Class Ballistic Missile Submarine | \$9,879.7 |
| SSN 774 | Virginia Class Submarine (<i>RL32418</i>) | \$8,209.3 |
| DDG 51 | Arleigh Burke Class Destroyer | \$7,071.3 |
| FFG(X) | Constellation Class Guided Missile Frigate (<i>R44972</i>) | \$1,278.1 |
| CVN | Refueling Complex Overhaul | \$1,738.3 |
| LPD 17 | San Antonio Class Amphibious Ship (<i>R43543</i>) | \$1,653.0 |
| T-AO 205 | John Lewis Class Fleet Replenishment Oiler (<i>R43546</i>) | \$261.2 |
| USV | Medium and Large Unmanned Surface Vessels (<i>R45757</i>) | \$185.2 |
| LHA | America Class Amphibious Assault Ship | \$234.4 |
| LSM | Medium Landing Ship (<i>R46374</i>) | \$274.1 |
| Space Based Systems – USSF | | |
| NSSL & RSLP | Launch Enterprise (<i>IF11531</i>) | \$2,397.8 |
| GPS III & Projects | Global Positioning System Enterprise | \$1,519.7 |
| OPIR | Space Based Missile Warning Systems | \$4,677.8 |

SATCOM Projects

Satellite Communications (SATCOM) Projects

\$4,203.0

Source: Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)/Chief Financial Officer, *Program Acquisition Cost by Weapon System [PACWS]: United States Department of Defense Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Request*, March 2024, pp. xv-xvi.

Notes: For more information on each program, see individual sections of PACWS, pp. 1-1 through 7-5.

Author Information

Cameron M. Keys
Analyst in Defense Logistics and Resource Management
Policy

Disclaimer

This document was prepared by the Congressional Research Service (CRS). CRS serves as nonpartisan shared staff to congressional committees and Members of Congress. It operates solely at the behest of and under the direction of Congress. Information in a CRS Report should not be relied upon for purposes other than public understanding of information that has been provided by CRS to Members of Congress in connection with CRS's institutional role. CRS Reports, as a work of the United States Government, are not subject to copyright protection in the United States. Any CRS Report may be reproduced and distributed in its entirety without permission from CRS. However, as a CRS Report may include copyrighted images or material from a third party, you may need to obtain the permission of the copyright holder if you wish to copy or otherwise use copyrighted material.