

Updated December 18, 2025

# Defense Primer: Future Years Defense Program (FYDP)

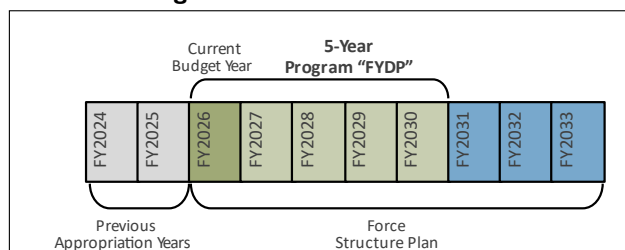
## Background

The Future Years Defense Program (FYDP, commonly pronounced “fye-dip”) is a projection of the forces, resources, and programs to support Department of Defense (DOD) operations. [DOD is “using a secondary Department of War designation” under Executive Order 14347 dated September 5, 2025.] The FYDP is compiled every year and typically completed during the *programming* phase of the Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution (PPBE) process. DOD updates the projection during the *budgeting* phase to reflect DOD’s final funding decisions presented in the annual President’s budget request.

The FYDP reflects planned allocations of DOD resources over a multiyear period. According to the department’s *Future Years Defense Program (FYDP) Structure Handbook*, the FYDP is intended in part to link DOD’s internal review structure for programs with Congress’s review structure for resources, including funding.

The FYDP projects DOD funding and manpower needs over a five-year period, and force structure needs over an eight-year period. The projection is typically depicted alongside defense resources for the two previous fiscal years. For example, the FY2026 FYDP reflects FY2024 and FY2025 appropriations, the current budget year estimate (FY2026) as part of the five-year program (FY2026-FY2030), and the estimated force structure through FY2033. See **Figure 1**.

**Figure 1. FY2026 FYDP Period**



**Source:** CRS graphic based on DOD Directive 7045.14.

DOD *Financial Management Regulation* describes the FYDP as “a series of reports that record and display resource decisions” during the PPBE cycle. Such decisions may include reallocating funding for a major defense acquisition program to transition from research and development to procurement; shifting funding from multiple programs to a larger, higher-priority procurement; or identifying funding for an emerging priority expected to require resourcing over multiple years.

FYDP data are stored in a relational database. Users can enter, update, and view their organization’s portion of the FYDP through a web-based application hosted on the department’s classified network.

Title 10, Section 221, of the *United States Code* (hereinafter U.S.C.), stipulates that the Secretary of Defense shall submit a FYDP to Congress in conjunction with the President’s budget request. A classified version of the FYDP is generally submitted to the congressional committees with jurisdiction over defense matters. Section 1042 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (P.L. 115-91) amended 10 U.S.C. §221 in part to require the Secretary to submit an unclassified electronic version of the FYDP. While the structure of the FYDP is unclassified, the actual FYDP data remain classified.

## FYDP Organization and Content

The FYDP can be viewed as a way to link DOD resources (or inputs) to programs (or outputs). As such, the FYDP can serve to compare or crosswalk the department’s output-focused internal review structure with the input-focused congressional review structure.

The FYDP tracks the three broad categories of resources available to the DOD as its inputs

**Total Obligatory Authority (TOA):** Appropriated funding, in thousands of dollars;

**Manpower:** Military end-strength and civilian full-time equivalent work years; and

**Forces:** Identified as either items of equipment or combat units.

DOD currently groups FYDP outputs under 12 Major Force Programs (MFPs). An MFP is an aggregation of the resources (TOA, Manpower, and Forces) necessary to achieve DOD’s objective or plans. Currently, six of the MFPs are considered combat force programs and six are considered support programs.

**MFP 01:** Strategic Forces\*

**MFP 02:** General Purpose Forces\*

**MFP 03:** Command, Control, Communications, Intelligence, and Space\*

**MFP 04:** Mobility Forces\*

**MFP 05:** Guard and Reserve Forces\*

**MFP 06:** Research and Development

**MFP 07:** Central Supply and Maintenance

**MFP 08:** Training, Medical, & Other Personnel Activities

**MFP 09:** Administration and Associated Activities

**MFP 10:** Support of Other Nations

**MFP 11:** Special Operations Forces\*

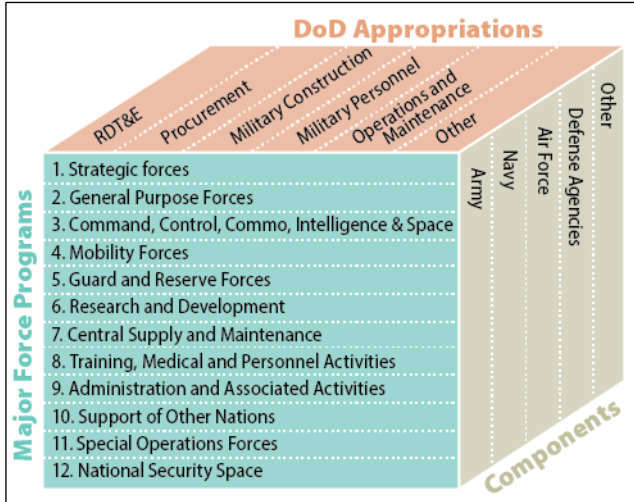
**MFP 12:** National Security Space

\**Combat force programs*

## FYDP Structure

The FYDP's structure allows a user to examine DOD plans and programs in three dimensions: (1) component (military service or defense agency); (2) MFP; and (3) appropriation title (e.g., military personnel, procurement, and military construction). See **Figure 2**.

**Figure 2. FYDP Structure**



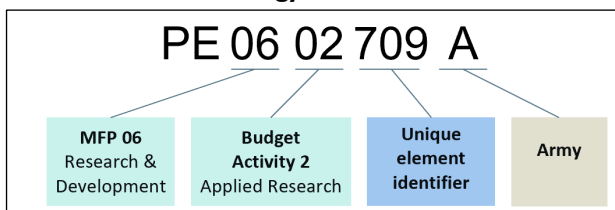
**Source:** CRS graphic based on Defense Acquisition University illustration.

## Program Elements

Each DOD component submitting data to the FYDP assigns resources to an MFP using a unique *program element* code, or PE. The 12 MFPs include thousands of PEs. Each PE is a unique alphanumeric code that identifies functional or organizational entities and their related resources. PEs may have a narrow focus (such as Navy F/A-18 squadrons) or broad focus (such as Air Force long-range strategic planning).

PEs enable a user to identify allocations such as the total resources assigned to a program, the weapon systems and support systems within a program, specified resources in logical groupings, or selected functional groupings of resources. See **Figure 3** for an example of a PE.

**Figure 3. Program Element for Night Vision Technology: PE0602709A**



**Source:** CRS graphic.

The first two characters identify the MFP that contains the PE (in this case, MFP 06: Research and Development). The third and fourth characters have special uses within certain MFPs. Within MFP 06, these characters indicate a specific

DOD research and development funding category (in this case, applied research). The fifth through seventh characters provide the unique identification for that specific element. The alphabetical suffix identifies the component responsible for that PE. Commonly referenced PE suffixes include

- **A:** Army
- **BB:** Special Operations Command
- **C:** Missile Defense Agency
- **DZ:** Office of the Secretary of Defense
- **F:** Air Force
- **J:** Joint Staff
- **M:** Marine Corps
- **N:** Navy

## Resource Identification Codes

Each FYDP resource is identified by fiscal year as TOA, Manpower, or Forces using a Resource Identification Code (RIC). The RIC is a four-digit code that specifies the type of resource assigned to each PE. TOA RICs range from 0300 to 0999 and are used to identify appropriation accounts in the President's budget request. TOA RICs generally correlate to standard account codes assigned by the Department of the Treasury.

Unlike PEs, RICs are not visible in DOD's budget submission to Congress. Instead, the budget documents generally identify the resource in plain text.

Relevant Statute
Title 10, Ch. 9, of the <i>U.S. Code</i> : Defense Budget Matters
CRS Product
CRS In Focus IF10429, <i>Defense Primer: Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution (PPBE) Process</i> , by Brendan W. McGarry
Other Resources
DOD Directive 7045.14, <i>The Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution (PPBE) Process</i> , updated 2017
DOD, <i>Financial Management Regulation (7000.14-R)</i>
DOD, <i>Future Years Defense Program (FYDP) Structure Handbook</i> , September 2025
DOD, Defense Acquisition University, Acquisition Encyclopedia (ACQuipedia), <i>Future Years Defense Program (FYDP)</i>

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