

September 14, 2006

## CSBA RELEASES NEW REPORT: SPENDING ON US NUCLEAR FORCES: PLANS & OPTIONS FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

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The Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments has released *Spending on US Strategic Nuclear Forces* by the Director of Budget Studies Steven M. Kosiak. The report analyzes options the United States might pursue over the next several decades to modernize its nuclear offensive strategic forces.

Mr. Kosiak estimates that currently the United States spends some \$54 billion annually on all nuclear-related programs and activities—including offensive and defensive capabilities, Department of Defense and Department of Energy activities, strategic and theater forces, as well as associated command, control and communications capabilities. This represents a reduction from the Cold War budget levels. Mr. Kosiak estimates that in 1990 US spending on these programs and activities totaled \$76 billion. But this trend may be reversed in coming years and spending increased substantially.

In particular, the CSBA report finds that funding for the most costly element of nuclear-related programs—nuclear offensive strategic forces—could grow from today's level of roughly \$15.5 billion a year to an average of as much as \$30.7 billion annually over the next three decades if, over the long term, the United States attempts to maintain roughly the same number of nuclear warheads and weapon systems (e.g., ICBMs, ballistic missile submarines and bombers) projected for the near term. Conversely, if the United States were to move toward a smaller nuclear arsenal, and smaller numbers of weapon systems, it might actually be able to reduce spending on these forces—to as little as perhaps \$9.7 billion a year.

Mr. Kosiak also notes that, given the long-lead times involved in the acquisition of modern weapon systems, decisions made today may well—for better or for worse—determine how the United States will modernize much of its strategic nuclear arsenal over the next 30 years.

The report is now available for a free download at [www.csbaonline.org](http://www.csbaonline.org). To purchase a bound report copy call (202) 331-7990.

"US spending on nuclear offensive strategic forces could double in coming decades"