



Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments

About Us

The Future of National Security

The Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments (CSBA) is the world's premier center for understanding future international competition and conflict. We develop innovative, resource-informed defense concepts, promote public debate, and spur action to advance U.S. and allied interests.

Founded in 1983 as the Defense Budget Project, CSBA has long been a leading source of independent, path-breaking research focused on the future of defense, and defense budget data and analysis.

CSBA provides timely, impartial and insightful analyses to senior decision makers in the executive and legislative branches, as well as to the media and the broader national security establishment. CSBA encourages thoughtful participation in the development of national security strategy and policy, and in the allocation of scarce human and capital resources. CSBA's analysis and outreach focus on key questions related to existing and emerging threats to U.S. national security. Meeting these challenges will require transforming the national security establishment, and we are devoted to helping achieve this end.

The heart of CSBA is its staff of uniquely qualified defense experts who conduct in-depth strategic and budgetary analyses. Experts include military veterans representing the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps, with over 130 years of cumulative experience in joint military operations. The staff also includes a number of experts who have served in senior level policymaking positions within the Department of Defense, Department of State, and the National Security Council.

CSBA experts and strategists bring the benefit of diverse backgrounds and experiences to our research. Our **research methods** include:

Analytic Studies

Analytic studies look 20–30 years forward and are informed by history. They frame security developments in a broader context of strategic competition and identify critical areas of competition, particularly with regard to technological development, as well as the competitive advantages and disadvantages of the United States and potential adversaries. They take into account bureaucratic considerations and their influence on policy.

Concept Development

CSBA's staff has the experience and technical knowledge to craft solutions to operational problems that leverage both new technologies and existing capabilities in unique ways. These concepts can be used to guide U.S. military training and investment decisions.

Budgetary Analysis

CSBA has a long history of budgetary analyses that provide insights into the resourcing tradeoffs facing the nation and recommendations for efficiently allocating resources to meet national security challenges. The hallmark of CSBA's budgetary analysis is its Strategic Choices Tool, an interactive program designed to help users learn about the U.S. defense budget and force structure, conduct long-term defense planning, develop new operational concepts, assess alternative force structures and postures, identify areas for greater investment or divestment, and evaluate the division of labor between the United States and its allies.

Scenario Development

CSBA crafts scenarios that explore plausible future threats to U.S. national security in order to guard against strategic surprise. It uses these to assess present-day measures that may mitigate or preclude those challenges.

Wargaming

For over two decades, CSBA has conducted wargames that examine the many facets of modern and future military competitions—from high-end conflict against peer adversaries to gray zone situations to economic warfare. The wargaming environment allows participants to explore a range of possible responses to current and future challenges as well as expose shortcomings and vulnerabilities in current approaches.

Workshops And Seminars

CSBA's workshops and seminars bring together a range of experts to consider potential responses to challenges facing the United States, from the tactical to the strategic level. The diversity of expertise represented at these events creates a fertile environment for cross-cutting insights and creative thinking.

Special Programs

CSBA runs special programs on strategic competition, operational challenges and developments, and other defense topics for defense officials, congressional staffers, media, and other groups.