

# A Powerful Tool for Defense Strategy and Budget Planning

The United States faces an evolving set of security challenges, including the spread of advanced conventional weapons, the proliferation of nuclear technology, the resurgence of great power competitions, and the enduring threat from terrorist groups. It also has fewer resources to meet these challenges.

In real terms, defense spending in the 2017 future years defense program (FYDP) is 12% lower than in the FY2012 FYDP, the last pre-Budget Control Act budget request. These two trends place a premium on understanding the linkages between national strategy, military capabilities, and available resources—for policymakers, analysts, and industry.

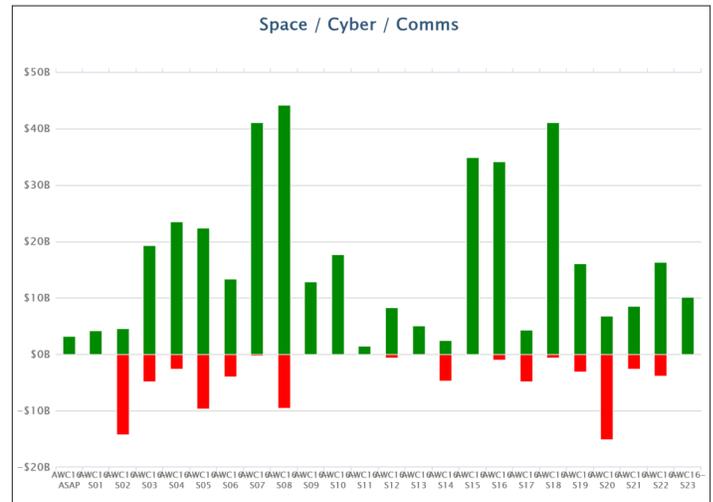
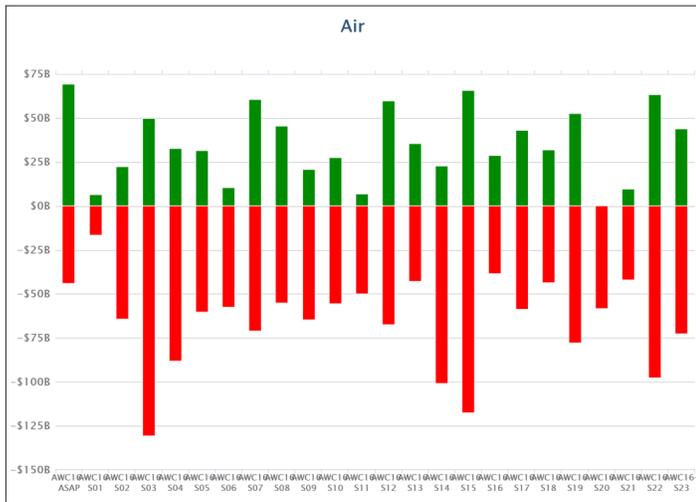
CSBA's Strategic Choices Tool is designed to illuminate these linkages and help users learn about the U.S. defense budget and force structure, conduct long-term defense planning, develop new operational concepts, assess alternative force structures and postures, identify areas for greater investment or divestment, and evaluate the division of labor between the United States and its allies.

The Strategic Choices Tool allows users to explore alternative defense investment priorities, highlighting *how* and *why* future plans should differ from current plans. Driven by their view of threats to national security and their strategy for addressing them, users rebalance their defense force structure and investments over two five-year moves that correspond to FYDPs. The tool includes over 1,200 options across 12 areas, including air, sea, ground, manpower, readiness, and R&D.

	Move 1	Move 2
Running Total	<b>-\$47.9B</b>	<b>-\$68.7B</b>
Target	<b>-\$147.3B</b>	<b>-\$72.5B</b>

## Air

	Current	FY17-21		FY22-26	
	Baseline	Baseline	Team	Baseline	Team
Aerial Refueling	545	563	173	567	197
Airlift	746	689	689	673	673
Bombers (non-stealthy)	137	137	77	120	60
Bombers (stealthy)	20	20	20	38	29
Fighter / Attack (non-stealthy)	2,831	2,405	2,485	1,804	1,984
Fighter / Attack (stealthy)	393	704	704	1,181	1,221
Manned ISR / ASW / C2	641	489	489	413	413
Unmanned ISR / Strike (non-stealthy)	492	463	598	478	653
Unmanned ISR / Strike (stealthy)	0	0	0	0	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,805</b>	<b>5,470</b>	<b>5,235</b>	<b>5,274</b>	<b>5,260</b>



The Strategic Choices Tool is...

- **Straightforward:** It does not involve building a budget from the ground up, which would require detailed programmatic knowledge. Instead, players change the current program of record through an intuitive web-based platform that automatically updates changes to defense spending and force structure.
- **Strategy-Driven:** By drawing on actual and projected budget data, the tool offers a unique ability to link strategy-driven choices with real-world spending implications.
- **Adaptable and Scalable:** It supports variable financial targets, multiple users (100+), remote access, exercise-specific options, and new options created before or during an exercise.

While senior military leaders use the Strategic Choices Tool in order to develop and assess alternative mixes of major capabilities for future challenges given specific fiscal constraints, others can use the tool to understand the possible defense spending implications of strategic investments and divestments in specific sectors. Users can explore which sectors will be more likely to see spending increases and which are more likely to be bill-payers under alternative strategic capability investment scenarios.

More recently, the Strategic Choices Tool has expanded to include the Polish and Japanese defense budgets, allowing teams to focus on the specific challenges facing either country individually, as well as challenges confronting the respective

alliances. CSBA will continue to expand the tool's international datasets. In addition to allies and partners, CSBA plans to develop datasets for potential adversaries, enabling dynamic move-by-move strategic competition.

CSBA plans to enhance the tool by adding visual representations of force structure and spending choices and expanding the reporting and analytic capabilities. CSBA will also develop a condensed version, with the same budget fidelity as the current tool but accessible to a broader audience, allowing users to rebalance the defense portfolio in just a few hours versus over the course of an entire day.

#### Add DDG-51 AEGIS BMD Destroyer

DDG 51 destroyers are warships that provide multi-mission offensive and defensive capabilities. They specialize in area air-defense and ballistic missile defense as well as land-attack capabilities.

This option would add additional DDG-51 destroyers to the FYDP in addition to the 10 the Navy already plans to procure. Personnel must be added separately. A destroyer typically requires a 400 sailors.



Max Selection: 3	Move 1	Move 2
Cost/Savings per Incr.	\$1.8B	\$0.2B
<b>Cannot be selected in combination with:</b> Reduce DDG-51 AEGIS BMD Destroyer Buy		
<b>Must be selected in combination with:</b>		
<b>Attributes:</b>		
Displacement (tons): 9200		
Rotary wing capacity (std complement): 2		
VLS Tubes - Surface Ships: 96		