



Defense Orientation Conference Association

Live: Virtual Conference

CONFERENCE READ AHEAD

Friday, September 18th, 2020

8:00AM to Noon PDT via Microsoft TEAMS

Defense Modernization and Acquisition Priorities

Whenever the Department of Defense (DoD) requires a service to be performed or needs to purchase equipment, vehicles, and other mission-necessary items, they must follow procurement processes. Prioritizing a multitude of Service mission requirements and programs involves many complex resource allocation and development/procurement processes at the Service HQ, Joint Staff, and DoD HQ staff levels. These processes are simple in theory, but any given procurement can be complex, involving a multitude of decisions and actions. The primary source of federal procurement information and guidance is the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR), which consists of Parts 1-53 of Title 48 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). As DOCA members have learned throughout the past few conferences, the U.S. National Security is influenced by how these processes lead to modernizing weapon systems and overall defense capabilities.

Defense modernization, whether for “New Start” programs or ongoing fielding of current programs, require significant investment in each fiscal year budget. There are always more validated requirements than investment funds available, so prioritizing, making trade-offs, and creating innovative sequencing of buying and fielding weapon systems are needed to support the numerous National Security missions in the decades to come. Perspectives and priorities regarding defense modernization can differ between the public, the DoD, and other the federal government agencies. Each of the DoD Services have their own assigned missions and priorities, so their budget proposals will always need to be shifted to create a balanced and integrated DoD budget. During the conference, our guest speakers will address the key programs and priorities, the challenge of balancing competing programs, and the resource allocation processes needed to produce a Service-balanced, mission-first, and politically acceptable DoD budget for Fiscal Year 2021 (FY2021). Additionally, we will discuss the various focus areas across the Services and their respective “key” programs, all of which are essential to successfully fight and win wars across all domains.

In addition, there will be a highlight session about the Defense Innovation Unit (DIU). The DIU fields leading-edge commercial capabilities to the military faster and more cost-effectively than traditional defense acquisition methods. With offices in Silicon Valley, Boston, Austin, and at the Pentagon, the DIU is embedded in key innovation ecosystems across the country and builds direct relationships with organizations that strengthen our national security innovation base.

Overview

Defense Budget Overview (Please see Pages 1-5 through 1-13)

Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)/Chief Financial Officer (May 13th, 2020)

The selected pages are recommended to provide a general scope of the DOD’s perspective on defense modernization and their most important future procurements.



Program Acquisition Cost by Weapon System (Please see Pages 1 through 14)

Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)/Chief Financial Officer (February 2020)

Though this entire document can be quite informative on the DoD's major weapon systems, the selected pages are recommended to highlight the key weapon systems the DoD is most focused on.

Procurement Goals of the Services

What's in the FY21 Budget Request

Brian W. Everstine and John A. Tirpak, Air Force Magazine (March 1st, 2020)

Detailed look into USAF and Space Force FY2021 Budget Requests

'Aggressive Reform' Funds Modernization

AUSA Extra (February 13th, 2020)

US Army FY2021 Budget Request and how they are streamlining procurement

2021 Budget Boosts Training, Exercises

Association of the United States Army (February 11th, 2020)

The Army's \$178 billion budget request for FY2021 includes \$68.1 billion for operations and maintenance, which includes funding for training at home stations, at the combat training centers, and overseas.

'Pass-Through' Reform, Modernization Among Aerospace Priorities in 2021 NDAA

Rachel S. Cohen, Air Force Magazine (April 30th, 2020)

Air Force Priorities in 2021 NDAA and how their procurement goals and modernization.