



ASSOCIATION OF  
PUBLIC &  
LAND-GRANT  
UNIVERSITIES

**ABOUT THE  
ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC AND  
LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITIES**

Founded in 1887, the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) is an association of more than 238 public research universities, land-grant institutions, and state public university systems.

APLU member campuses annually enroll 4.8 million undergraduate and 1.3 million graduate students, award 1.2 million degrees, and conduct \$41.4 billion in university-based research. Collectively, they demonstrate the power and the good of public universities.

As the nation's oldest higher education association, APLU is dedicated to excellence in learning, discovery and engagement. For more information, visit [www.aplu.org](http://www.aplu.org)

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# FY2016 Appropriations Priorities Defense

## **DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD) RESEARCH**

APLU urges following a 20/20 benchmark level for investments in Defense Science and Technology (S&T) and 6.1 basic research—with the principle that investments in Defense S&T should constitute 20% of the total Defense RDT&E budget, and investments in 6.1 basic research should comprise 20% of the total Defense S&T budget (6.1-6.3). Below we recommend a path toward achieving this goal.

### **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (6.1 - 6.3)**

#### **APLU FY2016 Request: \$12.80 billion**

(FY2016 PBR = \$12.27B; FY2015 = \$12.41B; FY2014 = \$12.19B)

It is critical for our national security that our military stay on the leading edge of technology and scientific capabilities, which is why APLU recommends funding of \$12.801 billion in FY2016 for the DoD Science and Technology (S&T) account, covering 6.1 to 6.3 research and development. This amount would comprise 20 percent of the requested RDT&E account. We cannot pull back on our defense science and research efforts if we intend to stay ahead in our defense capabilities.

### **BASIC RESEARCH (6.1)**

#### **APLU FY2016 Request: \$2.43 billion**

(FY2016 PBR = \$2.09B; FY2015 = \$2.28B; FY2014 = \$2.17B)

Defense Secretary Ash Carter has noted “I think the government can sponsor and conduct [research and development] that improves the tradecraft in network defense for the good of the country. So I think there's a lot we can do, and we're not anywhere near where we should be as a country.” With significant sequestration cuts impacting the DoD's research accounts in FY2013, there is a national security need to regain ground in defense basic research and not fall behind any further. APLU strongly urges \$2.432 billion for FY2016 for 6.1 research, which would translate to 19 percent of our recommended FY2016 DoD S&T level.

### **DEFENSE ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY (DARPA)**

#### **APLU FY2016 Request: \$2.973 billion**

(FY2016 PBR = \$2.973B; FY2015 = \$2.915B; FY2014 = \$2.778B)

Over the years DARPA has played an important role in funding high-risk, high-reward research which has led to many significant defense technologies, some of which have also evolved into remarkable civilian applications (eg, the Internet, GPS). APLU urges Congress to fund this game-changing research agency at the Administration's request of \$2.973 billion.