

**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 230 public research universities, land-grant institutions, and state public university systems.

APLU member campuses in the U.S. annually enroll 4 million undergraduate and 1.2 million graduate students, award 1 million degrees, employ 1 million faculty and staff, and conduct \$40.2 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)

APLU  
1307 New York Avenue, NW  
Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20005-4722  
p: 202.478.6040  
[www.aplu.org](http://www.aplu.org)

# FY2017 Appropriations Priorities DEFENSE

*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 percent of the total Defense Research, Development, Test and Evaluation (RDT&E) budget, and investments in 6.1 basic research should comprise 20 percent of the total Defense S&T budget (6.1-6.3). The recommendations below offer a path toward achieving this goal.*

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD) RESEARCH

### SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (6.1 - 6.3)

#### **APLU FY2017 Request: \$13.422 billion**

(FY2017 PBR = \$12.501B; FY2016 = \$13.251B; FY2015 = \$12.41B)

It is critical for our national security that our military stay on the leading edge of technology and scientific capabilities. This is why APLU recommends funding of \$13.422 billion in FY2017 for the DoD Science and Technology (S&T) account, a 1.3 percent increase over FY2016. As stated in the National Academies report, [Rising Above the Gathering Storm](#), Defense S&T is essential to our national security and global military superiority. The S&T program supports research that leads to the development of new weapon systems, defense capabilities and war fare technologies. We must maintain a strong investment in our defense science and research efforts if we intend to stay ahead in our defense capabilities. The APLU recommendation for Defense S&T amounts to 18.8 percent of the President's \$71.4 billion proposal for RDT&E, moving toward the 20/20 benchmark level.

### BASIC RESEARCH (6.1)

#### **APLU FY2017 Request: \$2.532 billion**

(FY2017 PBR = \$2.102B; FY2016 = 2.309B; FY2015 = \$2.28B)

For our military to maintain its technical superiority over our adversaries, we must be able to overcome the fundamental technical challenges facing us in the scientific and engineering fields. Discoveries from defense basic research have led to paradigm shifts in military capabilities that are being used to support the men and women in the military today. APLU strongly urges \$2.532 billion for FY2017 for 6.1 research, a 9.3 percent increase over FY2016 and the equivalent of 18.8 percent of our Defense S&T recommendation. Again, we believe this balance would be a positive step toward the ultimate 20/20 proportion goal for which we strive.

## DEFENSE ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY (DARPA)

#### **APLU FY2017 Request: \$2.973 billion**

(FY2017 PBR = \$2.973B; FY2016 = 2.891B FY2015 = \$2.915B)

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 (e.g., the Internet, GPS). As Congress seeks to optimally allocate limited resources, cutting-edge national security research should remain a priority. APLU urges Congress to fund this game-changing research agency at \$2.973 billion in FY2017.