DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD) RESEARCH

BASIC RESEARCH (6.1)
APLU Request: $2.165 billion
(FY14 PBR = $2.165B; FY2013 = $2.13B*; FY2012 = $2.117B)

Former Defense Secretary Leon Panetta notes, “We're depending a great deal on being at the technological edge of the future. And as I've said, I think we even have to leap forward. If we're going to deal with the kind of challenges we're going to face, we've got to be smart enough, innovative enough, creative enough to be able to leap forward.” 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 $2.165 billion for FY2014 for 6.1 research.

APLU urges following a 20/20 benchmark level for investments in Defense Science and Technology (S&T) and 6.1 basic research—with a 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).

APPLIED RESEARCH (6.2)
APLU FY2014 Request: $4.725 billion
(FY14 PBR = $4.627B; FY13 = $4.725B*; FY2012 = $4.739B)

Basic Research serves as the foundation upon which the technological and scientific advantage our military enjoys is based. However, concepts discovered at the early stages must be carried forward to fully realize the potential of new discoveries and developments. Applied research programs sponsored by the Department of Defense, and conducted at research universities, fulfill that mission. Applied research serves as the next link in the science and technology chain and universities serve an important role in carrying out this research.

DEFENSE ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY (DARPA)
APLU FY2013 Request: $2.865 billion
(FY14 PBR = $2.865B; FY2013 = $2.817*; FY2012 = $2.815B)

Over the years, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (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 $2.865 billion.

*FY2013 appropriated amounts, pre- across-the-board cuts to achieve ATRA budget caps AND pre-sequester cuts