



ASSOCIATION OF
PUBLIC &
LAND-GRANT
UNIVERSITIES

FY 2025 APPROPRIATIONS PRIORITIES

DEFENSE FINAL REQUEST

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD)

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (S&T) (6.1 - 6.3)

APLU FY2025 REQUEST: \$21.588 BILLION

FY2025 PBR = \$17.208 BILLION; FY2024 = \$21.526 BILLION; FY2023 = \$22.317 BILLION

To safeguard the national security of the United States and stay ahead of adversaries, it is critical our military lead in scientific and technological capabilities. The S&T program supports cutting-edge research that advances development of new defense and safety capabilities, warfare technologies, and weapon systems. Tomorrow's military capabilities depend on the R&D investments made today. Through partnerships with the research community, Department of Defense basic research can secure our nation's future military capabilities in areas such as quantum computing, artificial intelligence, and advanced autonomous systems.

BASIC RESEARCH (6.1)

APLU FY2025 REQUEST: \$3.417 BILLION

FY2025 PBR = \$2.453 BILLION; FY2024 = \$2.628 BILLION; FY2023 = \$2.920 BILLION

Discoveries from defense basic research have led to paradigm shifts in military capabilities that are supporting the men and women in the military today. In addition to advocating for strong funding for all defense basic research efforts, APLU encourages a six percent increase from the Senate FY24 levels for each of the below basic research program elements. These requested funding levels are consistent with "Innovation: An American Imperative"¹ and the National Defense Strategy Commission's 2018 report², as well as the recent report from the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (AAAS). The AAAS report recommends a sustained real growth rate above the rate of inflation of *at least* four percent for basic research across the federal government, with commensurate growth in applied research investment trajectories, in order to maintain U.S. research and development leadership internationally.³ This request level includes the recommended growth rate of four percent, plus an additional two percent to conservatively reflect inflation on top of the Senate FY24 level.

¹ Innovation Imperative, 2018. Available at <https://innovation-imperative.herokuapp.com/index.html>

² Providing for the Common Defense: The Assessments and Recommendations of the National Defense Strategy Commission, 2018. Available at <https://www.usip.org/publications/2018/11/providing-common-defense>

³ American Academy of Arts and Sciences, "Restoring the Foundation: The Vital Role of Research in Preserving the American Dream" 2014. Updated 2018. Available at <https://innovation-imperative.herokuapp.com/index.html>

AGENCY/ACCOUNT	ITEM	PROGRAM ELEMENT (PE)	APLU FY25 FINAL REQUEST (IN THOUSANDS)
Army RDT&E	Defense Research Sciences	601102A	383,370
Army RDT&E	University Research Initiatives	601103A	186,212
Army RDT&E	University and Industry Research Centers	601104A	126,083
Navy RDT&E	University Research Initiatives	601103N	208,136
Navy RDT&E	Defense Research Sciences	601153N	632,987
Air Force RDT&E	Defense Research Sciences	601102F	457,269
Air Force RDT&E	University Research Initiatives	601103F	297,300
Defense-Wide RDT&E	DTRA Basic Research Initiatives	601000BR	23,067
Defense-Wide RDT&E	Basic Research Initiatives	601110D8Z	118,940
Defense-Wide RDT&E	National Defense Education Program	601120D8Z	171,242

APLU also requests support of the applied program elements delineated below. The Defense-Wide Manufacturing Science and Technology Program supports the Manufacturing USA network. Manufacturing USA is a network of 16 manufacturing institutes where universities, industry, and government partners collaborate to develop and accelerate the commercialization of innovative manufacturing technologies. Currently, DoD sponsors eight of the sixteen institutes. The goal of DoD investments in the Manufacturing USA network is to support regional hubs to accelerate technological innovation into commercial application and concurrently develop the educational competencies and production processes via shared public-private sectors. Manufacturing leadership is essential to sustaining the U.S. military's technical superiority and global dominance.

Healthy soldiers and families lead to a strong military. It is imperative for DoD to contribute to curing diseases that affect not only men and women in the military, but also the public since we have an all-volunteer force. The Undistributed Medical Research/Peer-Reviewed programs play a vital role in ensuring the U.S. has the medical technologies necessary to enable military readiness and serve those who have been wounded on the battlefield. CDMRP grants are awarded to universities to study illnesses and therapeutic remedies to areas such as Alzheimer's Disease, kidney and lung cancer, and ALS.

AGENCY/ACCOUNT	ITEM	PROGRAM ELEMENT (PE)	APLU FY25 FINAL REQUEST (IN THOUSANDS)
Defense Wide RDT&E	Defense-Wide Manufacturing S&T Technology Program	603680D8z	376,263
DHP RDT&E	Undistributed Medical Research/ Peer-Reviewed (CDMRPs)	N/A	2,074,391

DEFENSE ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY (DARPA)
APLU FY2025 REQUEST: \$4.338 BILLION
FY2025 PBR = \$4.370 BILLION; FY2024= \$4.123 BILLION; FY2023 = \$4.052 BILLION

DARPA has a singular and important mission: to make pivotal investments in breakthrough technologies for national security. DARPA funds high-risk, high-reward research at universities and with industry members which has led to many significant defense technologies, some of which have also evolved into remarkable civilian applications. For example, DARPA funded projects have led to military capabilities such as precision weapons and stealth technology, but also such icons of modern civilian society such as the Internet, automated voice recognition and language translation, and Global Positioning System (GPS) receivers small enough to embed in numerous consumer devices.

DARPA searches for and funds potentially transformational projects by working within an innovation ecosystem that includes academic, corporate, and governmental partners, with a constant focus on the nation’s military needs. As Congress seeks to optimally allocate limited resources, cutting-edge national security research should remain a top priority.