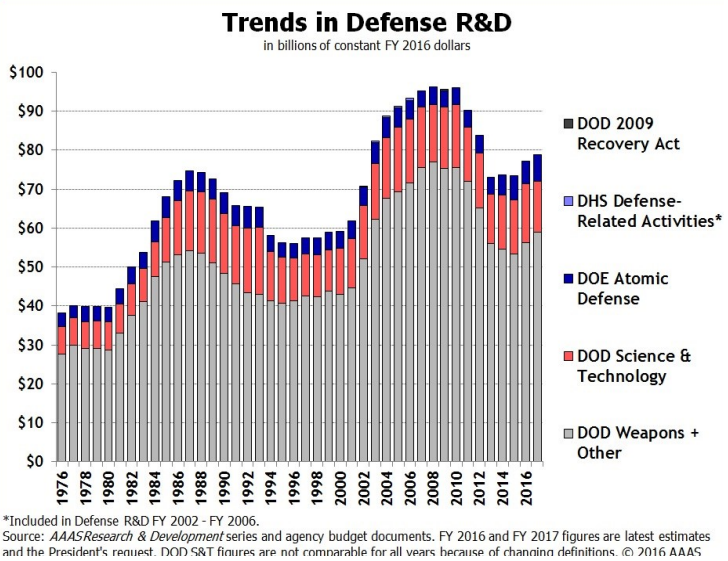
Association of American Universities
Inquiry · Innovation · Impact

Department of Defense Research

Department of Defense (DOD)-funded basic research has contributed significantly to our nation's economic and national security. DOD relies on technological innovation as a force multiplier, and cutting-edge advances have helped make our military the best-equipped and most effective in the world. Addressing complex military challenges requires innovation and technologies and the development of these technologies depends on the sustained investments in scientific and engineering basic research performed at U.S. universities.



Source: AAAS, 2017

6.1 basic research programs help train the next generation of U.S. scientists and engineers. Research grants and contracts support not only cutting-edge research, but also graduate research assistantships. Undergraduate scholarships & graduate fellowships funded by the National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate (NDSEG) Fellowships program help attract and retain top U.S. citizens for study in fields vital to addressing security-related challenges.

AAU urges Congress to provide at least $2.37 billion for Department of Defense (DOD) 6.1 basic research in FY18

AAU recommends Congress provide the following FY18 funding levels, as recommended by the Pentagon:

- **$74.3 million** for the National Defense Education Program (NDEP); and
- **$60.7 million** for NDEP's Science, Mathematics, and Research for Transformation (SMART) Program.

AAU recommends Congress provide $3.2 billion for the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). Historically, DARPA has invested in high-risk, high-reward research that has led to extraordinary technological advances, like the Internet and global positioning system (GPS).

Department of Defense basic and applied research underpins the innovative health treatments and technologies that help save lives on the battlefield and speed recovery from injuries.