

Association of American Universities

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 innovative 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, 2019

DOD 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 students. The National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate (NDSEG) Fellowships program helps attract and retain top U.S. citizens for study in fields vital to addressing national security challenges. AAU urges Congress to provide at least \$2.774 billion for DOD 6.1 basic research, \$3.364 billion for DARPA, and \$16.996 billion for DOD S&T in FY20

Consistent with *Innovation: An American Imperative*, AAU recommends Congress provide the following FY20 DOD funding levels by program element (PE):

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Army Defense Research Sciences	\$334,551,000
(PE 00601102A)	
Army University Research Initiatives	\$69,135,000
(PE 00601103A)	
University & Industry Research Centers	\$120,848,000
(PE 00601104A)	
Navy University Research Initiatives	\$170,958,000
(PE 00601103N)	
Navy Defense Research Sciences	\$528,661,000
(PE 00601153N)	
Air Force Defense Research Sciences	\$405,938,000
(PE 00601102F)	
Air Force University Research Initiatives	\$174,725,000
(PE 00601103F)	
High Energy Laser Research Initiatives	\$13,826,000
(PE 00601108F)	
DTRA Basic Research Initiatives	\$39,207,000
(PE 00601000BR)	
Defense-Wide University Research Initia-	\$60,047,000
tives (PE 00601110D8Z)	
National Defense Education Program	\$143,938,000
(PE 00601120D8Z)	

AAU urges Congress to reach a bipartisan budget agreement to lift the Budget Control Act's harmful discretionary caps in FY20 and FY21 and allow for additional resources to meet the nation's significant investment needs.