



Updated December 14, 2020

# Defense Primer: Future Years Defense Program (FYDP)

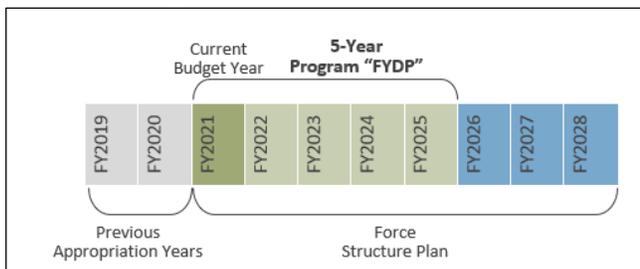
## Background

The Future Years Defense Program (FYDP) is a projection of the forces, resources, and programs to support Department of Defense (DOD) operations. The FYDP is compiled every year and typically completed during the *programming* phase of the Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution (PPBE) process. The projection is updated during the *budgeting* phase to reflect DOD’s final funding decisions presented in the annual President’s budget request.

The FYDP reflects the planned allocation of DOD resources to major strategic efforts over a multiyear period. According to the department’s Future Years Defense Program (FYDP) Structure Handbook, the FYDP is intended in part to link DOD’s internal review structure for programs with Congress’s review structure for resources, including funding.

The FYDP projects DOD funding, manpower, and force structure needs over a five-year period. The projection is typically depicted with defense resources for the two previous fiscal years and force structure estimates for the three subsequent fiscal years. For example, the FY2021 FYDP reflects FY2019 and FY2020 appropriations, the current budget year estimate (FY2021) as part of the five-year program (FY2021-FY2025), and the estimated force structure through FY2028. See **Figure 1**.

**Figure 1. FY2021 FYDP Period**



**Source:** CRS graphic based on DOD Directive 7045.14.

Primarily used as a planning tool, the FYDP allows DOD and the military services to plan for anticipated changes to programs or priorities. Such changes may include reallocating funding for a major defense acquisition program transitioning from research and development to procurement; shifting funding from multiple programs to a larger, higher-priority procurement; or identifying funding for an emerging priority expected to require resourcing over a period of multiple years.

DOD Financial Management Regulation describes the FYDP as “a series of reports that record and display resource decisions” during the PPBE cycle. FYDP data are stored in a relational database. Users can enter, update, and

view their organization’s portion of the FYDP through a web-based application hosted on the department’s classified network.

Section 221 of Title 10, *United States Code*, stipulates that the Secretary of Defense shall submit a FYDP to Congress in conjunction with the President’s budget request. A classified version of the FYDP is generally submitted to the congressional committees with jurisdiction over defense matters. Section 1042 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (P.L. 115-91) amended 10 U.S.C. §221 in part to require the Secretary to submit an unclassified electronic version of the FYDP. While the structure of the FYDP is unclassified, the actual FYDP data remains classified. DOD has proposed removing the statutory requirement to submit an unclassified FYDP to avoid inadvertently revealing sensitive information about weapons development, force structure, and strategic plans.

## FYDP Organization and Content

The FYDP can be viewed as a way to link DOD resources (or inputs) to programs (or outputs). As such, the FYDP can serve to compare or crosswalk the department’s output-focused internal review structure with the input-focused congressional review structure.

The FYDP tracks the three broad categories of resources available to the DOD as its inputs:

**Total Obligatory Authority (TOA)** – Appropriated funding, in thousands of dollars;

**Manpower** – Military endstrength and civilian full-time equivalent work years; and

**Forces** – Identified as either items of equipment or combat units.

FYDP outputs are currently grouped under 12 Major Force Programs (MFPs). An MFP is an aggregation of the resources (TOA, Manpower, and Forces) necessary to achieve DOD’s objective or plans. Currently, six of the MFPs are considered combat force programs and six are considered support programs.

**MFP 01\*** - Strategic Forces

**MFP 02\*** - General Purpose Forces

**MFP 03\*** - Command, Control, Communications, Intelligence, and Space

**MFP 04\*** - Mobility Forces

**MFP 05\*** - Guard and Reserve Forces

**MFP 06** - Research and Development

**MFP 07** - Central Supply and Maintenance

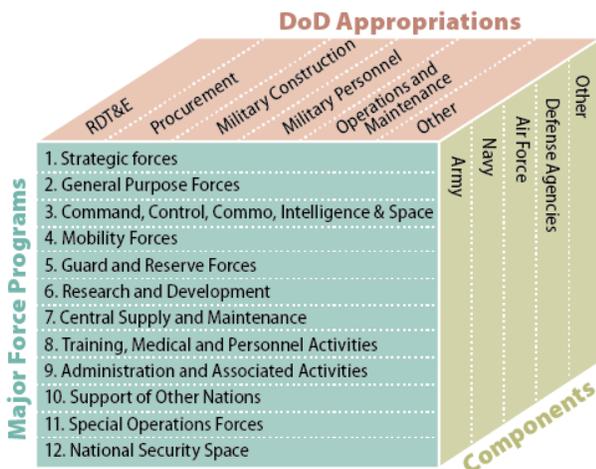
- MFP 08** - Training, Medical, & Other Personnel Activities
- MFP 09** - Administration and Associated Activities
- MFP 10** - Support of Other Nations
- MFP 11\*** - Special Operations Forces
- MFP 12** - National Security Space

\*Combat force programs

## FYDP Structure

The FYDP’s structure allows a user to examine DOD plans and programs in three dimensions: component (military service or defense agency); MFP; and appropriation title (e.g., military personnel, procurement, and military construction). See **Figure 2**.

**Figure 2. FYDP Structure**



**Source:** CRS graphic based on Defense Acquisition University illustration.

## Program Elements

Each DOD component submitting data to the FYDP assigns resources to an MFP using a unique *program element* code or *PE*. The 12 MFPs include thousands of PEs. Each PE is a unique alphanumeric code that identifies functional or organizational entities and their related resources. PEs may have a narrow focus (such as Navy F/A-18 squadrons) or broad focus (such as Air Force long-range strategic planning).

PEs enable a user to identify allocations such as the total resources assigned to a program, the weapon systems and support systems within a program, specified resources in logical groupings, or selected functional groupings of resources. See **Figure 3** for an example of a PE.

**Figure 3. Program Element for Night Vision Technology: PE0602709A**



**Source:** CRS graphic.

The first two characters identify the MFP that contains the PE (in this case, MFP 06 - Research and Development). The third and fourth characters have special uses within certain MFPs. Within MFP 06, these characters indicate a specific DOD research and development funding category (in this case, applied research). The fifth through seventh characters provide the unique identification for that specific element. The alphabetical suffix identifies the component responsible for that PE. Commonly referenced PE suffixes are:

- **A** – Army
- **BB** – Special Operations Command
- **C** – Missile Defense Agency
- **DZ** – Office of the Secretary of Defense
- **F** – Air Force
- **J** – Joint Staff
- **M** – Marine Corps
- **N** – Navy

## Resource Identification Codes

Each FYDP resource is identified by fiscal year as TOA, Manpower, or Forces using a Resource Identification Code (RIC). The RIC is a four-digit code that specifies the type of resource assigned to each PE. For example, TOA RICs range from 0300 to 0999 and are used to identify appropriation accounts in the President’s budget request. TOA RICs generally correlate to standard account codes assigned by the Department of the Treasury.

Unlike PEs, RICs are not visible in DOD’s budget submission to Congress. Instead, the budget documents generally identify the resource in plain text.

<b>Relevant Statutes</b>
Title 10, U.S. Code, Chapter 9 - Defense Budget Matters
<b>CRS Product</b>
For more information, see CRS In Focus IF10429, <i>Defense Primer: Planning, Programming, Budgeting and Execution (PPBE) Process</i> , by Brendan W. McGarry.
<b>Other Resources</b>
DOD Directive 7045.14, <i>The Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution (PPBE) Process</i> , January 25, 2013.
DOD Financial Management Regulation (7000.14-R).
DOD Future Years Defense Program (FYDP) Structure Handbook, February 2020.
DOD ACQuipedia, <i>Future Years Defense Program (FYDP)</i> , Defense Acquisition University.

**Brendan W. McGarry**, Analyst in U.S. Defense Budget  
**Heidi M. Peters**, Analyst in U.S. Defense Acquisition Policy

## Disclaimer

This document was prepared by the Congressional Research Service (CRS). CRS serves as nonpartisan shared staff to congressional committees and Members of Congress. It operates solely at the behest of and under the direction of Congress. Information in a CRS Report should not be relied upon for purposes other than public understanding of information that has been provided by CRS to Members of Congress in connection with CRS's institutional role. CRS Reports, as a work of the United States Government, are not subject to copyright protection in the United States. Any CRS Report may be reproduced and distributed in its entirety without permission from CRS. However, as a CRS Report may include copyrighted images or material from a third party, you may need to obtain the permission of the copyright holder if you wish to copy or otherwise use copyrighted material.