

Supporting National Security

2019
BUDGET
FACT
SHEET



Protecting the American People, the Homeland, and the American Way of Life: An American Budget

As described in President's National Security Strategy, the Government's fundamental responsibility is to protect the American people, the homeland, and the American way of life. An America that is strong and prosperous at home is an America capable of defending its interests and advancing its influence abroad. While America possesses enduring national strengths, we face an era of increased strategic competition, global challenges, and erosion of the U.S. comparative military advantage. To preserve peace through strength, we must continue to invest in and adapt our national security programs to effectively compete, deter, and win in this challenging new era.

- **Preserving Peace through Strength.** To maintain the advantages America's Armed Forces enjoy, expand its capacity, and build upon their strengths, the Budget requests \$716 billion for national defense. These investments fund a military that protects America's vital national interests in an increasingly competitive world. DOD will also pursue an aggressive reform agenda to achieve savings that it will reinvest in higher priority needs.
- **Growing and modernizing the force.** The Budget requests funds to deliberately increase the size of the Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps. The military must be able to field forces capable of operating in sufficient scale and for ample duration to defeat enemies, consolidate military gains, and achieve sustainable outcomes. The budget also requests funds for the modernization of equipment, including armored vehicles, artillery, new warships, stealthy fighter aircraft, and the next generation of bombers. These investments will enhance our military's ability to project power, retain its overmatch, and strengthen deterrence by ensuring the military is ready to confront even the most capable adversaries.
- **Enhancing the Joint Force's Capability to Fight and Prevail.** The Budget makes significant investments in the capability of the joint force, especially in its lethality, resilience, and agility, to better deter and, if necessary, fight and prevail against any opponent. In particular, the Budget focuses on improving the joint force's capability to take on potential great power adversaries.
- **Building Warfighter Readiness.** The Budget ensures United States forces are ready to fight by providing critical funding for training, munitions, logistics, and maintenance, while also enabling America's forces to recover readiness against high-end adversaries. Increased funding for the U.S. Army will modernize existing forces, provide additional training for U.S. soldiers, and establish new security assistance brigades to support counterterrorism efforts abroad. The Budget funds continuing efforts to improve Navy and Marine Corps aviation readiness, with increases for maintenance, spare parts, and flying hours. In response to recent Navy surface fleet incidents, the Budget requests more than \$70 million in additional resources to enhance equipment and training. The Budget also fully funds Air Force flight training, provides resources to alleviate pilot shortages, and invests in training for high-end combat to ensure the United States can effectively confront its most technologically advanced adversaries.

- **Modernizing the Nuclear Deterrent.** A tailored and flexible American nuclear deterrent is key to protecting national security and future prosperity for both the homeland and America's allies and partners. In line with the Nuclear Posture Review, the Budget supports a nuclear enterprise that is appropriately tailored to deter 21st century threats. To that end, the Budget requests \$24 billion to modernize and sustain our strategic arsenal the three legs of the nuclear triad—land, sea, and air—as well as nuclear command, control, and communications systems.
- **Building a state-of-the-art missile defense architecture.** The budget requests funds to build on the emergency appropriations to strengthen our missile defenses here at home, especially against North Korea, and in key regions of the world that are of vital importance to the United States. The budget also supports pursuit of missile defeat efforts in order to prevent threats prior to launch.
- **Ensuring our preeminence in space.** The budget requests funds to continue ensuring United States leadership, preeminence, and freedom of action in space. The budget supports our new national strategy for space that seeks to ensure unfettered access to and freedom to operate in the space domain to advance the security, economic prosperity, and scientific knowledge of the Nation.

Supporting International Affairs Agencies. The FY 2019 Budget builds on the vision of the FY 2018 Budget by supporting the core activities of the Department of State, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and other international programs, while refocusing their work on the highest National Security Strategy priorities and objectives. These include:

- *Preserving Peace and Security.* The FY 2019 Budget meets our commitments to allies and increases our support to Israel and Jordan and supports the national security of the United States in efforts to defeat ISIS and other terrorist organizations.
- *Advancing American Influence.* The FY 2019 Budget expands on the FY 2018 Budget in seeking to maintain United States leadership in shaping global humanitarian assistance while also asking the rest of the world to increase their share. The Budget also maintains all existing HIV/AIDS patients on treatment under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR); supports other global health programs by meeting our commitment to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria; and maintains funding for malaria programs.
- *Competing and Protecting the American People.* The FY 2019 Budget supports the global diplomatic presence of the United States. Sustaining a forward diplomatic presence supports competitive diplomacy and other tools of statecraft required for a new era of strategic competition. It also serves United States citizens overseas. The Budget further invests in embassy security and maintenance needs in order to safeguard the United States workforce overseas.
- *Promoting American Prosperity.* The FY 2019 Budget fosters opportunities for United States economic interests by combatting corruption and ensuring a level playing field for American businesses, including through requesting the creation of a new Development Finance Institution.
- *Streamlining International Affairs Spending.* The FY 2019 Budget seeks to make the Department of State and USAID leaner, more efficient, and more effective. The Budget also proposes reducing or eliminating funding for programs, organizations, and small agencies whose missions do not substantially advance the foreign policy interests of the United States. It also focuses attention on the

appropriate United States share of international spending at the United Nations and for many global issues where the United States currently pays more than its fair share.

Supporting our Nation's Veterans. The President's Budget emphasizes the Nation's commitment to honoring veterans through targeted investments that will ensure these men and women can access in a timely manner the care and benefits they have earned. These initiatives honor the service and sacrifice of our Nation's veterans, and ensure they are equipped for success upon transition from the Armed Forces. In summary, the Budget improves access to care, strengthens and modernizes the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and improves veterans' experiences and quality of life.

- ***Enhancing Access to Timely, High-Quality Healthcare Services and Programs.*** The Budget requests \$73.1 billion in discretionary appropriations in 2019 to improve veterans' access to healthcare by strengthening VA's ability to furnish care in its own facilities and building on the best features of VA's existing community care programs. The 2019 Request includes additional discretionary funding to ensure a smooth transition from the Veterans Choice Program to the new, consolidated community care program, known as Veteran Coordinated Access & Rewarding Experiences (Veteran CARE) program. Veteran CARE will clarify and simplify eligibility requirements, build a high performing network, streamline clinical and administrative processes, and implement new care coordination support for veterans. The Budget also promotes the health and well-being of uniformed service members and veterans, consistent with the priorities outlined in the Executive Order *Supporting Our Veterans During Their Transition From Uniformed Service to Civilian Life*. In addition, the Budget improves veterans' quality of life by sustaining VA's efforts to prevent and treat homelessness and investing in opioid prevention and treatment programs.
- ***Strengthening and Modernizing the Department of Veterans Affairs.*** The Budget makes significant investments in VA's physical and information technology (IT) infrastructure including: \$3.3 billion for construction and non-recurring maintenance projects at medical care facilities, national cemeteries, and regional offices, and to address critical seismic issues at VA facilities; \$1.2 billion for a new electronic health records system; and \$4.2 billion for enterprise IT. In addition, the Budget provides resources to implement recent legislation and key initiatives to promote accountability and transparency. Specifically, the Budget includes \$172 million for the Office of the Inspector General, and \$17.3 million to establish the new VA Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection, established by the President through Executive Order in May, 2017, to support implementation of the *Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017*.
- ***Improving the Veteran Experience and Enhancing Quality of Life.*** The Budget reinvigorates VA's commitment to improving veteran satisfaction and will help implement the *Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017*, driving the most comprehensive changes to the appeals framework in decades. Specifically, the Budget provides increased funding of \$175 million to the Board of Veterans' Appeals to improve the timeliness of appeals decisions, and for the first time to provide veterans a choice in how their appeals are reviewed, with opportunities for early resolution. In addition, the *Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017*, known as the "Forever GI Bill," brought significant changes to veteran education benefits. In 2019, VA will build upon ongoing efforts to continue implementing this sweeping legislation, which reflects the most comprehensive changes to VA education benefits since the inception of the Post-9/11 GI Bill nearly a decade ago. The Budget also requests the authority to provide up to six additional months of vocational rehabilitation counseling to certain veterans to ensure their successful reintegration into the civilian workforce.