Quick Facts

[U.S. Department of Defense](http://www.defense.gov/) (DoD)

* Today, the Department is not only in charge of the military, but it also employs a civilian force of thousands. With over 1.3 million men and women on active duty, and 742,000 civilian personnel, we are the nation's largest employer. Another 826 thousand serve in the National Guard and Reserve forces. More than 2 million military retirees and their family members receive benefits.
* The Defense Department manages an inventory of installations and facilities, consisting of more than several hundred thousand individual buildings and structures located at more than 5,000 different locations or sites. When all sites are added together, the Department of Defense utilizes over 30 million acres of land.
* DoD has an [annual overall budget](http://www.defense.gov/News/News-Releases/News-Release-View/Article/652687/department-of-defense-dod-releases-fiscal-year-2017-presidents-budget-proposal) of $521.7 billion in FY 16 (which can be prepared to previous years on the DoD budget tracking [website](https://www.aip.org/policy/federal-science-budget-tracker)). This figure includes the following amounts for research programs in FY 16:
  + Basic Research $2.3 billion
  + Applied Research $5 billion
  + Advanced Technical Development $5.6 billion
* DoD agencies that fund external research:
  + [Air Force Office of Scientific Research](http://www.wpafb.af.mil/afrl/afosr/)
  + [Office of Naval Research](http://www.onr.navy.mil/en.aspx)
  + [Army Research Office](http://www.arl.army.mil/www/default.cfm?page=29)
  + [Defense Advance Research Projects Agency](http://www.darpa.mil/default.aspx)
  + [U.S. Army Medical Research & Materiel Command](http://cdmrp.army.mil/default.shtml) (oversees the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs)
  + [Army Corps of Engineers](http://www.usace.army.mil/Home.aspx)
* DoD classifies research according to how basic or applied it is.
  + 6.1 - the most basic research and is usually the type of research that may be funded at a university
  + 6.2 - applied research and may be a continuation of 6.1 research as it comes closer to application in a defense system. This type of research is often funded at a defense company, which may partner with a university for the more basic aspects of the research.
  + 6.3 - application research, where a new technology is applied to a defense system and tested. This type of research is usually performed by a defense company, perhaps in partnership with the potential users.

Things to Consider

The defense agencies (with the exception of the CDMRP) announce funding opportunities in a variety of ways, including Broad Agency Announcements (BAAs). Each agency typically issues a "Long Range BAA," which outlines technical research interests and priorities of the agency over a several-year range covered by the BAA, as well as targeted BAAs, which address more specific competitions and other targeted solicitations. University research is often funded through unsolicited proposals based on the Long Range BAA. Web sites for the Long Range BAAs for each Research Office are given below by agency. Solicitations for programs targeted specifically or predominately for University researchers are listed in the section on targeted programs below.

Targeted Programs

The programs listed below are aimed specifically or predominately at university researchers or at partnerships that may include university researchers. In competing for most of these programs, it is extremely helpful to have already developed a relationship with a DoD program officer and preferably to have been funded by the DoD on a related research project. It should be noted that one of the best ways to connect with a defense agency is to participate in a summer faculty research program at that agency, if they offer one.

* **Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative (MURI)** - supports interdisciplinary research teams working in high-risk research topics
  + [Air Force](http://www.wpafb.af.mil/Welcome/Fact-Sheets/Display/Article/842111#anchor2)
  + [Army](http://www.arl.army.mil/www/default.cfm?page=472)
  + [Navy](http://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Directorates/office-research-discovery-invention/Sponsored-Research/University-Research-Initiatives/MURI.aspx)
* **Defense University Research Instrumentation Program (DURIP)** - provides equipment to enhance research-related education currently being funded or has been proposed for funding
  + [Air Force](http://www.wpafb.af.mil/Welcome/Fact-Sheets/Display/Article/842111#anchor1)
  + [Army](http://www.arl.army.mil/www/default.cfm?page=8)
  + [Navy](http://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Directorates/office-research-discovery-invention/Sponsored-Research/University-Research-Initiatives/DURIP.aspx)

Unsolicited Proposals

Typically, a researcher who would like to propose a research project addressing research priorities outlined in the Long Range BAA contacts the program officer to discuss his/her project idea. If the program officer is interested, he or she will request a white paper (also called a preliminary proposal). White papers are short summaries of the project idea, and rules for white paper length and format can be found in the agency long range BAA or will be designated by the program officer. If the program officer likes the white paper, he or she will request a full proposal.

Resources

[Current Quadrennial Defense Review Report](http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2014/0314_sdr/qdr.aspx) (QDR) - a legislatively-mandated review of Department of Defense strategy and priorities

* QDR sets a long-term course for DoD as it assesses the threats and challenges that the nation faces.
* This document gives a solid indication of areas of interest and priority funding for the coming years.

[Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)](http://www.aascu.org/GRC/MultiSection.aspx?id=10668)

Databases of Past Awardees: [Contracts](http://www.defense.gov/contracts/), [SBIR/STTR Awards](http://www.acq.osd.mil/osbp/SBIR/awards/index.shtml), [CDMRP Awards](http://cdmrp.army.mil/search.aspx)