



PDA

PROJECT ON DEFENSE ALTERNATIVES
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How Much Austerity in New Pentagon Budget?

The table below compares the President’s requested budget authority for the Pentagon “base budget” in two successive budgets: the FY-2012 and the FY-2013 budgets. It shows the change in future spending plans.

The comparable years are 2012-2021 and comparing these shows that planned spending has been rolled back by nearly \$490 billion. This is a subtraction from last year’s plan and not from the CBO baseline, however.

- 2012-2021 cumulative spending in FY-2012 plan = \$6.14 trillion
- 2012-2021 cumulative spending in FY-2013 plan = \$5.65 trillion

Table: Pentagon Base Budget Spending Plans Compared – 2012 Budget Versus 2013
(billions of “then year” dollars)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
FY-2012 Request	553.0	570.7	586.4	598.2	610.6	621.6	632.8	644.1	655.7	667.5	
FY-2013 Request	527.6	525.4	533.6	545.9	555.9	567.3	579.3	592.4	605.4	617.9	634.2

There are other ways to measure progress in bringing fiscal responsibility to defense budgeting:

- Taking the 2012 spending level and holding it steady over the period 2012-2021 with increases for inflation only would produce a cumulative total of \$5.82 trillion.
- Taking the 2011 spending level and holding it steady with increases for inflation would produce for 2012-2021 a cumulative spending total of \$5.9 trillion.

Either of these might be used as alternative yardsticks for measuring the administration’s austerity efforts in the defense field -- and both suggest a more modest rollback: \$170 billion over ten years and \$250 billion, respectively.

CONTACT:

Carl Conetta cconetta@comw.org
Charles Knight ckinght@comw.org