

Resource 2 (1 of 5)**Data Center Fact Sheets**

Data Center #1**Overview Fact Sheet**

1. The government appropriated (designated) \$605 billion for national security in 2016, according to the Office of Management and Budget (White House, 2016).
2. The total could be larger, depending on how one considers the following:
 - Interest on previous debt
 - Benefits for veterans and families of deceased military personnel
 - Research and clean-up of nuclear weapons administered by the Department of Energy
 - Defense-related foreign aid paid by the State Department to other countries
3. Since 2011, the defense budget has been cut by 25% in inflation-adjusted dollars.

Source: Johnson, J. T. (2016). We must get the defense budget right. Retrieved from <http://www.heritage.org/research/commentary/2016/4/we-must-get-the-defense-budget-right>

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Data Center #2**How the Money Is Spent**

- Spending at the Department of Defense, Classified by Category

Components	2015 Funding	Change, 2011–2015
Operations and Maintenance (resources dedicated to readiness, or enabling forces to be prepared to execute combat missions)	\$247.2 billion	–15.1%
Military Personnel (pay, benefits, and training costs for officers and enlisted members of the armed services)	\$145.2 billion	–10.1%
Procurement (purchasing equipment, supplies, and weapons)	\$101.3 billion	–20.9%
Research and Development (development of new technologies, weapons systems, etc.)	\$64.1 billion	–14.4%
Military Construction	\$8.1 billion	–14.4%
Family Housing	\$1.2 billion	–64.7%
Total	\$567.1 billion	–16.4%

Source: Office of Management and Budget. (2016b). Historical tables, Table 3.2—Outlays by function and subfunction, 1962–2021. Retrieved from <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/Historicals/>

- Base Funding, Classified by Branch of the Armed Forces

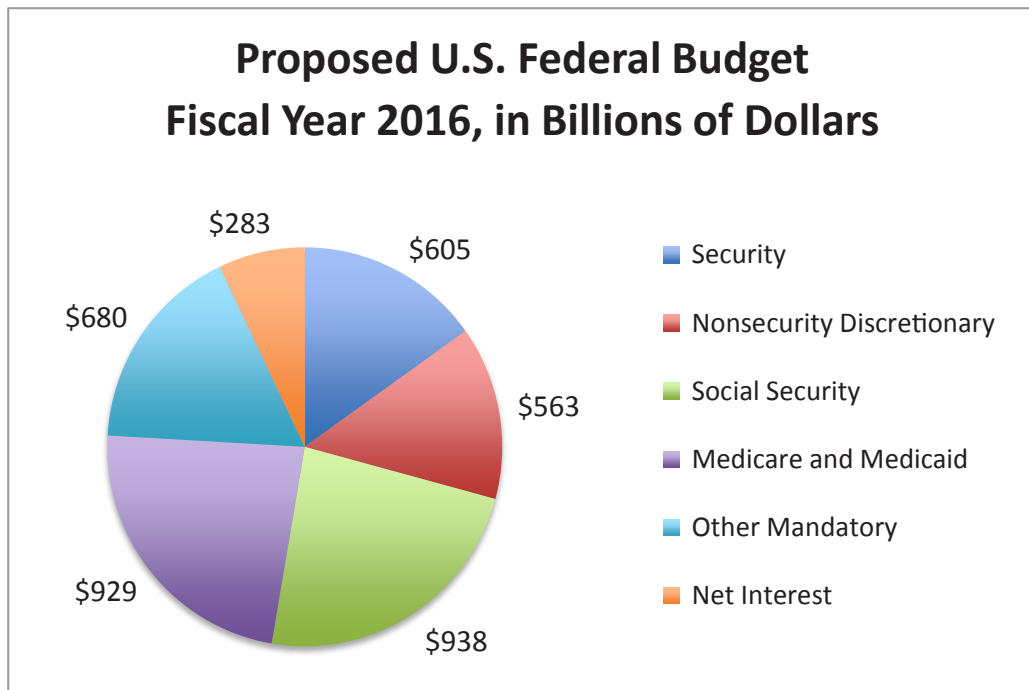
Service	2017 Budget Request	Percentage of Total
Army	\$65.9 billion	26.7%
Navy and Marine Corps	\$54.1 billion	21.9%
Air Force	\$55.4 billion	22.4%
Defense-Wide (Inter-branch)	\$71.6 billion	29.0%

Source: U.S. Department of Defense. (2016). Operation and Maintenance Programs (O-1) Revolving and Management Funds (RF-1). Retrieved from http://comptroller.defense.gov/Portals/45/Documents/defbudget/fy2017/fy2017_o1.pdf

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Data Center #3**Comparison to Other Budget Items**

- In 2016, national security spending accounted for about 15.5% of total spending (\$605 billion out of \$3.9 trillion).
- National security spending accounts for about 51% of all “discretionary” spending—that is, spending that Congress and the president control each year, through the budget process, as opposed to spending that is mandated through contracts or other laws, such as interest on debt, Social Security payments to retirees, welfare benefits, and the like.
- In 2016, national security spending accounted for approximately 3.3% of the gross domestic product (GDP), one measurement of the overall economy.



Source: White House. (2016). Summary tables, Tables S-4 and S-5. Retrieved from <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/budget/fy2016/assets/tables.pdf>

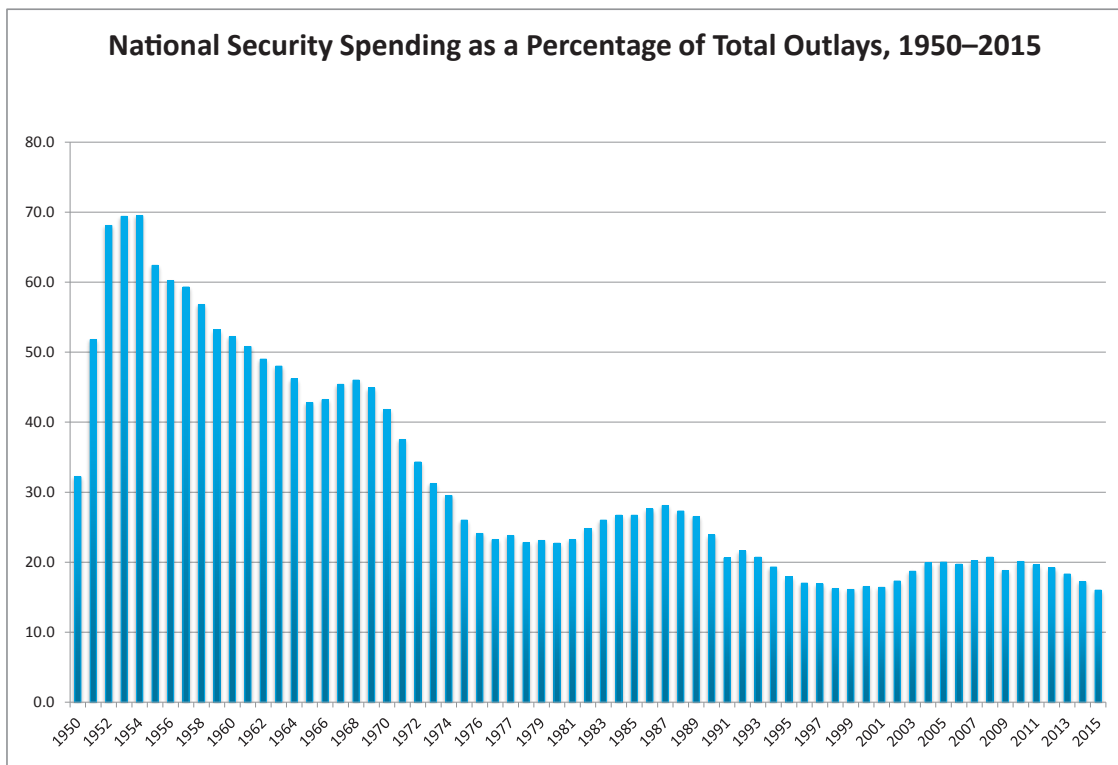
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Data Center Fact Sheets

Data Center #4

Comparison to Prior Years

- As a percentage of total budget spending, national security spending has fluctuated, but is substantially lower now than it was at the peak of the Cold War. It declined dramatically through the 1990s, increased between 2001 and 2010, and has been decreasing since 2010.
- As a percentage of GDP, national security spending has generally been in decline since World War II. As the economy has grown, national security spending has not grown as quickly.

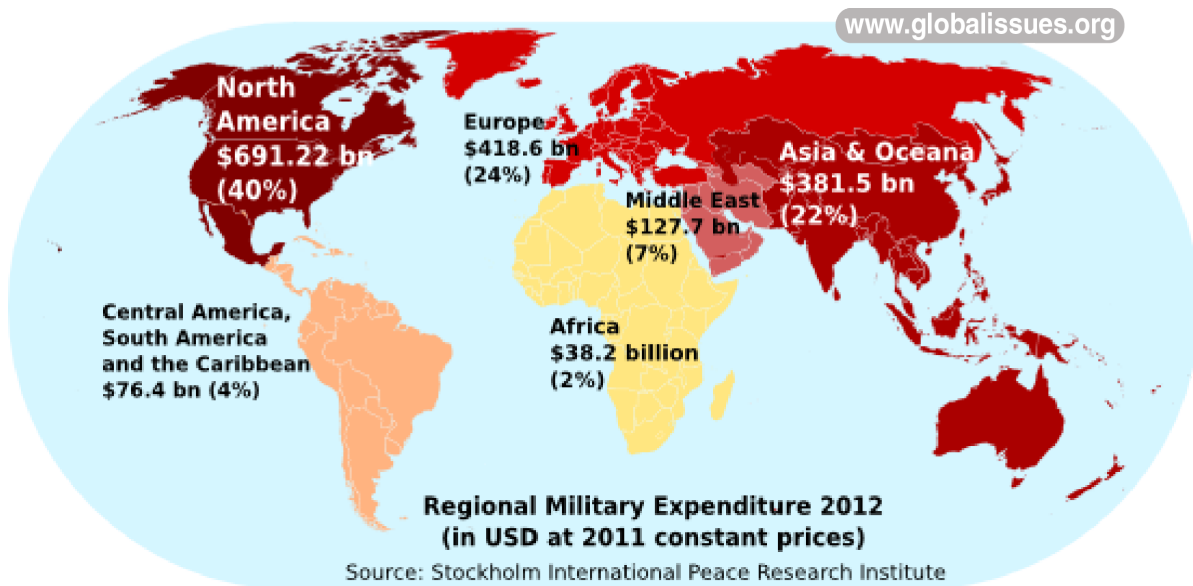


Source: Office of Management and Budget. (2016). Historical tables, Table 3.1—Outlays by superfunction and function: 1940–2021. Retrieved from <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/Historicals>

Resource 2 (5 of 5)**Data Center Fact Sheets****Data Center #5****Comparison to Other Countries**

- The United States spends more on national security than any other country in the world does—about 34.8% of the world’s total in 2015, and more than three times more than China, the second-largest spender, at an estimated \$171 billion in 2015. (It is difficult to make a clear comparison with China because of disputes about the exchange rate and concerns about the reliability of figures. Furthermore, the United States is not first in the world in terms of national security spending as a percentage of GDP—remember that the United States also has the largest economy in the world, and the world’s third largest population. These numbers need to be interpreted with that context in mind.)
- In terms of national security spending as a percentage of GDP, the countries that exceed the United States are generally in very dangerous and conflict-prone regions of the world. Those countries include Algeria and South Sudan in Africa, and a large number of countries in the Middle East: Iraq, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Israel, and Jordan.

Source: Central Intelligence Agency. (2016). The world factbook: Country comparison: Military expenditures. Retrieved from <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/rankorder/2034rank.html>; Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. (2016). SIPRI military expenditure database. Retrieved from http://www.sipri.org/research/armaments/milex/milex_database/milex_database



Source: Shah, A. (2013). World military spending. Retrieved from <http://www.globalissues.org/article/75/world-military-spending>