Unified Security Budget
Fiscal Year 2013

Budget trade-offs: Making the right decisions for a more secure world

Tradeoff #1: $20 billion

Maintain 1,968 operational nuclear warheads, a number which, according to the Air War College and School of Advanced Air and Space Studies, is six-times greater than that needed for national security and military deterrence.

Photo: LGM-30 minuteman missile launch
OR
Tradeoff #1: $20 billion

Develop and implement “smart grid” electricity transmissions systems, which are more efficient, reliable, economical, and sustainable than those used by the current electric grid.

Photo: Smart Grid tech worker performing inspection
Tradeoff #2: $74.4 billion

Absorb cost overruns of weapons now in development (GAO estimate)
Tradeoff #2: $74.4 billion

Protect the international affairs budget from cuts and have $22.8 billion left over
Tradeoff #3: $1.65 billion

Purchase seven additional F-35 aircraft, though the usefulness and viability of the aircraft are unproven.

Photo: F-35 aircraft over Florida
OR
Tradeoff #3: $1.65 billion

Reverse cuts to our nation’s contribution to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria. The Global Fund distributes antiretroviral and other HIV-related medications, conducts HIV testing, and trains health and medical workers around the globe.

Photo: HIV/AIDS prevention program in Benin
Maintain spending on military R&D that is significantly higher (in adjusted dollars) than that amount during the height of the Cold War.
OR
Tradeoff #4: $5 billion

Commit funds to deficit reduction

Photo: Cold hard cash for deficit reduction
Tradeoff #5: $90 million

Buy one V-22 Osprey helicopter, despite bipartisan support to scrap production due to safety concerns and ongoing technical problems.

Photo: Osprey over Florida coastline
OR
Tradeoff #5: $90 million

Implement program to train Foreign Service officers and diplomats for better cooperation with international organizations.
Tradeoff #6: $4.5 billion

Build a new nuclear research facility (CMRR-NF), though the House Appropriations Committee recommended delay because it has “no coherent mission” and would cost fifteen times more to maintain than to the existing facility.

Photo: The other $2.2 billion nuclear weapons facility in New Mexico. We really need another one, at twice the price?
OR
Tradeoff #6: $4.5 billion

Fully fund the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), responsible for monitoring and regulating nuclear stockpiles, for eleven years.

Photo: The CMRR-NF facility would cost 12 times as much to build as the IAEA, the international atomic regulating agency, receives in annual funding.
Tradeoff #7: $2.6 billion

Purchase one additional Virginia Class Submarine, though it is ill-suited to fight today’s asymmetrical wars.

Photo: General Dynamics showcases its Virginia-class sub
Tradeoff #7: $2.6 billion

Fully fund the White House’s commitment to fund international peacekeeping forces, with $500 million left over.

Photo: UN peacekeeping troops from Egypt stationed in Darfur in 2011
Tradeoff #8: $330 million

Fully fund military bands for one year

Photo: The Quantico Marine Corps Base Band serenades an Osprey, June 2012
OR
Tradeoff #8: $330 million

Cut appropriations for military bands in half and allow the DOE to upgrade security at nuclear facilities and convert reactors that use highly enriched uranium.

Photo: Nuclear power plant outside of Waynesboro, GA
Tradeoff #1
Minuteman missile: Wikimedia commons / Public Domain
Smart Grid employee: U.S. Department of Energy / Public Domain
http://energy.gov/oe/technology-development/smart-grid

Tradeoff #2
U.S. Pentagon: Wikimedia commons / Public Domain

Tradeoff #3
F-35 aircraft: U.S. Air Force / Public Domain
Photo by U.S. Air Force/Staff Sgt. Joely Santiago
HIV/AIDS prevention in Benin: The Global Fund / Public Domain

Tradeoff #4:
Laser design work
Credit: U.S. Navy Photo / Greg Vojyko / Released / Public Domain
Dollar bills
Credit: Eric E. Johnson
Tradeoff #5
Osprey over Florida coastline: U.S. Air Force / Public Domain
Photo by U.S. Air Force/Senior Airman Julianne Showalter
Foreign Service officers: US Dept of State / Public Domain

Tradeoff #6
Nuclear Weapons Laboratory: Los Alamos National Laboratory / Public Domain
International Atomic Energy Agency: IAEA / Public Domain
Photo by Greg Webb/IAEA

Tradeoff #7
General Dynamics Virginia-class submarine: U.S. Navy / Public Domain
Photo provided by U.S. Navy courtesy of General Dynamics Electric Boat/Released
UN Peacekeeping Troops: UNAMID / Public Domain
Photo by Albert Gonzalez Farran

Tradeoff #8
Marine Corps Band: U.S. Marines / Public Domain
Photo by Cpl. Reagan Lodge, U.S. Marines
Nuclear Power Plant, Waynesboro, GA: Public Domain/DW211