Nuclear Security Spending: Assessing Costs, Examining Priorities

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Five Categories

- Nuclear forces and operational support
- Deferred environmental and health costs
- Missile defense
- Nuclear threat reduction
- Nuclear incident management
U.S. Nuclear Weapons-Related Appropriations for FY 2008 by Category

Total - $52.4 Billion

- Nuclear forces and operational support: $29.093 Billion
- Nuclear threat reduction: $9.188 Billion
- Deferred environmental and health costs: $8.299 Billion
- Missile defense: $5.165 Billion
- Nuclear incident management: $0.700 Billion

Note: Does not include classified programs, air defense, antisubmarine warfare, or nuclear weapons-related intelligence programs.
Findings

• Nuclear weapons and weapons-related spending accounts for about:
  • 67 percent of the Department of Energy budget;
  • 8.5 percent of the FBI budget;
  • 7.1 percent of the Department of Defense budget (excluding the supplemental costs of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq); and
  • 1.7 percent of the Department of Homeland Security budget.
U.S. Nuclear Weapons-Related Appropriations for FY 2008 by Major Department/Agency

Billions of dollars

- Nuclear forces and operational support
- Deferred environmental and health costs
- Missile defense
- Nuclear threat reduction
- Nuclear incident management

- DOD: $22.496B
- DOE: $9.188B
- DHS: $6.569B
- Justice/FBI: $2.663B
- Labor: $0.626B
- State: $0.568B
- State: $0.242B
- HHS: $0.242B
U.S. Nuclear Weapons-Related Appropriations for FY 2008 by Category/Subcategory

Nuclear Forces and Operational Support - $29.1 Billion

- DOD: $22.496 Billion
- DOE/NNSA: $6.569 Billion

Not shown:
- Interior ($0.016 Billion)
- DNFSB ($0.012 Billion)
Operational U.S. Strategic Nuclear Delivery Systems, 1945-2009
Estimated U.S. Nuclear Weapons Inventory, 1945-2009

Estimated deployed warheads as of early 2009: 3,374 (plus 1,830 in reserve). Total below for 2009 includes an estimated 4,400 warheads awaiting dismantlement. Data through 1961 are actual totals.
U.S. Nuclear Weapons-Related Appropriations for FY 2008 by Category/Subcategory

Deferred Environmental and Health Costs - $8.3 Billion

- Environmental management and cleanup (DOD, DOE, DNFSB, EPA) - $7.333 Billion
- Defense nuclear waste disposal (DOE) - $1.053 Billion
- Victim compensation (NTPR, RECP, EEOICPA, Marshall Islands) - $0.708 Billion
- $0.259 Billion

Environmental Management and Cleanup Breakout

DOD (est.)

DOE

Not shown: EPA ($0.025 billion)
U.S. Nuclear Weapons-Related Appropriations for FY 2008 by Category/Subcategory

Missile Defense - $9.2 Billion

$4.2 Billion
$2.7 Billion
$2.3 Billion

National missile defense (NMD)
Theater missile defense (TMD)
NMD and TMD

Note: The “NMD and TMD” category includes portions of the Missile Defense Agency’s capability development, sustainment, mission area investment, and MDA operations line items which cannot be disaggregated.

Not included: Operations and maintenance costs for Patriot and SM-3 antimissile systems.
U.S. Nuclear Weapons-Related Appropriations for FY 2008 by Category/Subcategory

Nuclear Threat Reduction - $5.2 Billion

- $1.069 Billion
- $3.098 Billion
- $0.997 Billion
U.S. Nuclear Weapons-Related Appropriations for FY 2008 by Category/Subcategory

Nuclear Incident Management - $0.700 Billion

- Emergency preparedness: $0.445 Billion
- Incident response: $0.255 Billion

Note: Does not include relevant expenditures by the U.S. Northern Command and most of the National Guard, or federally supported programs for state and local officials.
Recommendations

- **Create Comprehensive Nuclear Accounting Systems**
  - Annual nuclear spending report
  - Incorporate financial data into Nuclear Posture Review
  - Engage GAO to independently verify completeness and accuracy
  - Perform cost-benefit analyses
Recommendations

• Quantify and explain nuclear security-related intelligence expenditures
  • How much is spent supporting operational nuclear forces, defensive measures, nuclear threat reduction, and nuclear incident management?
  • Enhance understanding and ensure funds are allocated to address the most urgent threats
Recommendations

- Focus on Proactive Threat Reduction Strategies
  - Don’t just rely on technology-driven efforts
  - Establish metrics for the Proliferation Security Initiative
Recommendations

- Ensure Equity for Atomic Veterans
  - Create accountability on par with the Radiation Exposure Compensation Program and the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act
Conclusion

• This is the start of a national conversation, not the end.

• We don’t know all the answers because we don’t have all the relevant data, and in several major areas neither does the government.

• With limited time and resources, and no access to classified information or even detailed unclassified data, we have set the basic parameters and demonstrated that a more thorough accounting is both feasible and warranted.

• Together, we need to decide how to get the most bang of our nuclear security bucks.