Defense Primer: Future Years Defense Program (FYDP)

Background

The primary mechanism for the Secretary of Defense to request, allocate, track, and expend DOD funds is known as the Planning, Programing, Budgeting, and Execution (PPBE) process. The *Future Years Defense Program* (FYDP) is an annually compiled summary of the forces, resources, and programs associated with DOD operations. The FYDP is typically completed during the *programming* phase of the PPBE process, and is generally updated during the *budgeting* phase to reflect DOD's final funding decisions presented in the annual Presidential Budget Request (PBR).
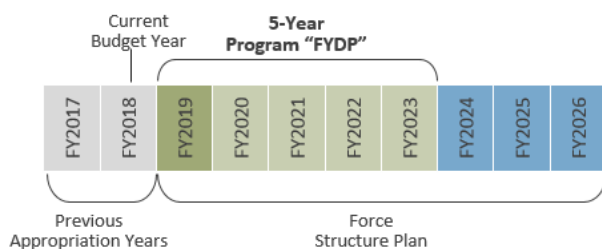
> ### PPBE Process
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> For more information, see CRS In Focus IF10429, *Defense Primer: Planning, Programming, Budgeting and Execution (PPBE) Process*, by Brendan W. McGarry and Heidi M. Peters.

The FYDP captures resource management decisions related to projected activities associated with normal, peacetime operations of the Department of Defense (DOD). By grouping funding into programs—rather than activities as depicted in the annual budget justification documents—the FYDP reflects the allocation of DOD resources to major strategic efforts over a multiyear period.

Formally approved by the Secretary of Defense, the FYDP projects DOD funding, manpower, and force structure needs over a 5-year period. The FYDP depicts the allocation of defense resources in the two previous fiscal years and the current fiscal year and it provides force structure estimates for eight years. For example, the FY2019 FYDP reflected FY2017 and FY2018 appropriations, the current budget year estimate (FY2019) as part of the 5-year program (FY2019-FY2023), and the estimated force structure through FY2026 (**Figure 1**).

Figure 1. FY2019 FYDP

Source: DOD Directive 7045.14. Figure created by CRS.
Note: A full FYDP was not provided with the DOD's FY2018 budget request.

Section 221 of Title 10, United States Code, requires the Secretary of Defense to submit the FYDP to Congress in conjunction with the President's annual budget request. The FYDP is generally submitted to the congressional committees with jurisdiction over defense matters. Note that while the data structure of the FYDP is unclassified, the actual FYDP data is classified.

FYDP Organization and Content

The FYDP is structured as a database which links DOD resources (or inputs) to programs (or outputs). As such, the FYDP can serve to compare or crosswalk the Department's output-focused internal review structure with the input-focused congressional review structure. The FYDP tracks the three broad categories of resources available to the DOD as its inputs:

Total Obligatory Authority (TOA) – Appropriated funding, in thousands of dollars;

Manpower – Military endstrength and civilian full-time equivalent work years; and

Forces – Identified as either items of equipment or combat units.

FYDP outputs are currently grouped under twelve Major Force Programs (MFPs). An MFP is an aggregation of the resources (TOA, Manpower, and Forces) necessary to achieve DOD's objective or plans. Currently, six of the MFPs are considered combat force programs and six are considered support programs.
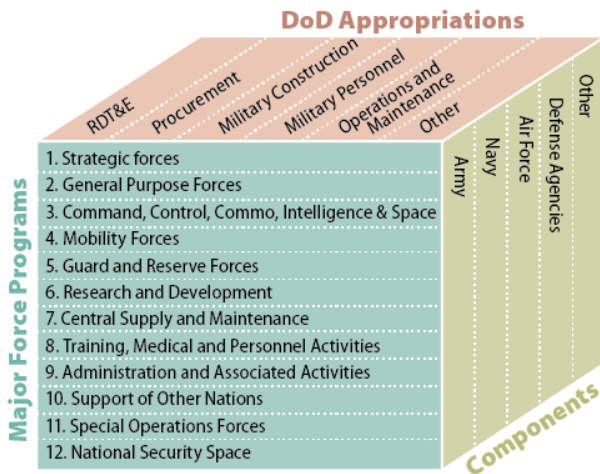
MFP 01* - Strategic Forces
MFP 02* - General Purpose Forces
MFP 03* - Command, Control, Communications, Intelligence, and Space
MFP 04* - Mobility Forces
MFP 05* - Guard and Reserve Forces
MFP 06 - Research and Development
MFP 07 - Central Supply and Maintenance
MFP 08 - Training, Medical, & Other Personnel Activities
MFP 09 - Administration and Associated Activities
MFP 10 - Support of Other Nations
MFP 11* - Special Operations Forces
MFP 12 - National Security Space
*Combat force programs

FYDP Structure

The FYDP database allows a user to identify, sort, and display DOD plans and programs in three dimensions: component (military service or defense agency), MFP, and appropriation title (e.g., military personnel, procurement, military construction). See **Figure 2**.

Figure 2. FYDP Structure

Source: Recreated by CRS from Defense Acquisition University illustration.

Program Elements

Each DOD component submitting data to the FYDP assigns FYDP resources (TOA, Manpower, and Forces) to an MFP using a unique *Program Element* code or *PE*. The eleven MFPs comprise thousands of PEs. Each PE is a unique alphanumeric code that identifies functional or organizational entities and their related resources. PEs may have a narrow focus (such as Navy F/A-18 squadrons) or broad focus (such as Air Force long-range strategic planning).

PEs enable a user to identify allocations such as the total resources (TOA, Manpower, and Forces) assigned to a program, the weapon systems and support systems within a program, specified resources in logical groupings, or selected functional groupings of resources. See **Figure 3** for an example of a PE.

Figure 3. Program Element for Night Vision Technology: PE0602709A

Source: Created by CRS.

The first two characters identify the MFP that contains the PE (in this case, MFP 06 - Research and Development). The third and fourth characters have special uses within certain MFPs. Within MFP 06, these characters indicate a specific DOD research and development funding category (in this case, applied research). The fifth through seventh characters provide the unique identification for that specific element. The alphabetical suffix identifies the component responsible for that PE. Commonly referenced PE suffixes are:

- **A** – Army
- **BB** – Special Operations Command
- **C** – Missile Defense Agency
- **DZ** – Office of the Secretary of Defense
- **F** – Air Force
- **J** – Joint Staff
- **M** – Marine Corps
- **N** – Navy

Resource Identification Codes

Each FYDP resource is identified by fiscal year as TOA, Manpower, or Forces using a Resource Identification Code (RIC). The RIC is a four-digit code that specifies the type of resource assigned to each PE. For example, TOA RICs range from 0300 to 0999 and are used to identify appropriation accounts in the President's budget. TOA RICs generally correlate to standard account codes assigned by the U.S. Treasury.
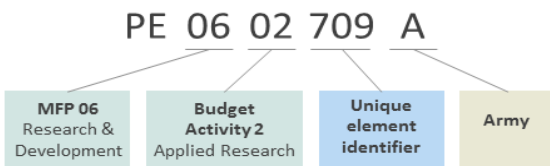
Manpower RICs range from 0000-0299 and are used to identify officer, enlisted and civilian manpower in each of the DOD components. Manpower RICs also exist for U.S. direct hire, foreign direct hire, or foreign indirect hire civilian personnel.

Force RICs range from 1000 to 9999 and are used to identify hardware items (such as missiles), weapons systems (such as an aircraft or ship), or organizations (such as a brigade or squadron). For example RIC 1230 represents an Army Air Assault Battalion and RIC 2646 represents a DDG-51 Arleigh Burke-class destroyer.

Unlike PEs, RICs are not visible in DOD's budget submission to Congress. Instead, the budget documents generally identify the resource in plain text.

Relevant Statutes

Title 10, U.S. Code, Chapter 9 - Defense Budget Matters

Other Resources

DOD Directive 7045.14, *The Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution (PPBE) Process,* January 25, 2013 – note that this directive superseded and canceled DOD 7045.7-H, *Future Years Defense Program (FYDP) Structure,* April 2004.

FYDP Structure Handbook, "Department of Defense Future Years Defense Program (FYDP) Structure: Codes and Definitions for All DOD Components," February 2014, available through DOD's Office of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation (CAPE).

Congressional Budget Office, "Long-Term Implications of the 2016 Future Years Defense Program," January 14, 2016.

ACQuipedia, *Future Years Defense Program (FYDP)*, Defense Acquisition University, September 29, 2016

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