



# ASSOCIATION OF OLD CROWS ADVOCACY NEWSLETTER

April 26, 2021

## President Biden Releases Defense Budget Blueprint

by Ken Miller, AOC Director of Advocacy and Outreach

On April 9, President Biden released the blueprint of his fiscal year (FY) 2022 Budget Request for Discretionary Funding. The official budget request will be released in the coming weeks. The blueprint request was higher than expected, at \$753 billion for national defense priorities, which includes \$38 billion allocated for defense priorities outside of the Department of Defense (DOD), leaving the department with a budget of \$715 billion. This represents a 2.3 percent increase over FY 2021. By comparison, his total request for discretionary non-defense priorities is \$769 billion, a 16 percent increase over the FY 2021 enacted level.

Fiscal Year	Date Submitted	President
FY 2022	??	Biden
FY 2021	February 11	Trump
FY 2020	March 11	Trump
FY 2019	February 12	Trump
FY 2018	May 22	Trump
FY 2017	February 9	Obama
FY 2016	February 2	Obama
FY 2015	March 4	Obama
FY 2015	April 10	Obama

The original FY 2022 request prepared in the last days of the Trump Administration was approximately \$755 billion, but the Congressional Progressive Caucus was calling for a budget closer to \$700 billion.

Typically, the President sends a budget proposal to Congress on or around the first Monday in February. The delay for FY 2022 was expected due to the change in administration and priority attention on COVID response and stimulus. By comparison, President Trump's first budget was not delivered until May 23, the latest budget release in the past 25 years. President Obama's first defense budget in 2009 for FY 2010 was released relatively early on February 26.

Table 2. President's Budget Submission

Regardless, the budget blueprint is sufficient to kick off the annual congressional defense budget process, including the annual defense authorization bill that must pass each year in addition to the annual appropriations bill. Congressional defense committees are ramping up annual posture hearings, and it is expected that mark-ups on spending bills will proceed in the normal timeframe of early summer.

The President's budget is usually declared "dead on arrival," at least it has been for the past 232 years. The reality, however, is that the label applies more to a few select programs and initiatives that come under the microscope of Congress. The bulk of agency funding remains intact through the congressional budget process, especially (and historically) funding for most EW-related programs. In the end, total funding enacted by Congress is also usually close to the President's request.

There are two other important points about this budget plan. First, for the first time in 10 years, there are no Budget Control Act (BCA) caps on discretionary spending. While Congress

# ADVOCACY NEWSLETTER

effectively erased the caps in recent years, the BCA still created downward pressure on the budget and upheld a link between discretionary defense and non-defense spending. Second, the 'President's budget does not include separate funding for Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO); operations are included in the base budget. This is a good policy change as previously "off-budget" OCO funding, and war supplementals were used to mask overall defense spending.

In the FY 2016 Budget Request, President Obama announced a similar effort to begin in FY 2017, but that was not actively pursued under President Trump. Since 2001, more than \$2 trillion has flowed through OCO-related accounts separate from the DOD base budget.

AOC Advocacy will provide updated budget information as soon as it is available. If you have any questions about the budget process or program funding, please contact Ken Miller, AOC Director of Advocacy and Outreach, at [kmiller@crowns.org](mailto:kmiller@crowns.org).

Request vs. Enacted (in billions)			
Fiscal Year	Request	Enacted	% Change
2022	\$715	-	
2021	\$705	\$699	-0.8
2020	\$718	\$686	-4.4
2019	\$686	\$667	-2.7
2018	\$639	\$647	1.3
2017	\$583	\$587	0.6
2016	\$585	\$581	-0.7

Table 2. Request vs. Enacted (in billions)

## From the Crows' Nest Podcast

### Episode 1: The State of EMSO Today

by Tala Alshaboot, Research Assistant, Advocacy and Outreach

On April 14, AOC launched the first episode of From the Crows' Nest hosted by AOC'S Director of Advocacy and Outreach, Ken Miller. Episode one featured special guest John Knowles, editor of the Journal of Electromagnetic Dominance (JED). Their discussion covered various topics related to the state of electromagnetic spectrum operations (EMSO), from a new joint doctrine to a unified EMSO strategy to greater oversight by Congress. John spoke on the method the DoD historically obtains EMSO knowledge, which has been through episodic conflict. This challenges our ability to close persistent gaps, train effectively and prepare for future conflict. "We can't play the game anymore." We have the opportunity to make significant strides. Still, we are currently in an "analyze mode" right now as we determine our direction in response to peer competitors like China, Russia, and Iran. Ken and John discuss other essential topics, including training, the need to continue pursuing EMSO governance, and coalition interoperability. Lastly, John spoke about JED's April issue on the US Air force EMS Superiority Strategy and previewed May's edition on NATO.



Learn more and listen to the latest episode at [crowns.org/FromtheCrowsNest](https://crowns.org/FromtheCrowsNest).

# ADVOCACY NEWSLETTER

## The History of Crows Podcast

### *Episode 1: A New Epoch*

by Tala Alshaboot, Research Assistant, Advocacy and Outreach



AOC is launching a second new podcast, *The History of Crows*, where we chronicle the unique and fascinating evolution of electromagnetic spectrum operations – the people, inventions, technology, and military operations that have brought us to where we are today. The first episode, *A New Epoch*, covers the contributions of 18th and 19th Century scientists and physicists, focusing on James Clerk Maxwell and Heinrich Hertz. It will feature Chuck Quintero from Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab, discussing the world of natural philosophy at the time of Maxwell and Hertz. He will share how Maxwell's papers on the theory of electromagnetism changed the course of science and introduced concepts that laid the foundation for EMSO today.

Future episodes will take you to meet Marconi and the founding of wireless communications, the development of radar, and untold stories of EW in WWI and WII.

The first episode will be released in May on Apple podcasts, Spotify, or wherever you catch your favorite podcasts. [Listen to the trailer now at \*\*crows.org/podcast\*\*](https://crows.org/podcast).

## Business Opportunities

### **Army Aviation PEO releases Innovation Contract Concept**

The Army Aviation PEO will be releasing a request for proposal (RFP) in the coming months for services providing innovative, intelligent automation, augmentation, analytics, and solutions across multiple platforms in the PEO portfolio. Tasks expected in the RFP include Common Platform Innovations and Upgrades, Multi-Domain Operations Fleet Level Upgrades, solutions using Modular Open Systems Architecture, Evolving Technology Application, and more. Bloomberg Government estimates the value of the contract to be between \$10 million - \$100 million. The notice was posted on March 18 and the initial comment period closed on April 19.

### **Draft Joint Artificial Intelligence Center (JAIC) Data Readiness Artificial Intelligence Development (DRAID) Blanket Purchase Agreement**

On March 31, the Joint Munitions Command (JMC/Army) released an RFP for JAIC's DRAID agreement. The JAIC serves as the focal point of the Defense Department AI strategy to "accelerate scaling AI and its impact across the Department." The Performance or Work encompasses "all tasks needed to create, acquire, curate, prepare, manage, or secure data sets for use in DoD AI models and application development, testing, certification, and operation. Examples of such tasks include but are not exclusive to Extract Transform Load (ETL) and Data Engineering Development, Database Design and Development, Data Science Development, Data Analysis, Data collection and curation, and Project and Outreach Program Management. For the execution of DoD Task Orders, these activities shall be performed while maintaining appropriate security and ethical considerations, including Federal and DoD regulations governing cybersecurity, information security, operational security, ethical standards of conduct, conflicts of interest, and AI Ethical Principles." RFP responses are due May 5. Bloomberg Government estimates the value of this contract to be \$241 million.

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*For questions, comments, or additional information on any of the above topics, please contact Ken Miller, AOC Director of Advocacy and Outreach, at [kmiller@crowds.org](mailto:kmiller@crowds.org) or Tala Alshaboot, Research Assistant, Advocacy and Outreach at [tala@crowds.org](mailto:tala@crowds.org).*

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