

Sensible Defense

May 20, 2009

President Obama and Defense Secretary Gates have proposed an FY10 Defense Department budget that makes tough choices and reflects a shift in security priorities.

- It cuts wasteful spending on weapons we don't use and the commanders in the field don't want.
- It makes increasing troop strength and supporting our troops the highest priority.
- It re-equips the military for the kind of unconventional conflicts we are fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the wars we will be fighting in the future.

Congress should pass the fiscal year 2010 budget for the Department of Defense as requested by President Obama and Secretary Gates.

Claim: This budget cuts programs that we need to make our country safer.

The Truth: The only programs being canceled or cut are those that are over cost, behind schedule, useless for counterinsurgency operations, and unneeded for the foreseeable future such as the F-22 Raptor fighter jet, the DDG-1000 Zumwalt Class destroyer, and Future Combat System vehicles, and Missile Defense.

End Procurement of F-22 Raptor at 187 Planes

- **The F-22 has never been used in either Iraq or Afghanistan.** The F-22's strength is air-to-air combat; it has limited utility in today's counterinsurgency operations.
- **The Air Force no longer supports continued production of the F-22.** Air Force Secretary Michael Donley and Air Force Chief of Staff General Norton Schwartz have publicly withdrawn support for the F-22.
- **The F-22 has no known enemy.** It is the most advanced fighter plane in the world, and there is nothing that could threaten its supremacy in air-to-air combat.
- **We already have a sufficient fleet.** The United States already has 187 F-22s on hand or on order, which is more than enough to cover any contingency.
- **The F-22 is unduly expensive.** F-22s cost nearly \$150 million per plane—twice as much as was projected.
- **Ending procurement of the F-22 will not affect jobs.** Lockheed Martin employs 24,000 workers in producing the F-22. This number will be reduced to 11,000 by the end of 2011 when the economy is expected to be on more stable ground. These losses will be dramatically offset by jobs created by the increase in F-35 production.



Cancel the Zumwalt-Class DDG-1000 Destroyer

- **The cost of the DDG-1000 destroyer has skyrocketed.** The first two DDG-1000 destroyers are expected to cost \$5 billion each, and subsequent ships will likely cost \$3.6 billion each. This is almost twice the cost of the DDG-51, which is preferred by the Navy.
- **The DDG-1000 is best suited for conventional warfare.** The DDG-1000 has a larger size and heavier weapons better-suited for conventional warfare, while the DDG-51's smaller size and weapons make it a better choice for unconventional warfare.



Cut the Ground Vehicle Portion of Future Combat Systems

- **FCS' ground vehicles are not suited for unconventional warfare.** FCS' manned vehicles are highly susceptible to improvised explosive devices because they sit low to the ground and lack a 'V' shaped hull.
- **The ground vehicles will be difficult to transport.** The vehicles are now projected to weigh 20 tons more than initially projected, which means that they will have to be transported by larger aircraft, which will make it difficult to get them to isolated areas where fighting is taking place.



Reduce Funding for missile defense

- **Gates' budget invests in proven capabilities that will help against near-term missile threats, such as Aegis and THAAD** which have both been successfully flight tested under operationally realistic conditions. Aegis missile defense is capable of providing coverage against near-term ballistic missile threats from Iran and North Korea.
- **The budget invests in promising antimissile systems to defend against the missile threats of tomorrow.** The budget supports ongoing efforts to improve the Aegis system, including a new interceptor by 2015.
- **The budget cuts funding for programs of dubious technological and strategic feasibility, such as the Airborne Laser.** The Airborne Laser envisions mounting powerful chemical lasers on modified Boeing 747s to take out missiles during the minutes-long boost phase of missile flight. Boost-phase missile defenses are inherently difficult to engineer. Given the laser's short range, the \$2 billion aircraft will have to fly a few hundred kilometers from a potential launch site, making it easy prey for enemy air defenses.

