



Center for a
New American
Security

Rebuilding America's Military

DEFENSE TRANSITION BRIEF

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“Leverage: don’t make deals without it.”

- Donald Trump, *The Art of the Deal*

“Speak softly and carry a big stick.”

- Theodore Roosevelt

Military power gives the United States leverage in the global arena.

Military leverage comes from *warfighting advantage*:

Being able to **project military power abroad**,

While **protecting the United States** from harm.

The U.S. ability to do both of these has diminished.

Causes of diminished American military power:

- ① **Budget Control Act cuts** have harmed military readiness and modernization.
- ② **Adversary innovations** have diminished America's ability to project power and defend the homeland.
- ③ **Broken and bloated Pentagon processes** have hampered innovation and driven up costs.

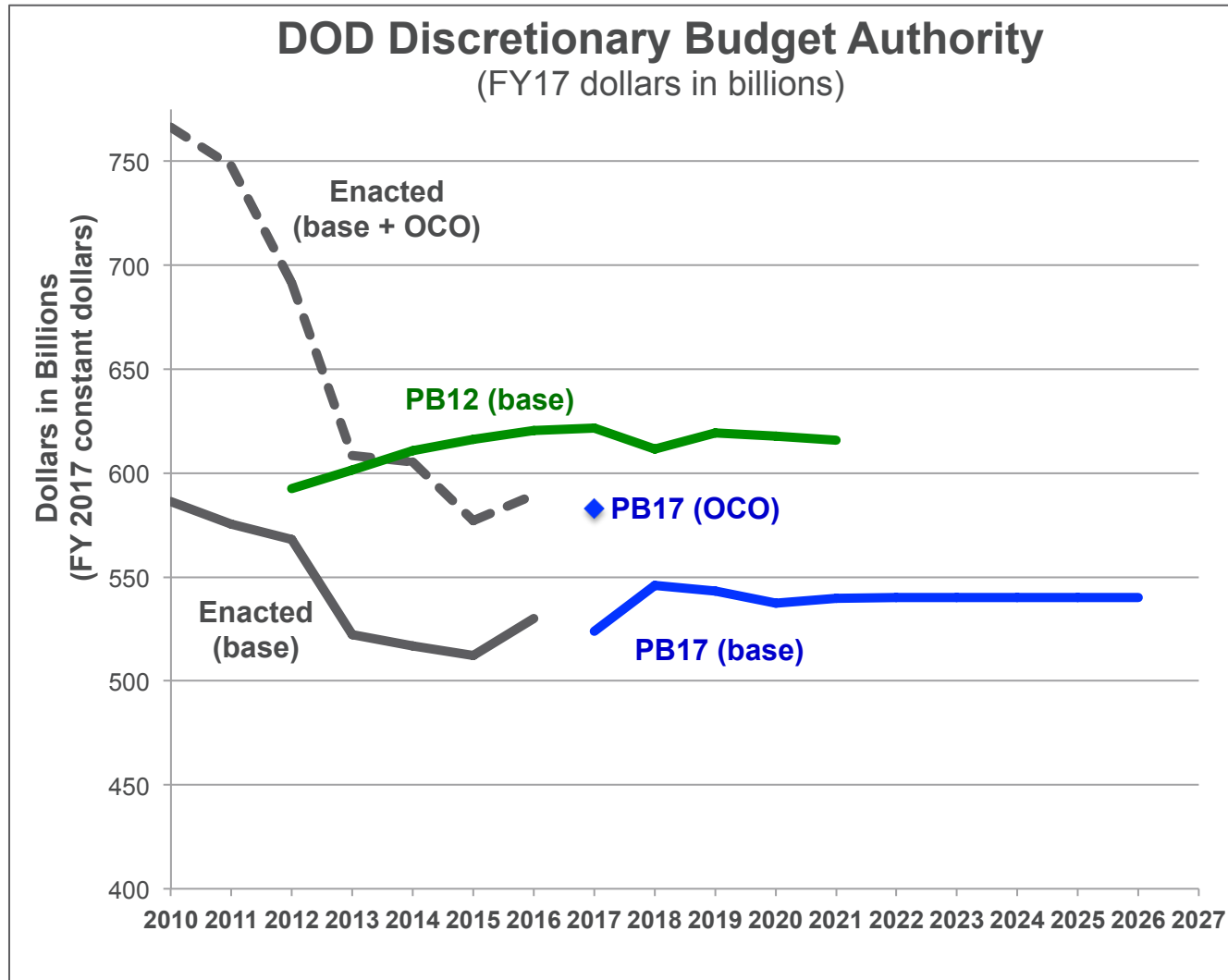
To rebuild America's military:

- ① **Increase funding** with a stable and predictable budget.
- ② **Adapt military capabilities** to current and future threats.
- ③ **Reform DOD** to accelerate innovation, reduce overhead, and eliminate waste.



① Increase funding

Military spending down sharply due to Budget Control Act cuts



The Budget Control Act has

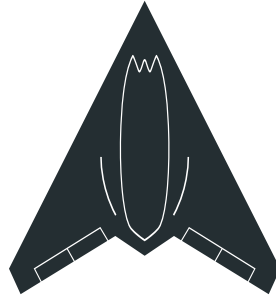
- Harmed near-term military readiness by under-funding flying hours, maintenance, and training; and
- Delayed much-needed modernization.

Short-term year-to-year budget deals are insufficient.

- DOD needs predictable funding to plan investments.

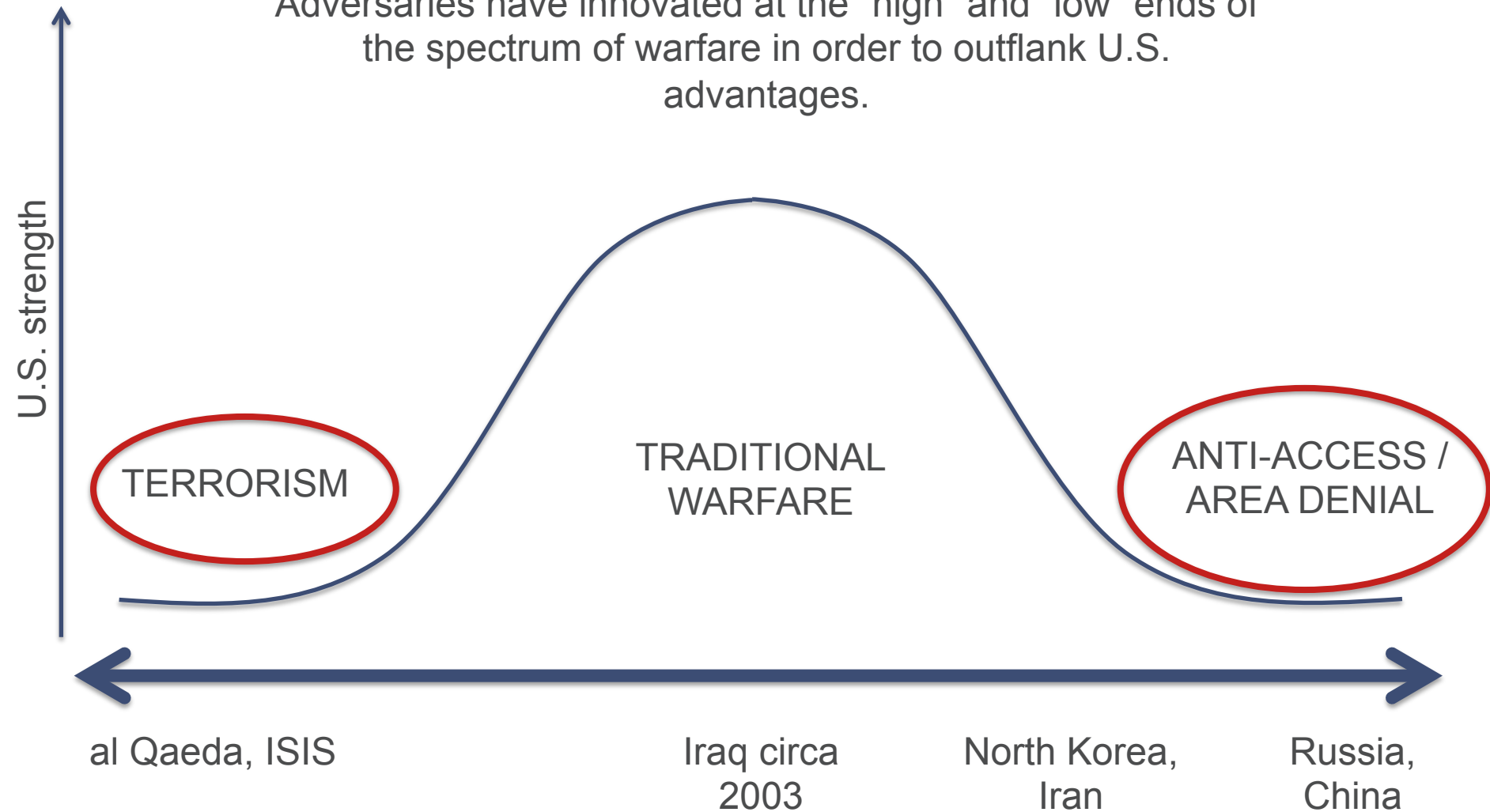
Solution:

A budget deal that yields stable, predictable funding above President's Budget 2017 levels.



② Adapt military capabilities

Adversaries have innovated at the “high” and “low” ends of the spectrum of warfare in order to outflank U.S. advantages.



U.S. must adapt to remain competitive across the spectrum of conflict – including cutting less useful assets when necessary.



To achieve a more balanced force across the full range of adversary approaches.



Increased threats to the U.S. homeland

- Cyber warfare (Russia, China, Iran)
- Terrorism
- Weapons of mass destruction
- Long-range missiles (North Korea, Russia, China, Iran)

U.S. leverage is undermined if adversaries can threaten attacks against the United States

Threats to U.S. power projection

- Long-range missiles
- Cyber
- Advanced air defenses
- Counter-space

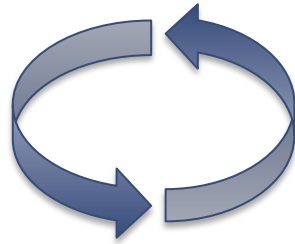
Adversary anti-access / area denial (A2/AD) innovations hamper U.S. ability to project power

Major investment areas

- Global surveillance and strike
- Undersea warfare
- Cyberspace and electromagnetic warfare
- Missile defense
- Robotics and autonomous systems
- Resilient networks

Global Posture

- Overseas bases and access agreements give the U.S.:
 - The ability to rapidly project power
 - Everyday presence (leverage) in key regions (Europe, Asia)
 - Access for military operations when necessary
- Forward-stationed forces allow the U.S. to get more “bang for its buck” out of its forces
 - It takes roughly 3 units at home to generate the same forward presence as 1 unit permanently stationed abroad.



③ Reform DOD processes

Reforming DOD processes

DOD's processes for developing new weapons is too slow.

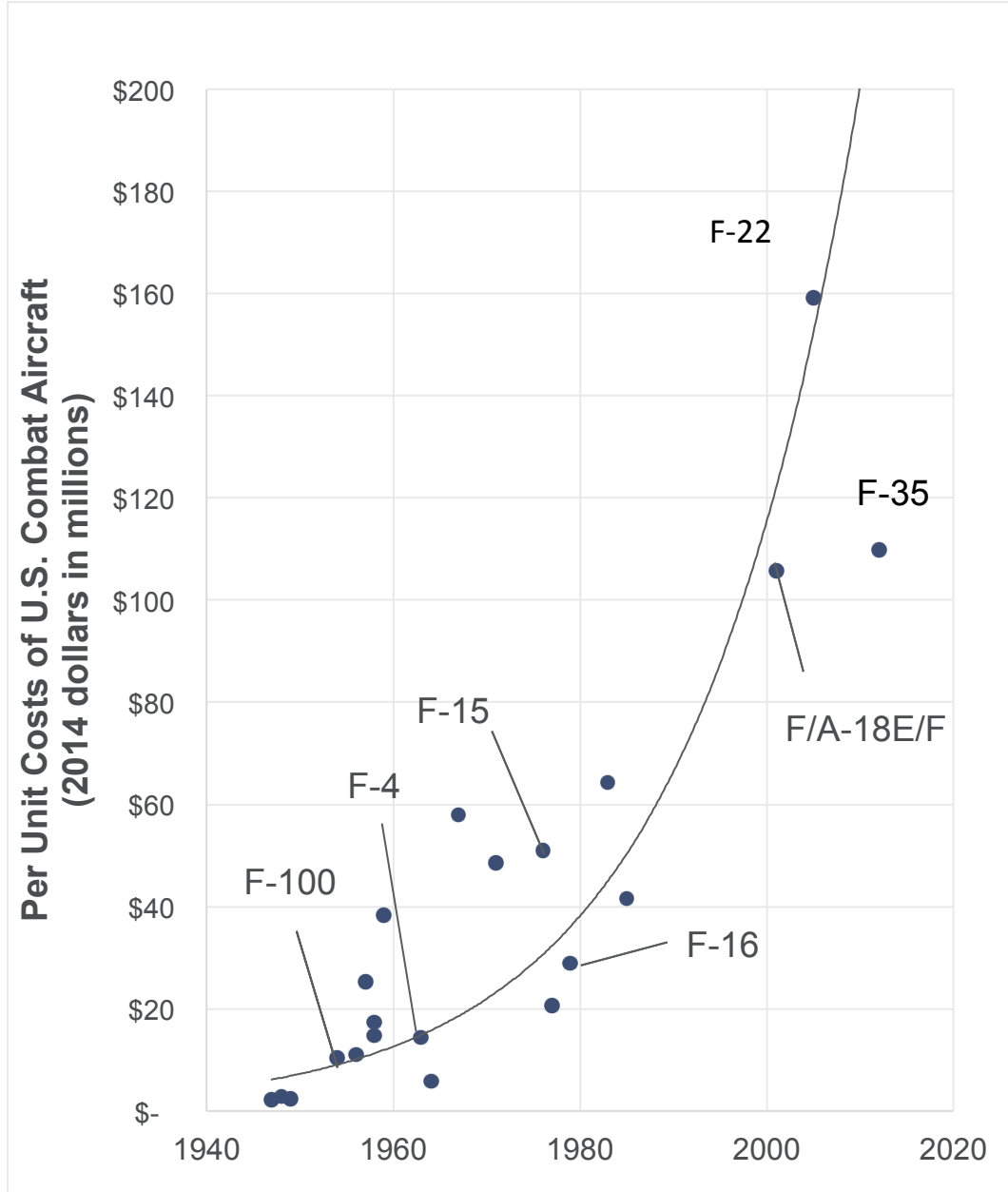
- Major weapon systems take 15-20 years to build.
- They shouldn't.
- Similar complex systems in civilian industries are built on much faster timelines.
- Longer timelines raise costs and almost ensure that systems will be outdated by the time they are released.

Exponential cost growth in major systems

**Steady cost growth
in major DOD
weapon systems.**

**Rising costs drive
down quantities.**

**At a certain point,
quantity has a
quality all of its own.**



Management reforms

- Reduce unnecessary headquarters
 - Consolidate combatant commands
 - Reverse “brass creep” and trim bloated staffs
- Base realignment and closure – close outdated bases
- Reform military compensation
- Reform military healthcare

Attract the best talent

- Reform military promotions
- Increase flexibility in military career paths
- Demonstrate accountability
- Increase opportunities to recruit for select civilian skills (such as cyber security, key languages)

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