

# **Report to Congress on the Department's Efforts to Ensure Services Prioritize Joint Combatant Command Projects.**



**October 2024**

The estimated cost of this report or study for the Department of Defense is approximately \$7,720 for the 2024 Fiscal Year. This includes \$2,000 in expenses and \$5,720 in DoD labor.

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The explanatory statement, page 11, of division J, accompanying H.R. 2617, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117-328), requests the Office of the Secretary of Defense to provide a report and a briefing, on why the Services consistently fail to prioritize joint combatant command projects, and how these problems can be remedied. The below describes the process the Department has implemented to ensure Services prioritize the Combatant Commanders priority projects.

The Department of Defense conducts budgetary decisions via the Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution (PPBE) process. This process facilitates the alignment of resources to prioritized capabilities based on an overarching strategy and requires balancing necessary investments in warfighting capabilities with risk, affordability, and effectiveness. The PPBE process provides mechanisms for making and implementing fiscally sound decisions in support of the national security strategy and national defense strategy and facilitates execution review of past decisions and actions. The PPBE process ensures that the funding provided to the Department is in support of the National Defense Strategy and the prioritization of any funding is in support of that strategy.

As part of the PPBE process all relevant stakeholders are provided opportunities to advocate for their priorities. The Services each have their own processes to prioritize their available funding for military construction (MILCON) projects. However, given limited funding and various National Defense Strategy priorities, Services are constrained from funding all Combatant Command (COCOM) MILCON project requests each fiscal year. Services may instead seek to fund other priorities, such as base support projects and Quality of Life/Morale, Welfare, Recreation improvements. Leading up to and during the PPBE process, OSD and Joint Staff work to review and prioritize COCOM MILCON project requests to inform PBR deliberations.

The Appropriations Act explanatory statement also requests the Department of the Air Force to provide quarterly updates regarding the status of the obligation of funds for the construction of the Joint Intelligence Analysis Complex (JIAC). We agree with the explanatory statement in regard to the significance of the JIAC for national security and our allies in Europe and Africa. There are multiple factors related to the obligation of funds for the JIAC, including geopolitical considerations, procurement inflationary risks, and fiscal constraints on funding following the change of the JIAC's location by the FY 2020 National Defense Authorization Act to RAF Molesworth, five-years after the initial authorization and appropriation of the project. The Air Force will coordinate with the Office of Secretary of Defense to provide updates for the JIAC on a quarterly basis.