

Note from AFA President -- Mitchell Institute event

AFA members, Congressional staff members, civic leaders, DOCA members, last Friday we held a Mitchell Institute event at AFA headquarters. Todd Harrison from the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments presented a brief entitled: "\$strategy in a year of Fiscal Uncertainty." [You can find the briefing here:

[http://www.afa.org/Mitchell/presentations/Mitchell\\_021712\\_ToddHarrison.pdf](http://www.afa.org/Mitchell/presentations/Mitchell_021712_ToddHarrison.pdf)]

What I found interesting about Mr. Harrison's brief was slide 4. On it he points out the cut to the Defense budget was \$5.2B for FY13. The Air Force paid for \$4.8B of that ... and the Army's budget actually grew by \$700M.

But ... if you look at the "adjusted" chart on the right side of the slide, DOD actually shifted Army manpower from the Army budget into the war budget -- about 49,000 soldiers. So in reality, the Department of the Navy budget grew; the Army budget grew significantly -- by some 4%; and the Air Force was significantly cut.

The reason this is important is the new strategic guidance of the DOD calls for increased reliance on Airpower and sea power, while not projecting vulnerability and attrition that occurs with an occupying ground force. The Association believes the strategy is on-target ... but ... as Mr. Harrison points out, the Administration did not fund that strategy in the FY13 budget.

It's important that budgetary decisions follow strategic guidance ... and in this case it did not.

For your consideration.

Mike

Michael M. Dunn  
President/CEO  
Air Force Association

"The only thing more expensive than a first-rate Air Force is ... a second-rate Air Force." -- Senate staff member



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