

A black and white photograph showing two amphibious tanks crossing a river. The tanks are moving from left to right, creating a large splash of water behind them. The background consists of a dense forest of trees. The text "Trends in Defense Strategy and Spending" is overlaid in the center of the image.

Trends in Defense Strategy and Spending

Tom Hone, 16 June 2011

Defense Strategy

- Not separate from national strategy.
- “The survival of liberty in our land increasingly depends on the success of liberty in other lands. The best hope for peace in our world is the expansion of freedom in all the world.”
 - George Bush, Inaugural Address, 2005
- Still strong support for this view.

Strategy Drives Force Structure

- What are the military implications of expanding “freedom in all the world”?
 - A large, dominant, forward deployed Navy
 - An Air Force with worldwide reach (space, too)
 - Land forces that are effective across the range of military operations—that can be physically dispersed but concentrated in terms of firepower and effect
 - Cooperation with friends and allies
 - Nuclear deterrence and defense
- In short, a professional and expensive military.

Force Structure Drives Spending

- Navy and Air Force are capital-intensive
 - They need to be modern and they need to exercise constantly
- Army and Marines are manpower-intensive, and manpower is increasingly expensive—especially health care
 - If you want a decent job and a decent retirement, join the active military
- Shrinking the Army and Marines is an obvious way to reduce defense expenditures
 - Who will throw soldiers & Marines out of their jobs?

Does Spending Drive Technology?

- In the Cold War, spending by the military did drive R&D, and the products of R&D were needed. But what about now?
- Today, terrorists and their allies have numbers and stealth. Can R&D produce technologies to find terrorists and then counter them?
- In the past, technology augmented the skills of professionals and draftees.
 - Could it replace them now?
 - Or, do we need a new kind of draft for a new kind of force? How about “Google Force”?

“Fair Shares”

- The GWOT did not destroy the idea that each service deserved its “fair share.”
- So new technologies must be shared if they are to be successful.
- Examples: UAVs and web-based digital communications & plots (or “pictures”).
- The problem with robots is that they can’t readily replace soldiers and Marines.
 - So where can they be used effectively?