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4.6 Ideas for the Department of Defense



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President Joe Biden is in the midst of his first 100-day policy sprint.

In honor of the 46th President, we have come up with a “Four Point Six” memo. This is our set of 4.6 recommendations the Biden Administration should follow in governance to promote policies to restore fiscal balance, increase transparency and accountability, and reduce the deficit. These recommendations span government agencies from Defense to Agriculture, Interior to the Office of Management and Budget. You can read the full memo [here](#).

Why 4.6? We could have done 46 but we decided to begin with our top priorities, and we consider the “Point Six” recommendation to be the simplest place to start.

Read on.

Department of Defense

- 1. Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) account:** End use of the “off-budget” OCO account. For years this [slush fund has insulated the Pentagon from making the hard decisions every other part of the government has faced](#). Set the policy objectives. Knowing rough budget constraints, build a strategy to support those policies. Then request funding for the systems and people needed to execute that strategy.
- 2. F-35 Aircraft:** Use the recently announced delay of the start of full rate production to reassess inventory needs for the Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps. This is the most expensive procurement program in the history of the Pentagon. Take the necessary time to get this right.
- 3. Nuclear Triad:** Stop the modernization of the land-based Intercontinental Ballistic Missile. This is the [least survivable leg of the triad](#) and the contract is still in its early days. Yes, it will cost the government some money to

terminate the contract. But, again, what's the nuclear strategy that requires three methods of delivering nuclear weapons?

4. **Shipbuilding:** Get the Biden Administration shipbuilding plan out early; make sure it's part of the FY2022 budget request. The Navy just released its much-delayed shipbuilding planning and it's a whopper of a wish list. Congressional boosters of shipbuilding will now measure everything the Biden Administration decides on shipbuilding against this plan. Don't wait a year to suggest changes to force structure.

4.6. Congressional "Program Increases": Immediately take the position that Congressionally **recommended increases to Pentagon programs** must be both authorized and appropriated at the same level before the Office of Management and Budget will obligate the funds. This will do two things: a) empower members of the authorizing committees, who have been forced into the back seat by appropriators, and b) significantly reduce the amount of program increases the administration is forced to absorb.



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This is an excerpt. Read the full Four Point Six memo at
<https://www.taxpayer.net/budget-appropriations-tax/four-point-six/>



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info@taxpayer.net