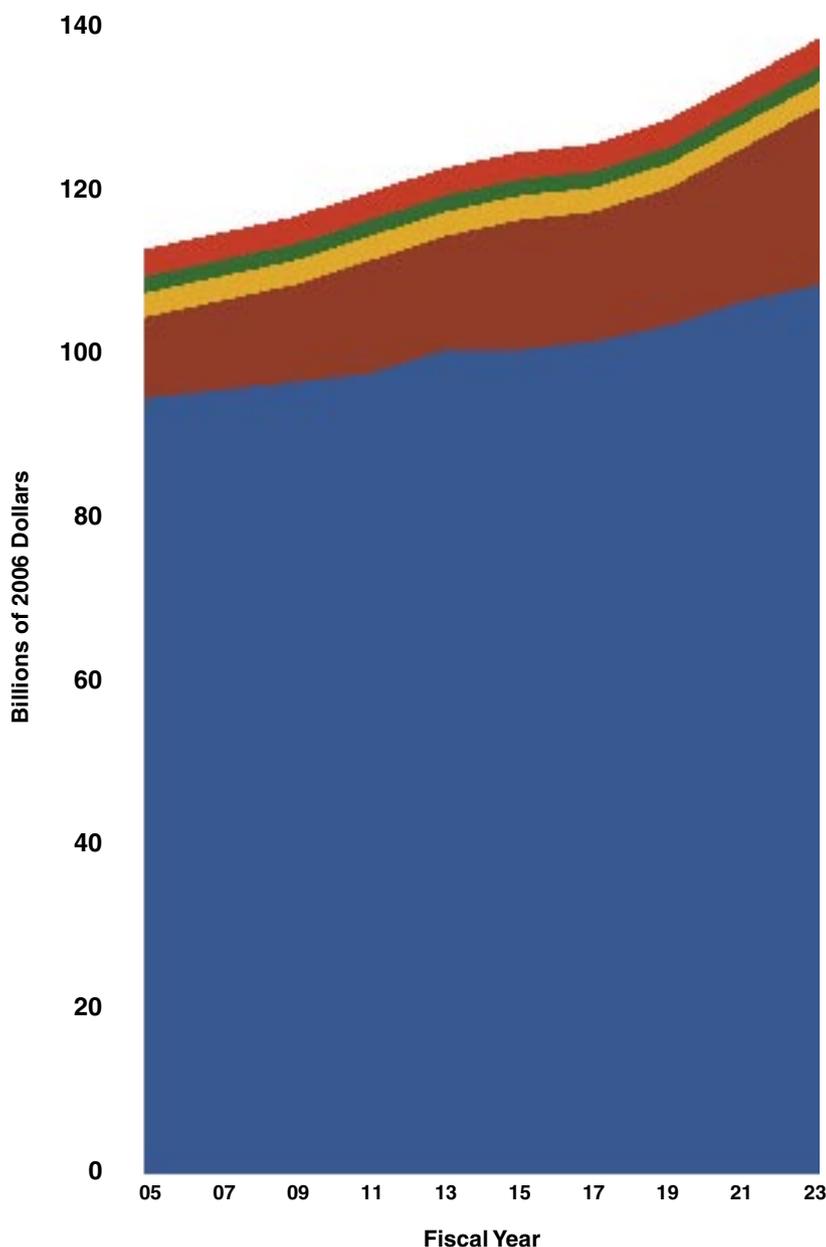


The Chart Page

By Tamar A. Mehuron, Associate Editor

Growing Personnel Costs

Projected cost of existing military personnel commitments plus new benefits provided since 1999 to military retirees and their families



Bush Administration officials have taken Congress to task for boosting military health care and retirement spending. They say a host of new personnel benefits for retirees and their family members are pushing costs through the roof. According to the Congressional Budget Office chart at left, the accrual costs attributed to the four most expensive measures have added billions to military personnel spending each year, with more increases on the way. Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-Calif.), chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, does not dispute the rising cost, but he says such costs are “here to stay.” Others would add that they are necessary and justified.

Source: Congressional Budget Office, “The Long-Term Implications of Current Defense Plans and Alternatives: Summary Update for Fiscal Year 2006,” October 2005.