For NATO, the Expense of Expansion

Source: Congressional Budget Office, “The Costs of Expanding the NATO Alliance,” March 1996. Costs for options after the first option are incremental. Numbers may not sum to totals because of rounding.

A recent Congressional Budget Office study examined the fiscal consequences of extending full NATO membership to four likely new Alliance entrants—Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic. CBO’s study looked at five defense options and estimated their costs over the period 1996–2010.

Under Option I, each new NATO member would be made ready to handle a limited border incursion, possibly with NATO reinforcement. The next four options address, in escalating terms, the requirements for defense against a resurgent Russia. Option II adds temporarily deployed NATO airpower to the local forces. Option III calls for deployment of NATO ground troops on a temporary basis. Option IV entails permanent prepositioning of equipment near air bases for use by fast-deploying NATO forces. Option V envisions the permanent stationing of Allied forces in the new NATO states.