

TERMINATION: NEXT GENERATION BOMBER
Department of Defense

The Administration has decided not to pursue development of a new long-range bomber, which the Department of Defense (DOD) had planned to begin fielding in 2018 as a means of augmenting the existing bomber fleet. The existing fleet of 173 bombers will be able to meet expected threats.

Funding Summary
(In millions of dollars)

	2009 Enacted	2010 Request	2010 Change from 2009
Budget Authority.....	0	0	0

Justification

The 2006 Quadrennial Defense Review proposed that DOD develop a new long-range heavy bomber by 2018 to augment the current bomber fleet of B-52s, B-2s and B-1Bs.¹ The Administration has decided not to pursue technology efforts aimed at developing a new bomber because the current fleet is performing well. Further, as a result of ongoing efforts to upgrade the existing bomber fleet with new electronic and weapons systems, current aircraft will be able to meet the threats expected in the foreseeable future. Since there is no urgent need to begin an expensive development program for a new bomber, the Department will utilize the additional time to develop a better understanding of the requirement and to develop the technologies most suitable for a long-range bomber. Also, the Congressional Budget Office, in its analysis of the long-term implications of the defense program, concluded that DOD's weapons acquisition program, including the future bomber fleet, may not be affordable over the next six years.² Not pursuing this program will result in savings of several hundred million dollars through 2013.

Citations

¹ Department of Defense, *Quadrennial Defense Review Report* (February 2006).

² Congressional Budget Office, *Long Term Implications of the Fiscal Year 2009 Future Years Defense Program* (January 2009).