

Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation (CAPE)

The Office of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation was established in 1961. The office is located within the Office of the Secretary of Defense and reports directly to the Secretary. The staff includes a combination of civilian government employees and military officers and is augmented by contractor support. CAPE's civilian staff is drawn from a variety of academic disciplines, including, but not exclusively, physics, economics, and engineering. The CAPE staff is recognized as among the most capable in the Pentagon.



The Office provides independent analytic advice to the Secretary of Defense on all aspects of the Defense program, including alternative weapon systems and force structures, the development and evaluation of defense program alternatives, and the cost-effectiveness of defense systems. The office also conducts analyses and offers advice in a number of related areas, such as military medical care, school systems for military dependents, information technology, and defense economics. Consistent with its advisory role, the office has no decision authority or line responsibility and has no vested interest in any sector of the defense budget. CAPE has always been a reflection of the particular Secretary of Defense for whom it is working, and its actions have been tailored to his objectives, including the often unpopular but necessary task of fitting the Defense program to the budgetary limits set for the Department by the President.



Focus Areas

Some of the areas of focus for CAPE analysts include:

- Quantitative and qualitative analyses of military force structure, weapon systems, and defense programs
- Cost-effectiveness of defense systems and programs
- Intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance systems
- Simulation of warfare and transportation systems
- Space programs
- NATO initiatives
- Theater and mobility assessments
- Cost analyses for weapon systems
- Economic and manpower analyses
- Procurement planning
- Military medical care
- Information technology
- Defense economics



Why Work for CAPE?

CAPE has the greatest impact on strategic, long-term program development within the Department of Defense. CAPE's sole customer is the Secretary of Defense. Through its position, CAPE maintains access and visibility to the Secretary of Defense, offering a unique opportunity to influence defense and public policy.

CAPE is part "think tank," part consulting firm, and part investigative agency. Our employees all wear the broad job title of Operations Research Analyst, reflecting the breadth of issues being considered within the Department of Defense on a day-to-day basis.

What Is an Operations Research Analyst?

Operations Research Analysts are...

Analytical	Independent Thinkers
Quantitative	Deadline Oriented
Inquisitive	Good Communicators
Detail-Oriented	Organized



They...

- Provide independent, objective, and fact-based analyses to aid decision makers in making the right choices
- Ask the hard questions and then consider alternatives
- Cover the full spectrum of DoD programs
- Are multidisciplinary in nature
- Are exposed to all sides of issues and become technical experts
- Are concerned with more than just the "bottom line"
- Are in the middle of the information flow
- Are well-respected within DoD
- Collaborate with bright and friendly people
- Are constantly challenged to learn and grow
- Work on issues directly for the Secretary of Defense
- See the reflection of their work in the Secretary's decisions

CAPE's Mission Statement

Conduct independent analysis for and provide independent advice to the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense, to include:

- Analyze, evaluate, and provide alternative plans, programs, and budgets in relation to U.S. defense objectives, projected threats, allied contributions, estimated costs, and resource constraints.
- Review, analyze, and evaluate programs, including classified programs, for executing approved strategies and policies.
- Provide leadership in developing and promoting improved analytical skills and competencies, tools, data, and methods for analyzing national security planning and the allocation of resources.
- Ensure that the costs, effectiveness, and capabilities of DoD programs, including classified programs, are presented accurately and completely.
- Assess effects of DoD spending on the U.S. economy and evaluate alternative policies to ensure that DoD programs can be implemented.



Who Works for CAPE?

CAPE has professionals in the fields of mathematics, physics, biochemistry, molecular biology, chemistry, aeronautical engineering, computer science, economics, and many other related technical fields.

Is CAPE Right For You?

CAPE is seeking highly talented professionals with graduate education in quantitative fields, as well as demonstrated analytical ability. Since the issues CAPE works with tend to be broad, it is necessary to have a desire and ability to see the big picture and to rapidly acquire knowledge beyond a particular field of expertise. An excellent ability to communicate, both orally and in writing, is essential.

At least twenty-four semester hours of quantitative courses, three semester hours of which must be calculus, are required to qualify for an Operations Research Analyst position. A security clearance is also required to work in the organization.

Need More Information?

To learn more about CAPE or to apply for a position, visit our web site:

<http://www.cape.osd.mil>



Department of Defense



**Cost Assessment
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**Office of the
Secretary
of Defense**