

# Computing-Related Policy Issues

Panel:

Charles Brownstein, CSTB

Jeff Grove, ACM Washington Office

Peter Harsha, CRA

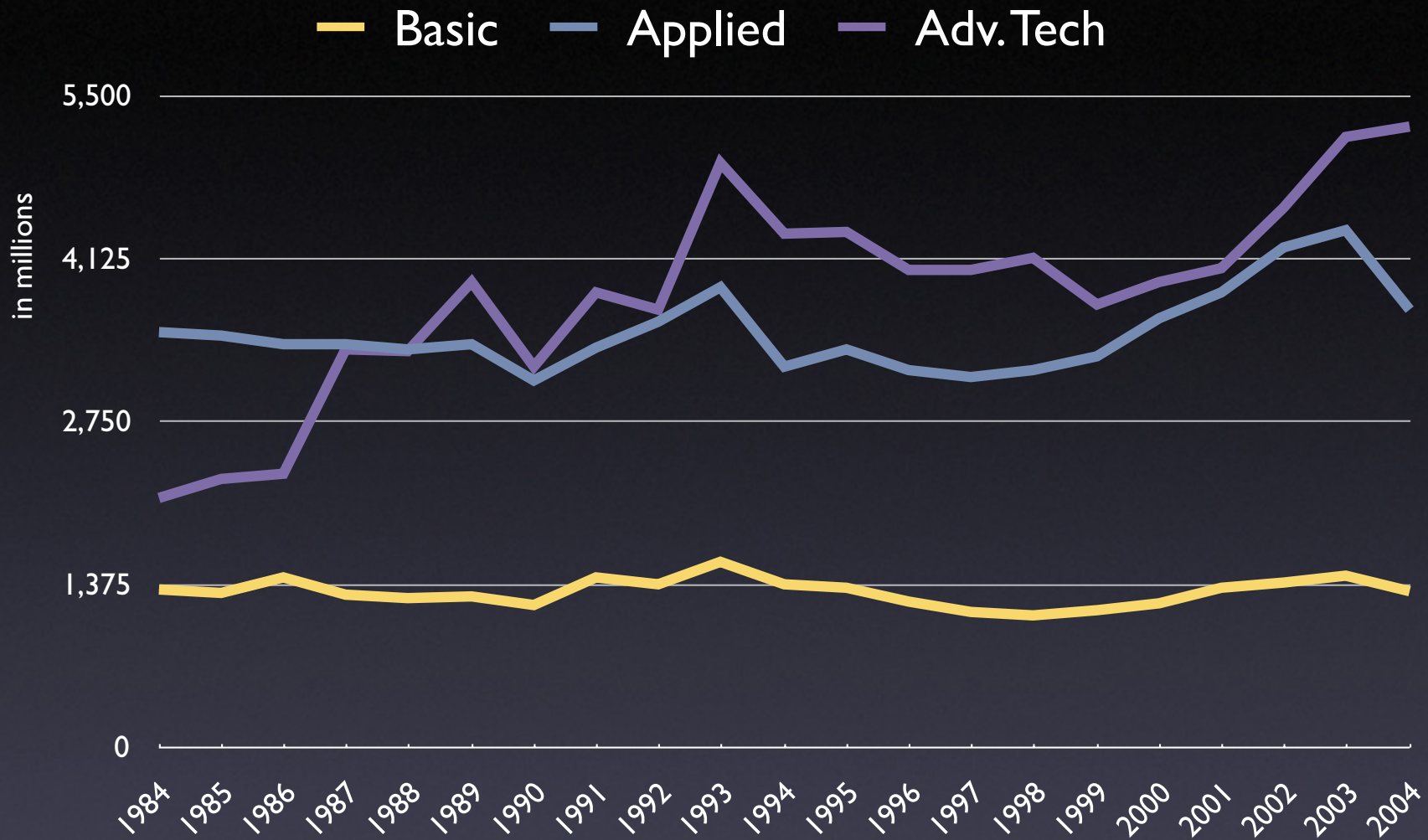
Barbara Simons, ACM

Chair:

Eugene Spafford, Purdue University

# Issues in Defense R&D

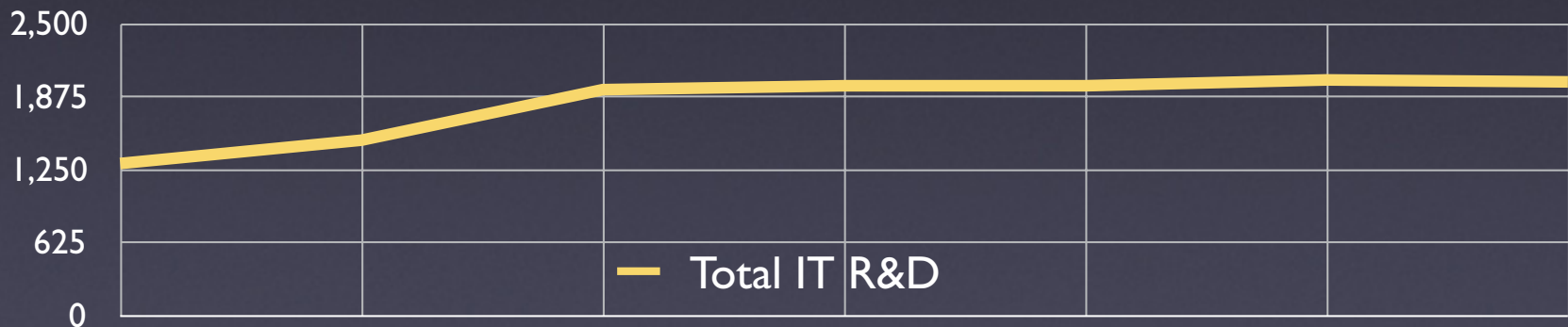
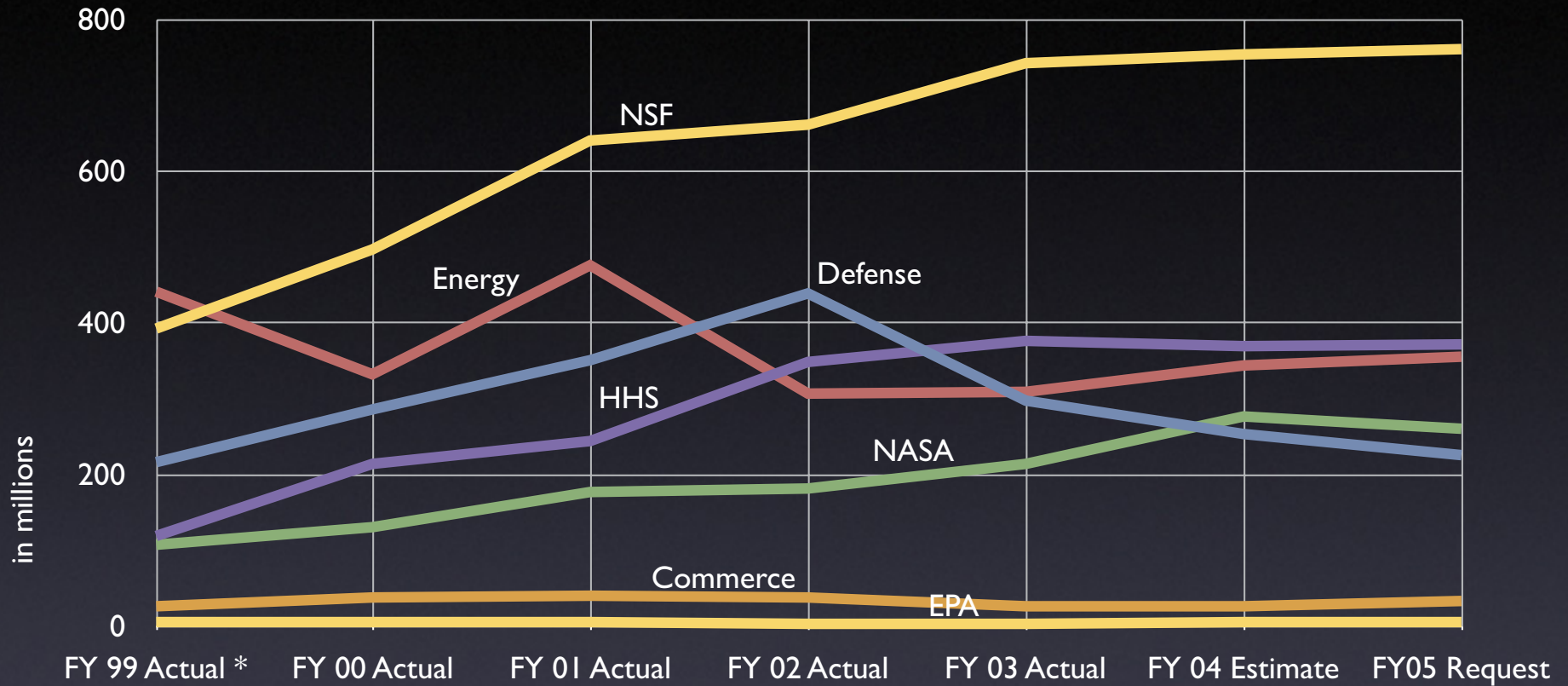
# Trends in Defense S&T



Source: Coalition for National Security Research analysis, 2004; CRA Analysis, 2004

# Trends in IT R&D

— NSF    — Defense    — HHS    — Energy  
— NASA    — Commerce    — EPA



Source: OMB Statistical Analysis of President's Budget, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004



Short-term focus,  
Go/No-Go decisions

I do not believe our “Go/No-Go” milestones will make our work less revolutionary nor do I think they will interfere with university participation in our programs. Instead, I view them as a technique for providing solid management and accountability for the significant investments we make with taxpayer dollars. ... This technique allows progress to occur quickly and keeps everyone focused on accomplishing goals they can see happen yet that will still have a big long-term impact. Industry understands this method because it is a technique used by the best industrial managers for executing a difficult multi-year contract.

-Anthony Tether, written response to Senate Armed Services Committee questions, 2002

The committee, however, is concerned about recent trends in the agency-sponsored research that appear more shortsighted in their approach, particularly the emphasis on 12- and 18-month reviews in order to attempt to eliminate non-promising technologies.

The committee supports effective internal oversight and commends DARPA for pursuing truly innovative technologies. However, annual reviews may not be appropriate for all basic and applied defense-related research programs. Additionally, these reviews have a discouraging effect on the intended long-term payoff of the research and are especially inconsistent with the time frames and pace of university research. The committee is concerned that this near-term approach to basic and applied research will have detrimental consequences on the ability to develop innovative solutions to future threats. Therefore, the committee urges DARPA to re-evaluate its policies for reviewing and terminating awards in scientific and technical areas where the Department of Defense is dependent on DARPA's ability to do revolutionary research that requires some time to develop and mature.

# Classification



There's a cost to bear when classifying research.

At a critical time for the nation, some of the best minds in the U.S. are no longer doing defense research.

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CRA Computing Research Policy Blog  
<http://www.cra.org/govaffairs/blog>

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