

WHAT WAR MEANS FOR AMERICA: MILITARY, ENERGY AND NATIONAL SECURITY

The threat of war implicates more than just the military and national security. The consequences reach energy sectors, supply chains, financial markets and your business.

Each year, The Heritage Foundation’s Index of U.S. Military Strength employs a standardized, consistent set of criteria to assess the U.S. military’s “hard power,” measured in terms of its capability, capacity for operations and readiness to handle assigned missions.

This framework provides a single-source reference for policymakers and other Americans who seek to know whether our military is up to the task of defending our national interests. Senior Research Fellow for Defense Policy, Center for National Defense, Davis Institute for National Security and Foreign Policy at the Heritage Foundation, Colonel (Ret.) John “JV” Venable will convey the findings within the 2022 Index of U.S. Military Strength and leave the audience with a solid understanding of the current state of the Department of Defense.

Since 2015, the Index has taken stock of U.S. military power by assessing if conditions improved or worsened during the assessed year, and if it has the capability carry out its mission. The Index considers:

- Defense of the homeland.
- Conclusions of major war and possible destabilization.
- Preservation of freedom for global commons.
- Capacity of each military branch.
- Nuclear preparation.
- Operational capabilities.
- Chances of defeat.

The Index concludes the U.S. military is marginally prepared to take on the demands of defending our country. This chart from the Index provides a high-level overview of the Index’s findings:

	Very Weak	Weak	Marginal	Strong	Very Strong
Army			✓		
Navy			✓		
Air Force		✓			
Marine Corps				✓	
Nuclear				✓	
Space		✓			
Overall			✓		

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