This report describes a decision-support system called DynaRank. It illustrates DynaRank's use in defense planning with examples based on work for the Quadrennial Defense Review and follow-up research in 1997. It is our hope that a version of this methodology, which explicitly links program-level choices to higher-level strategy, will become part of the Department of Defense Planning, Programming and Budgetary System (PPBS). We believe that a methodology that considers all of the components of the new defense strategy—respond, shape, and prepare now—will help provide rationale for making difficult programmatic choices if necessary.

This report and DynaRank should not only be of interest to military analysts but also to policy analysts and other researchers in general, because of DynaRank's broader applicability to evaluating policy options.

This document describes the DynaRank tool in a fair amount of detail, including an appendix that can be used as a tutorial. DynaRank is a Microsoft® Excel workbook available for the Macintosh and an IBM-compatible computer.

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