Five years of usable supply

A critical mineral stockpile is an emergency buffer that helps keep U.S. national security technologies running when a crisis or contingency cuts off normal supplies.

DECISION FOR LEADERS

Set the five-year goal. Do not authorize a bulk purchase.

Use one medium-term objective for priority materials: cover five years of shortfall in a form industry can use. It is a common test for comparing cases, not a forecast of how long every disruption lasts, a procurement deadline, or existing government policy.

ACT ON THE EVIDENCE

Advance, refer or close.

Advance for pricing when the user supports the need by form and date, the holder verifies usable stock and delivery rights, and a shortfall remains. **Refer** a missing input to its owner. **Close without buying** if dependable supply or a qualified alternative covers the gap. Record what would change the decision.

GAO: existing prioritization and data responsibilities

STATUS OF THIS PUBLIC EDITION

29 forms priced; 5 families unpriced.

The market-based estimate covers selected forms in 21 of 26 families. The model assumes an annual residual equal to 10% of each form's 2025 imports in the base case. That is not measured military demand.

DLA committed $2B in FY2026. A supplier reported 275,688 lb of antimony ingots accepted; DLA recorded cumulative deliveries of 4,396 kg of recovered germanium. Neither establishes what is unallocated today. Check existing efforts by material.

FUNDING

About $18B in the base case.

Base: $18.04B, including $14.00B in purchases. Low: $7.05B; high: $52.73B. All are five-year, stockpile-only planning cases in 2025 dollars, not annual costs or budget authority. DLA separately requested $18.0B mandatory plus $5.7M discretionary in FY2027. Neither figure is a new funding gap. Verify what remains before seeking an appropriation.

ALTERNATIVES

Buy only the protection that is missing.

Compare buying usable stock with qualified recovery, substitution or contracted processing. Consider owning production separately only if it delivers the same usable supply on time at lower discounted cost over the relevant five- or ten-year investment period, including any bridge purchases.

Who decides? Use existing stockpile governance. The Board reviews the program budget and materials plan; release of stock is a separate decision under the applicable authority. This proposal authorizes neither purchase nor release. 50 U.S.C. §98h–1(c) · §98f