

PENTAGON BUDGET



➤ **By funding the weapons of yesterday's wars instead of investing in the tools that address present and future security threats, the current federal budget fails to effectively budget for national security.**

Bloated Pentagon spending undermines funding for essential programs, including non-military solutions to security threats and education and healthcare here at home.

- National security spending restricted solely to military power overlooks the importance of diplomatic, economic, and peacebuilding solutions and is incompatible with the century's coming challenges.
- Instead of continuing to funnel money into the Pentagon, the U.S. must adopt a holistic vision of security spending.

THE BLOATED PENTAGON BUDGET

The Pentagon has never passed an audit and historically high spending levels increase redundancy, waste, and corruption.



- The U.S. spends more on the military than the next 7 countries combined. Any readiness crisis is due to an overextension of the military after 17 years of endless war, not lack of resources.
- Lack of Pentagon spending oversight and discipline has contributed to billions-of-dollars worth of waste, fraud, and abuse, with one internal DOD study finding "\$125 billion in administrative waste over five years."
- Almost half of the Pentagon's annual budget goes to defense corporations, while the CEOs of the top five defense contractors in the U.S. earned a cumulative of \$96 million in compensation last year. Lockheed Martin receives an estimated 90% of its revenues from the federal government.

BUDGETING FOR TOMORROW'S CHALLENGES

Wasteful Pentagon spending diverts resources away from essential non-military solutions, like diplomacy, local capacity building, and humanitarian assistance.



- Pressing global security challenges like climate change, urbanization, terrorism, and mass migration do not have military solutions. Relying on the Pentagon to address every security threat increases the militarization of U.S. foreign policy.
- Rebalancing security resources towards more robust non-military alternatives will drive U.S. engagement with the world towards proactive diplomacy, rather than military force.

AN IMBALANCED BUDGET

The U.S. must take a holistic approach to national security spending and dramatically rethink how it is allocating resources.



- Not only is spending on the Pentagon, current wars, and nuclear weapons well over 50% of the money that gets appropriated annually (known as "discretionary" spending), all discretionary spending is increasingly going toward hard security. For example, U.S. embassy protection and weapons sales are becoming ever-larger parts of funding for the State Department.
- When national security is conflated with only military solutions, spending on "softer" but often more important security programs, like diplomacy & climate change mitigation, are consistently short-changed.

NATIONAL SECURITY IS HUMAN SECURITY

Prevailing notions of national security falsely equate national security with military capability. The reality is that human security is not divisible and our own security depends on helping build security for others around the world. Our security requires addressing the global challenges of tomorrow, including the health of the planet and building an inclusive global economy. **By limiting national security to military power, U.S. security budgeting fails to invest in tools that address the fundamental security challenges underlying conflict around the world: climate change, income inequality, and rampant corruption.**





POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONGRESS

Members of Congress can take the following positive actions to reign in the Pentagon budget and reorient national security spending towards non-military engagement:



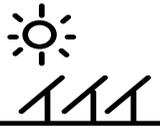
CUT THE PENTAGON'S BLOATED BUDGET

Some examples include: Eliminate the **Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO)** fund, a "slush fund" to wage war. Reduce funding for nuclear forces, Cold war-era conventional or poorly performing weapons systems, and reduce non-essential force structure and overhead costs.



REBALANCE SECURITY SPENDING

Fully fund the State Department, USAID, and humanitarian agencies that increase human security. Reorient security spending towards robust, sustainable non-military solutions that focus on addressing state fragility and conflict prevention, and away from an over-reliance on military force.



BUDGET FOR A NEW CONCEPTION OF NATIONAL SECURITY

Adopt a mission-oriented approach to national security, rather than funding each department in isolation. Establish a national security appropriations subcommittee devoted to driving a unified, mission-oriented vision of national security spending.



PLEDGE TO CONDUCT OVERSIGHT OF PENTAGON SPENDING

Stop writing a blank check to the Pentagon that encourages irresponsible spending. Create penalties until the Pentagon passes a full financial audit. Hold defense contractors accountable for abuse and fraud.

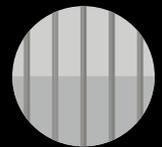
THE HIGH COSTS OF TRUMP'S NUCLEAR STRATEGY

Trump's desire to develop new nuclear weapon systems will require wasteful and dangerous spending. The bloated nuclear arsenal offers the U.S. no strategic military advantage and risks fueling a global arms race. Do not fund any new Trump-requested systems, including "low-yield" nuclear weapons or those banned by the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty and look for savings in by dramatically scaling back the existing nuclear recapitalization program.



THE BLACK BUDGET

The "black budget" represents classified government spending for covert operations and intelligence agencies, estimated to be over \$50 billion. This include a massive CIA budget that includes funding of surveillance technologies, paramilitary activities, and black site prisons. The amount of taxpayer dollars spent on these programs should not be a secret. **Congress must call for the black budget's partial declassification to allow for appropriate oversight, accountability, and public debate on the need for such operations.**



For further questions and additional resources:



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