MILITARY SPENDING

The Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan were initially estimated to cost $200 billion - they will cost us $4-8 trillion through 2054. These wars, new weapons systems and nuclear weapons modernization will bankrupt a generation of Americans if we do not audit the Pentagon, close the Overseas Contingency Operations budget and otherwise restrict military spending.

1. 54% of the FY15 U.S. Discretionary Budget Went to the Military. That’s the Military Expenditures of the Next Seven Largest Military Budgets Around the World - Combined.

In FY2015, Pentagon and related spending will total $598 billion, according to the National Priorities Project. That’s equivalent to the military budgets of India, the UK, Japan, France, Saudi Arabia, Russia and China - combined. And it is tens of billions more than what we spend on social security, transportation, unemployment, labor, science, energy and the environment, international affairs, housing, veteran’s benefits, medicare, education & government - combined. Proposed increases to the defense budget simply can’t be made on the backs of these programs - they don’t have that kind of funding.

2. The Pentagon is the Only Federal Agency That Has Never Been Audited - And It Accounts for Most of Our Budget, With Billions Wasted

$43 million for a gas station that should have cost $500,000. $952,000 on casinos. $2.7 billion on JLENS, a program that doesn’t still work after two decades of development. These are a few examples of $33 billion in Pentagon waste, as reported by the Center for International Policy. Since the Pentagon accounts for 54% of U.S. discretionary spending, we simply cannot reduce government spending without reducing our military budget.

3. The Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) Account Allows the Pentagon to Spend Far Above Sequestration Budget Caps

Budget Control Act caps (aka Sequestration) since 2011 cut deeply into federal funds for education, food programs, housing, transportation & green energy. Yet, the DoD off-budget OCO account allows flexible military spending far in excess of sequestration caps. The OCO in FY16 was funded at $59 billion. If separated from the defense budget, it would be the fifth largest budget in the federal government.

4. New Weapons Systems are Expensive, Redundant and Unnecessary

The most expensive weapons system in history is the F-35, with a lifetime price tag of $1.5 trillion (for 2,500 planes) & nearly 70% in cost overruns since 2001. It still isn’t combat ready, and a CBO study found that the DoD could save $48 billion by cancelling the F-35 program and purchasing existing models instead. And, though the Cold War is long past, the FY2016 budget includes (over 10 years) $80 billion for a new long range bomber, $90 billion for new nuclear submarines, $11 billion to refurbish the B-61 nuclear warhead, $30 billion for a new nuclear armed cruise missile, upgrades for land-based ICBMs, and money for new nuclear weapons production facilities. These weapons must never be used, and they make us less safe, by stimulating other nuclear powers to modernize their own weapons.

PEACE DEMANDS ACTION