

Effects of Military Spending

The military accounts for more than half of the federal government's annual discretionary spending (military spending for FY 2005 is \$536 billion). This is money that could otherwise be used for promoting human happiness, health, biodiversity, and sustainability.

The justification given for this level of military spending by the U.S. government is that it is necessary to defend our country from its enemies. However, the U.S. military spends more than the military budgets of the next largest twenty five countries combined.

And continued spending on global nuclear stockpiles (the equivalent of at least 750,000 Hiroshima-sized bombs or 1.7 tons of TNT for every person on earth) actually makes us less safe because of the devastating effects if these weapons were to be used.

The Military Budget Controls America

The U.S. military is the largest bureaucracy and environmental polluter in the world. It is also the most politically corrupting influence on the federal budget, due in part to the massive amount of money involved.

One fourth of the defense budget goes to pay the salaries of women and men who serve in the military service. The remainder goes to maintain operations and to private corporations (such as Boeing, Lockheed Martin, and Raytheon) for the manufacture of military weapons.

These military contractors have a vested interest in continuing high levels of federal spending since most of their revenues, and thus their profits, come from the government.



How else are we going to pay for the war?



www.warresisters.org - 3% of income taxes go to current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, 6% of income taxes go to physical resources

Where Your Income Tax Money Really Goes

Military contracts are not based on competitive bidding but on political clout. This along with procurement fraud and cost overruns wastes tax dollars and creates windfall profits.

This military-industrial complex involves the executives of military contractors, elected officials and Pentagon employees. Military consultants outnumber Members of Congress ten to one. Campaign contributions per military company lead all other industries. One out of every nine Congressional staff is on loan from the CIA, State Department, or Pentagon.

Military buildups depress the national economy by replacing jobs that create useful goods and services with subsidized jobs that produce weapons

Militarism in Wisconsin

Wisconsin has over 80 military-related toxic sites. Accudyne, a subsidiary of Alliant Techsystems in Janesville, which received a \$12 million penalty for toxic dumping, has yet to renounce future production of landmines.

UW-Madison is currently the recipient of over 100 Pentagon contracts. These funds are being used to develop "eco-friendly" explosives, faster jet fighter engines, improved landmine fields, and hypernetic DNA-based computers for Star Wars.

Under the "No Child Left Behind" education initiative, all Wisconsin public schools are required to provide student information to military recruiters or risk losing federal funding.

Even though currently there is no military draft, the

state assists in enforcement of the Selective Service registration system which is in place in the event the draft is reinstated. Under this system, government financial aid is denied to male students who are not registered and driver's license information on young men is sent to the Selective Service.

Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) programs are common in Wisconsin colleges, and some high schools have Junior ROTC. Military recruitment materials and testing (such as the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) are common in every high school and college.

We Can Transform Military Priorities to Social Ones

1. End the occupations of Afghanistan and Iraq and transfer funds to reconstruction, development, and "binding up the wounds of war."

Fighting terrorism by waging war is this country's current policy. The effectiveness of this policy to make us safe and secure is questionable. At this writing, the war in Iraq has already cost \$132 billion and resulted in the deaths of over 1000 U.S. service men and women. But the threat of terrorism is as real as ever, and the continuing occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan seem to benefit only war profiteers like the Halliburton corporation.

Terrorism itself is best fought by ending conditions that breed terrorists such as massive injustice, despair, intolerance, and hate. Development aid, real democracy building efforts, diplomacy, just use of resources, fair trade, ending poverty and hunger, providing health and education, and people to people exchanges are more effective means of building peaceful tomorrows.

2. Cut military spending and convert defense industries to civilian production.

Cuts in military spending will not imperil national security or international peacekeeping forces. The federal government should allocate sufficient funds to transform defense industries to production that builds and maintains human and physical resources for the common good.

3. Support multinational and United Nations peacekeeping efforts

The U.S. must comply with international treaties against nuclear weapons testing or proliferation, against biochemical weapons, to ban landmines, and in support of human rights.

The U.S. should pay its dues to the United Nations, support the creation of a UN rapid deployment peacekeeping force, and endorse the International Criminal Court. Terrorists and people who commit crimes against humanity should be brought to justice by using the International Criminal Court and the United Nations, not by bombing innocent civilians.

4. Work for the abolition of all weapons of mass destruction and for an end to the development of new weapons.

The U.S. has a stockpile of 25,000 nuclear weapons including 5,000 which are on hair-trigger alert. The military continues to manufacture and test biochemical weapons. The government is now genetically engineering new bioweapons and exotic police control technologies. Perhaps worst of all, the U.S. military has used tons of depleted uranium munitions in Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Balkans. These weapons cause devastating, long-term health and environmental effects to civilians and soldiers alike.

5. End covert operations.

There are U.S. military bases in almost every country and covert operations abound. These activities are not making the world safe for democracy. They are being waged to secure resources for multinational corporate executives. An example is the "war on drugs" in Colombia. This serves as cover for executives of military contractors and multinational corporations to extract resources and profits. The rights and livelihoods of people in the region are threatened.



How Can I Learn More & Get Involved?

Books

Terrorism & Public Health: A Balanced Approach to Strengthening Systems and Protecting People 2002 Barry Levi & Vic Sidel

Addicted to War 2002 Joel Addams

Lab USA 2001 Kevin Pyle

Crimes of War 1999 Gutman and Rieff

World Military and Social Expenditures 1996 Ruth Sivard

The Iron Triangle 1981 Gordon Adams

Fortress America 1998 William Greider

Real Economy 1999 and *Peace Economics* 1986 Bob Reuschlein

The Defense Game 1986 Richard Stubbing

The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers 1987 Paul Kennedy

The Permanent War Economy 1974-85 Seymour Melman

Dark Alliance 1998 Gary Webb

On the Trail of the Assassins 1988 Jim Garrison

Useful Websites

World War 3 Report; www.worldwar3report.com

National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee; www.nwtrcc.org

Council for a Livable World; www.clw.org

Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space; www.space4peace.org

United Nations Association of the United States of America; www.unausa.org

Real Economy; www.realeconomy.com

Peace Action; www.peace-action.org

Physicians for Social Responsibility; www.psr.org

Womens International League For Peace and Freedom; www.wilpf.org

Nonviolence.Org; www.nonviolence.org

Wisconsin Peace Tax Initiative; www.peacetax.net

War Resisters League; www.warresisters.org

Fellowship of Reconciliation; www.forusa.org

WNPJ Organizations With a Focus on Military Issues

Citizens for Responsible Fort McCoy Growth, Richard Smith, Sparta; phone: 608-269-2694

Citizens for Safe Water Around Badger, Laura Olah, Merrimac; phone: 608-643-3124

Coalition for Peaceful Skies, Pat Conway, Ontario; phone: 608-435-6743

Fox Valley Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR), Donna Van Grinsven, Appleton; phone: 920-735-9198

Grandmothers for Peace, Jan Provost, Superior; phone: 715-394-7929

International Committee for the Peace Council, Daniel Gomez-Ibanez, Madison; phone: 608-241-2200

Lakeshore Peacemakers, Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR), Joanna Worley, Manitowoc; phone: 920-652-9901

Madison Area Peace Coalition, Rae Voegler, phone: 608-835-7501; Michelle Nighthoak, phone: 608-215-5605

Nukewatch, John LaForge and Bonnie Urfer, Luck; phone: 715-472-4185

Peace Action of Wisconsin, George Martin, Milwaukee; phone: 414-964-5158

Peace Economics, Bob Reuschlein, Madison; phone: 608-848-5248

Physicians for Social Responsibility, Alfred Meyer, Madison; phone: 608-232-9945

Rock Valley Fellowship of Reconciliation, Sue Nelson, Brodhead; phone: 608-897-4212

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Madison Branch, Lea Zeldin, Madison; phone: 608-238-5740

Veterans for Peace Chapter #25, Joel Garb, Madison; phone: 608-767-4099

See www.wnpj.org for full contact information on any of the above groups.

About the Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice (WNPJ)

The purpose of WNPJ is to facilitate activities, cooperation, and communication among Wisconsin organizations and individuals working toward the creation of a world free from violence and injustice.

The Corporate Accountability Task Group (CATG) was created to better focus, educate, and organize our shared work for economic justice. The CATG also offers community workshops and produces other resource materials including a 100 page packet on Corporate Accountability available for \$13 from the WNPJ office.

For information about:

- Joining WNPJ
- working with the CATG
- purchasing an annual Directory of WNPJ Organizations
- attending the Annual Assembly in October
- attending the Steering Committee meeting of organizational representatives in April

Contact WNPJ at:

WNPJ
122 State Street, #402
Madison, WI 53703
Phone: 608-250-9240

Email: info@wnpj.org

Web: www.wnpj.org



The Cost of Militarism



Our only hope today lies in our ability to recapture the revolutionary spirit and go out into a sometimes hostile world declaring eternal hostility to poverty, racism, and militarism. -- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



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