With an annual budget of over $600 billion supporting one illegal, unnecessary war after another amounting to permanent war (the War Department), the expansion of empire of over a thousand bases throughout the world, secrecy, surveillance, and repression increasing at home (Homeland Security a domestic Pentagon), our representatives, the Congress, not only giving the military all they request but more (the military-industrial complex in every congressional district), and all of this massive terrorism motivating violent opposition throughout the world, a peanuts resistance which our double-speaking warrior leaders designate as “terrorism,” we the people can be thankful for the many independent, sustained organizations resisting these violent powers. In my Peace Movement Directory (2001), I described over a thousand peace and justice organizations in North America. This newsletter specifying “Pentagon” and our several other closely related newsletters are meant to help sustain this movement.

Consider this Blog a collecting station to encourage the building of an even more concerted scrutiny of the Pentagon. I have also started a Hagel Watch; send items for that too. (Always include complete source, and I will cite you with thanks.) Let’s see what ordinary citizens can put together.

My blog: War Department/Peace Department
http://jamesrichardbennett.blogspot.com/

My Newsletters:
http://www.omnicenter.org/newsletter-archive/

Index:
http://www.omnicenter.org/omni-newsletter-general-index/

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Contents #8

Wand Supports Hagel to Head Pentagon 2013

Hightower Supports Hagel

Dick : Chappelle, Critical Thinking and Geneva Conventions at West Point?

Military Sexual Trauma the Real Sex Scandal

MILITARY SPENDING

Lepore, How Much Enough?

Sacred Cow

Dick: The Clueless, Why US Needs are Neglected

Military Spending Creates Fewer Jobs

from HAW

Priorities Network: Cut Military Spending

POGO: Investigating Pentagon Spending

BP Pentagon Contracts

Pentagon Rx Spending Soars

Defense-cuts

Contents #9
This newsletter has always functioned as a heuristic, but in this number that approach is made explicit for a steadier and deeper focus on the Pentagon.

POGO: Project on Government Oversight
Whistleblowers
Google “Pentagon Watch”
Bolger, VFP: Appeal to Sec't. Hagel
Peace Action: Move the Money

POGO
[POGO is an excellent defender of honest government and democracy and watcher of the Pentagon. The latest letter I have from them dated Oct. 15, 2012, describes their exposure of Pentagon weapons programs and contractors. But they also try to help the public keep informed about other aspects of government. **We need not only a POPO: Project On Pentagon Oversight, WE NEED SEVERAL!**]
March 16, 2013

**Lessons of Watergate Scandal Still Resonate**
Over the last 40 years, the Watergate scandal has been dissected every which way, but the lessons learned continue to shape our politics and legislation to this day.

March 15, 2013

**FOIAonline: Measuring Performance and Looking Ahead**
FOIAonline may revolutionize the way the public accesses government information, but first, more agencies need to buy into the system.

March 15, 2013

**Shining a Light on FOIA Practices**
In celebration of Sunshine Week, a number of organizations released studies of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests that indicate how government agencies measured up in terms of providing information to the public in 2012.

**READ MORE BLOG POSTINGS**

**Explore Our Work...**
Select a Format

Select a Format

OR

Select an Issue

Select an Issue

**Most Requested...**

Bad Business Report
Spending Even Less, Spending Even Smarter
Statement on WPEA Signing
Kabul Guard Report
Read the latest analysis of defense issues

Tell Kerry to Take Action

Urge Kerry to Increase Oversight at the State Dept.

POGO on Facebook
Founded in 1981, the Project On Government Oversight is a nonpartisan independent watchdog that champions good government reforms. POGO’s investigations into corruption, misconduct, and conflicts of interest achieve a more effective, accountable, open, and
Mar 7, 2013 – With Sunshine Week approaching, the Project On Government Oversight and partner organizations have released Highlighted Best Practices ...

6. Project On Government Oversight - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Project_On_Government_Oversight
The Project On Government Oversight (POGO), founded in 1981, is an independent non-profit organization in the United States which investigates and seeks to ...
Scope and methods - History - Program areas and impact - Reports

7. The Project On Government Oversight (POGO) Blog
pogoblog.typepad.com/
DCAA - Contract Oversight - Defense - Cronyism

8. Project On Government Oversight | Facebook
www.facebook.com/pogo.org
Project On Government Oversight. 10785 likes · 584 talking about this.

www.huffingtonpost.com/project-on-government-oversight/
The Project On Government Oversight (POGO) is an independent nonprofit that investigates and exposes corruption and other misconduct in order to achieve a ...

WHISTLEBLOWERS

[These are our heroes. Ralph Nader once said that all corporate and military domination of this country would end if all the employees who know the truth would speak up. But I recognize, as did Nader, that whistleblowing can be hell. They need supporting laws and our assistance. More about whistleblowers in future blogs. –Dick]

1. Top Whistleblower Firm - phillipsandcohen.com
www.phillipsandcohen.com/
The top law firm for whistleblowers Over $9 billion recovered

2. US Whistleblower Law - Info rich website. Clear answers
www.uswhistleblowerlaw.com/
Free, confidential case review.
Comprehensive Whistleblower Law FAQ - Blowing whistle on Healthcare Fraud

3. **Securities Whistleblowers** [1 (866) 852 0484](https://whistleblowerrecovery.com/)

Report securities law violations Help stop malfeasance.

1. *Pentagon report says Defense Department whistleblowers have been* [articles.washingtonpost.com › Collections](https://articles.washingtonpost.com)

May 5, 2012 – The Defense Department has inadequately protected from reprisals whistleblowers who have reported wrongdoing, according to an internal ...


May 6, 2012 – Reporting misconduct or waste of money may get you punished if you serve in the US military.


Feb 22, 2012 – The Pentagon takes too long to investigate whistle-blower complaints, report says, endangering attempts to fight waste.


Nov 16, 2011 – Senior Marine Corps science advisor Franz Gayl wins case, plans to return to work.

5. *Pentagon Whistleblower Daniel Ellsberg on Wikileaks Iraq War ...* [www.youtube.com/watch?v=z1pTI8KdREk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z1pTI8KdREk)

Oct 22, 2010 - Uploaded by mediagrrl9

DemocracyNow.org — CLICK HERE FOR PART 2 of 2: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2dJ0AUs09jM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2dJ0AUs09jM) In an ...


Mar 18, 2012 - Uploaded by genzigg386

Uploaded by williamjwagener on Mar 18, 2012 April Gallop, a young enlisted military soldier at the Pentagon ...

7. *More videos for Pentagon Whistleblowers »*

For virtually his entire adult life, Franz Gayl has served his country. Enlisting in the United States Marine Corps from an early age, he moved over...

9. Why is Pentagon Whistleblower Franz Gayl Being Retaliated ... www.whistleblower.org/.../849-why-is-pentagon-whistleblower-franz...

Nov 19, 2010 – In trying to protect troops and civilians in the Iraq and Afghan wars, Pentagon Science and Technology Advisor Franz Gayl never imagined he ...

10. Pentagon Whistleblower Suffered Years of Retaliation, OSC Says pogoblog.typepad.com/.../pentagon-whistleblower-suffered-years-of...

Nov 9, 2011 – By NICK SCHWELLENBACH A senior auditor with the Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA) was subjected to years of reprisal in violation of ...

11. Pentagon Closing Whistleblower Reprisal Cases - US - TIME.com nation.time.com/.../investigators-prematurely-closed-military-whistle...

Feb 22, 2012 – You're in the military. You blew the whistle. Something bad happened to your career. You ask your military service Inspector General or the big ...

GOOGLE “PENTAGON WATCH” to Reveal the Absence of a Watch to Google. What you find are disconnected questions, investigations, and exposures, but none of the ongoing organizations are listed on the first page of the Google Search, except for SOA Watch, which keeps its eye on one Pentagon program. However, the Search is useful: two reminders of the Pentagon Papers, a study of Hollywood and the Pentagon, exposure of the Pentagon’s “Military Analyst Program,” and more.

1. 9/11 PENTAGON ATTACK - INDEPENDENT ANALYSIS -
www.youtube.com/watch?v=bMqgFaNvoP8
Aug 31, 2007 - Uploaded by 721508
THIS VIDEO SHOWS INDEPENDENT ANALYSIS OF THE 911 PENTAGON ATTACK!
PROFESSOR HOFFMAN ...

2. An Interrogation Center at Yale? Proposed Pentagon Special Ops ...
www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZcrOtib8rtE
Feb 21, 2013 - Uploaded by democracynow
Proposed Pentagon Special Ops Training Facility Sparks Protests ... To watch the entire
weekday ...

3. Watch Video | What Ellsberg Learned from the Pentagon Papers - PBS

www.pbs.org/pov/.../additional_video2.php

Oct 6, 2010

Daniel Ellsberg, the Pentagon Papers and The New York Times Additional Video ... A veteran reporter and ...

4. More videos for Pentagon Independent Watch »

5. Hollywood and The Pentagon: A Dangerous Liaison | Watch Free ...

Go through this great collection of documentary movies and watch free ... There is even a special bureau, the Film Liaison Office, that oversees these issues for the Pentagon and the Capitol. It has a ... Independent Media In A Time Of War ...

6. The Pentagon Papers, Daniel Ellsberg and The Times - PBS Video

Watch online: The Pentagon Papers, Daniel Ellsberg and The Times from POV. On demand, streaming ... Reportero: An Independent Newspaper in Mexico ...

7. Marc Garlasco - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

In early 2012, as the U.N. senior military advisor for the HRC's Independent ... Watching the attack via satellite form a room in the Pentagon, Garlasco threw his ...

8. Pentagon military analyst program - SourceWatch

John Stauber on PBS NewsHour debating the Pentagon military analyst program .....the Side: Propaganda Meets Corporate Lobbying," PR Watch, May 2, 2008. .... replacePentagon cheerleaders with independent military analysts," Nieman ...

9. SOA Watch vs. the Pentagon - School of the Americas Watch

Feb 13, 2013 – Home News Press Releases SOA Watch vs. the Pentagon ... SOAWatch is an independent, grassroots movement that provides citizen ...

10. Sequestration will leave Pentagon cash-strapped but operational ...

Feb 28, 2013 – In part, this is because the Pentagon has been planning for the 9 ....take a 3 day weekend to sit at home watch what a terrible job they on TV.

11. Pentagon plans for multinational operation in Mali - The Independent

Dec 6, 2012 – U.S. officials said the Pentagon’s planning efforts are contingent on the
Open Letter to Secretary of Defense Hagel

Mon Mar 4, 2013 1:09 pm (PST) . Posted by: "Leah Bolger" vfpcorvallis

Hello all,
I recently wrote an open letter to Chuck Hagel--FYI.

An Open Letter to Secretary of Defense Nominee Chuck Hagel: A 10-Point Plan

Dear Senator Hagel,

Congratulations on your appointment as the Secretary of Defense. As you take the reins in this new capacity, I would like to express to you some ideas about what I would like to see from this office. I am the member of an organization called Veterans For Peace (VFP), which has been around since 1985. VFP was formed by a Viet Nam veteran with the intention of creating a bridge between the peace movement and veterans. VFP members believe that our collective experience as veterans allows us to speak about the true costs and consequences of war and militarism with a voice of credibility and true standing. We feel a responsibility to speak out against war and militarism, particularly when it is manifested in illegal and immoral wars of choice and aggression. I appreciate very much that President Obama has chosen you--someone who has seen first-hand the horrors of combat--to fill the position of Secretary of Defense. Like the members of VFP, your voice will carry an extraordinary credibility, because you understand war in a way that a civilian cannot. It will not be easy to dismiss your words when you caution against military force, or speak in favor of abiding by the Geneva Conventions. I hope that you will become a force for reshaping the Department of Defense, by consideration of the following:

1. Refuse to put troops into harm’s way as part of an illegal, immoral war of aggression. The 2001 Authorization to Use Military Force (AUMF), signed as a knee-jerk reaction to 9/11 has been used, first by the Bush administration, and now by the Obama administration, as a blank check for perpetual war. As the Secretary of Defense, you should refuse to deploy any combat troops until Congress provides a legally binding authorization to do so. As a combat veteran, you truly understand that no one should be asked to kill or be killed for a war of choice, particularly one that has not even been legally authorized. Demand adherence to the War Powers Act.

[image: page1image18376]
2. Take responsibility for the deaths, damage and harm done by the U.S. The “Collateral Murder” video leaked to Wikileaks showed the world just one instance of war crimes conducted by U.S. forces. For the United States to have any moral credibility whatsoever, we must take responsibility for our actions.

3. State unequivocally that the U.S. will abide by the Geneva Conventions and will not torture, or participate in the extraordinary rendition of prisoners.

4. Stop the illegal use of combat drones that are responsible the extrajudicial assassinations of thousands of civilians in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen and Somalia.

5. Call for the closure of all U.S. military bases in foreign countries. The U.S. currently has military troops stationed in more than 150 countries around the world. Bringing U.S. troops back to the U.S. will send a strong message to the international community that the U.S. is not interested in hegemony, or in being the world’s policeman.

6. Call for the dismantlement of all nuclear weapons, and immediately take nuclear weapons off of naval vessels. There can never be a justified use of a nuclear weapon and if the U.S. is going to demand that other countries refrain from obtaining nuclear weapons capabilities, then it needs to lead the way in disarmament.

7. Stop the use of Depleted Uranium weapons. “DU” weapons violate the Geneva Conventions. Once exploded, DU particulates enter ground water, travel on air currents, and are inhaled by innocent civilians. DU weapons are responsible for a huge spike in deformities, birth defects and other ailments in Iraq where they were widely used.

8. End foreign military sales to countries who violate international laws and basic human rights, and who have child soldiers.

9. Push to become a signatory to the Land Mine treaty. The international community recognizes land mines and cluster bombs as weapons that kill a high number of civilians, often long after the “official” conflict is over.

10. Slash the Pentagon budget. The U.S. spends more on the military and war than the rest of the world combined. Bring our war dollars home.
In summary, I hope that you will use your unique qualifications and experience to push this administration into adherence with international law. I urge you, as a fellow veteran, to use your voice, your influence, and your power to guide and inform this administration towards a new type of Department of “Defense...” one that uses military force only for its actual defense.

Leah Bolger, CDR, USN (Ret), Past President, Veterans For Peace

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Leah Bolger
Past President, Veterans For Peace
leahbolger@comcast.net
541-207-7761
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Home » Issues » Move the Money
Move the Money

While the recommendations of the Sustainable Defense Task would cut over one trillion dollars from the Pentagon budget over the next 10 years, this would still leave the Pentagon a ten year budget of over six trillion dollars.

Today, military spending accounts for more than half of the federal government's entire discretionary budget. Nuclear weapons spending alone accounts for over $40 billion annually, and is scheduled to increase. There is an obvious connection between the bloated Pentagon budget and the critical budget shortfalls facing virtually every community in the country.

Peace Action is partnering with Peace Action Education Fund on its Move the Money Campaign. This effort will serve as a platform for average people to voice their opinions and demands regarding military spending. Communities will utilize public forums, education, public demonstrations, local resolutions and petitions as tools to influence decisions made by our elected officials.

The following are goals that Peace Action’s Move the Money Campaign has for 2011:

- Build stronger alliances between the peace movement and labor, economic justice and human needs groups, whose constituencies have been devastated by the economic crisis.
- Raise the stakes for President Obama and other elected officials in the 2012 elections as they define their positions on military spending issues through Peace Action’s Peace Voter 2012 organizing,
- Develop educational tools on the federal budget and the impact of military spending on their communities for local organizers to use in their outreach.
- Work in key states to raise awareness and public support for reducing military spending by 25%.
- Support the local efforts of Peace Action affiliates and chapters in strengthening local alliances with civil rights, labor and other community groups and build city, state and national coalitions focused on reductions of military spending to meet human needs, and encourage participation in the Congressional budget process in 2011 and beyond.

Recent Blog Posts

- Very Scary – the U.S. Military's Asia-Pacific Pivot – Let’s Build Up China (Our Banker) as the new Enemy and thus Justify the Permanent War Machine (Funded by our Tax Dollars!)
  
  Lots to be scared of this Halloween – Frankenstorm and its aftermath, a possible Romey-Ryan Administration, running out...

- Excellent Op-Ed by Jon Rainwater of Peace Action West – Two Questions for Obama and Romney on Afghanistan

  …

- Fighting (Nonviolently of course!) for Peace at the Local Level

  By Lawrence S. Wittner, October 17, 2012 (Larry Wittner is a member of the national Peace Action national board of d...

- Defense Budget Not ‘Sacrosanct’ – Superb op-ed by NJ Peace Action’s
Madelyn Hoffman in the Bloomfield Life
Thursday, November 29, 2012...

- Cut the Military Budget First
Let’s push the Pentagon off the fiscal cliff! Well maybe that’s not a good metaphor. Regardless, in the no...

- Action Alert: Sign and Circulate the Jobs Not Wars Petition!
One of the best ways to reduce the deficit is to put people back to work. It’s time to invest in our people, and our comm...

- Dr King on Peace, Militarism and Internationalism
...

- Excellent Op-ed in the Milwaukee Sentinel-Journal by Mike Helbick of Peace Action Wisconsin
http://www...

- A Huge Election Victory You Probably Didn’t Hear About – Budget for All Initiative Wins by 3 to 1 in Massachusetts!
You’ll hear more soon about big successes in Peace Action and Peace Action PAC’s electoral work (a strong majorit...

- It’s Not About Obama, It’s About Us!
  --Kevin Martin I was asked by our colleagues at the French Peace Movement (Mouvement de la Paix) to writ...

- Take Action: Tell President Obama and Congress – Jobs Not Wars!
  Send President Obama and Congress a Message On Election Day, we sent a...

Contents #6
TomDispatch, Kramer: Spending Waste and Corruption
Tomgram, Militarism
Cappaccio, Pentagon Budget
Update: Budget Passes House
VFP, Bloated Pentagon
Wheeler, F-35 Costs Still Rising
People's Guide to Budget
Pentagon Dissent/ Crowd Control
Pentagon Reading Our Email

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War Costs Campaign
Lofgren: Militarized GOP
Ryan Budget (2 reports)

Pentagon Budget and GOP Petition

Budget Debate

Ryan’s Budget and Pentagon Strategic Thinking

Dick, Defending the Pentagon Budget by Militarism and Fear-mongering

IG Report on General William Ward

Rape at Lackland AFB

U. S. Empire, Rome, Military Bases: Chalmers Johnson, *Nemesis, Dismantling the Empire*

END PENTAGON NEWSLETTER #9

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Dick Bennett
My blog:
War Department/Peace Department
http://jamesrichardbennett.blogspot.com/
Newsletters
http://www.omnicenter.org/newsletter-archive/

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National/International Days
See Newsletters
Peace, Justice, Ecology Birthdays
See INMOtion
jbennet@uark.edu
(479) 442-4600
2582 Jimmie Ave.
Fayetteville, AR 72703