Jefferson on standing armies: http://press-pubs.uchicago.edu/founders/documents/v1ch14s46.html

Kant also on standing armies in Perpetual Peace: http://www.constitution.org/kant/perpeace.htm

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

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

See: Cyber Command, Hagel, Military Industrial Complex, Oversight, Propaganda Machine, Special Ops Command, Suicides, US Imperial Westward Pacific/E. Asia, Whistleblowers, Women (mistreatment of ), and more.

US MILITARISM’S BUDGET AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

Pentagon asks for $4.5 billion additional money for “defensive” missiles.

Percentage of discretionary spending devoted to “defense” in President Barack Obama’s proposed 2014 budget: 57

Percentage devoted to education: 6

Rank of the United States, out of 29 developed countries, in overall child well-being: 26

Rank of Greece: 25

Rank of Lithuania: 27

From Yes! (Fall 2013).

Contents of #1 at end.

Contents Pentagon Budget Newsletter #2, Pentagon vs. Public
Pentagon: Increase Budget for Expanded War Threatening
Budget Larger Than Appears
Dear Dick,  April 18, 2014

Here is a new Progressive Secretary letter. You will be able to edit your name, address, etc. in the next step.  

This action supports a campaign by Daily KOS asking Congress to stop cutting spending on vital social services until there's a full audit of Pentagon spending.

Our letter will be sent to the President and to Congress.

     The Pentagon desperately needs a good audit of its spending. It's needed one
for many years. Even though the Defense Finance and Accounting Service has 13,000 employees, poor oversight has destroyed the Pentagon's accountability.

A 2009 Government Accountability Office report found problems with one of every 69 Defense audits it conducted. Considering the trillions of dollars the US has spent on the military recently, we've already lost or wasted billions of dollars.

Essential social services should not be cut when so much money is being misspent by the military. Please address this pervasive culture of fraud in the Department of Defense.

Click here to send this letter or to learn more (you can edit the subject or the letter itself in the next step, if you wish).

Sincerely,

Kathie Turner, Executive Director

Jim Cason,
FCNL jimcason@fcnl.org via uark.edu

Apr 8, 2014
Dear James Bennett,

Tax Day is just one week away. Whether you're writing a check or waiting for a refund, you'd probably like to know how our government spends your tax dollars.

That's right, 40 cents out of every federal tax dollar you pay for 2013 went to fund current and past wars.

You can help change this number. Your members of Congress are already beginning to write legislation that will determine how much of the future federal budget goes to war.

One concrete place they can start is by tightening up on the $102 billion every year that's wasted or lost to abuse and fraud.

You can help change this number. You can directly contact your members of Congress by name and tell them you want federal spending on defense reduced.

That's right, 40 cents out of every federal tax dollar.

You can help change this number. You can directly contact your members of Congress by name and tell them you want federal spending on defense reduced.
Your letter can do more than get your senators' attention for the peace community. **Most people don't realize** that the biggest chunk of their tax dollars goes to pay for wars. That means we're only investing pennies on the dollar to solve critical problems that need government attention.

Taxes are an important way that we all contribute to the common good. They enable our government to provide services to meet our shared needs as a nation. Please use your tax dollars to meet the pressing, shared needs we have for the common good.

Sincerely

Jim Cason
Associate Executive Secretary
for Strategic Advocacy

P.S. See [published letters to the editor](#) for other perspectives on lost to waste, fraud and abuse in the Pentagon budget.
Dear James Bennett, April 15, 2014

Happy Tax Day — kind of. While your taxes provide for the common good, a disproportionate share of your income tax dollars goes to the Pentagon. Clocking in at a whopping 40 cents on the dollar, the Pentagon budget is out of step with our priorities.

While our country spends 40 cents of every income tax dollar you pay on the military and war, it spends only 2 cents per dollar on diplomacy, development and war prevention. Does that sound right
This isn't the way our country should be spending its money. And we want people to know that. Get the details, share it on Facebook or Twitter, and write a letter to the editor asking for a budget that meets the actual needs of our country.

Sincerely

Jim Cason
Associate Executive Secretary
for Strategic Advocacy

P.S. People across the country, from California to Alabama to New Hampshire, have published letters to the editor in their local newspapers. Write yours today!

Tell Congress: End the Pentagon slush fund

The petition to Congress reads:
"Congress should rein in military spending and stop the Pentagon from using the Overseas Contingency Operations account as a slush fund to avoid much-needed spending cuts. We already spend far too much on our military and the Pentagon's wasteful weapons programs."

Automatically add your name:

Dear Dick,

If you want Congress to cut back on the unconscionable amounts of money we spend on the enormously bloated American war machine, then take this action to rein in American military spending.
For more than a decade, Congress has funded the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan with a special pot of money called Overseas Contingency Operations funds. As with most Pentagon spending, the massive Overseas Contingency Operations funding stream (cumulatively more than $1 trillion since 2001) has been high volume, but low accountability.

Now, with the Iraq War thankfully over and the occupation of Afghanistan winding down (albeit still too slowly), the Pentagon is using the Overseas Contingency Operations account as a slush fund to pad the military budget and spare it from the brutal across-the-board spending cuts known as the “sequester” that are hitting everything from Head Start to cancer research.

Tell Congress: Rein in military spending and end the Pentagon slush fund. Click here to automatically sign the petition.

The official Pentagon budget request for 2015 was recently released, and in addition to nearly $500 billion in its base budget, the Pentagon also included a $79 billion estimate for the Overseas Contingency Operations budget.

This is a small decrease from last year’s war budget, despite a sharp reduction in troops in Afghanistan and plans that will leave, at most, 10,000 troops in the country in 2015.

Although the Budget Control Act of 2011 (the same legislation that gave us the sequester) nominally set a cap on Pentagon spending, Overseas Contingency Operations funds were exempted.

And so the Pentagon, with the blessing of congressional appropriators, has simply shifted tens of billions in spending from its base budget, which is subject to the spending caps, to the Overseas Contingency Operations budget, which isn’t.

We should be drastically reducing military spending, not allowing the Pentagon to exploit a loophole that not only pads its budget but also cloaks how it spends tens of billions of dollars in secrecy.

Tell Congress: Rein in military spending and end the Pentagon slush fund. Click here to automatically add your name to the petition.

The caps on military spending were one of the few good things in the Budget Control Act.

We already spend far too much on our military, both in absolute terms and as a share of government spending.

And with the Pentagon budget now twice what it was in 2001, there’s a massive amounts of fat that can be cut from the Pentagon budget before it even plausibly starts to endanger our national security.

While the fight to bring our military spending in line with our national security needs will be a long and tough slog, in the interim one step we can take is demand that Congress recognize the need to stop the Pentagon from turning what was its war budget into an unaccountable, non-transparent slush fund.

Tell Congress: Rein in military spending and end the Pentagon slush fund. Click the link below to
Dear Dick,

Here is a new Progressive Secretary letter. You will be able to edit your name, address, etc. in the next step.

This action supports a campaign by US Action asking Congress to vote "no" on H.R. 3639. This bill would end sequestration cuts to Pentagon budgets by cutting Social Security and Medicare.

Our letter will be sent to the President and to Congress.

I urge you to vote "no" on H.R. 3639.
This bill would spare the Pentagon from the effects of sequestration by cutting Social Security and Medicare benefits.

The Pentagon budget is full of waste. Neither weapons, ammunition, nor supplies are tracked. Thus the Pentagon purchases new supplies that it doesn't need.

The Defense Department has a backlog of more than 500 billion dollars in unaudited contracts with outside vendors. We don't know whether that money paid for actual goods and services. In fact, the Pentagon has not accounted for the 8.5 trillion dollars it has spent since 1996.

If the Pentagon needs more money, it should reduce its own waste. They shouldn't take it from elderly and disabled people or widows and children.

Click [here to send this letter or to learn more](you can edit the subject or the letter itself in the next step, if you wish).

Sincerely,

Kathie Turner, Executive Director

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5 Reasons the Already Obscene National Security Budget Is Larger than It Appears

Eric Stoner, News Report, NationofChange, March 9, 2014: When President Obama released his budget for 2015 on Tuesday, which included four hundred ninety-five point six billion dollars for the Pentagon, the likely suspects screamed that the sky is going to fall. Not only does this budget allocate a mere four hundred and twenty million dollars less than the Defense Department received from Congress this year, it represents just a fraction of the actual amount that will go towards maintaining the massive U.S. security apparatus. To get a more accurate picture of the true cost of the American empire, various programs and line items that do not fall under the Pentagon’s base budget must be included in this tally.
Budget Realignment Reflects Pentagon’s Vision of Covert and Endless War. 
by Brian J. Trautman / March 2nd, 2014. The Pentagon’s budget proposal for next ...

The Pentagon’s Vision of Covert and Endless War 
CounterPunch-Mar 3, 2014

Military Veteran Professor Analyzes and Criticizes New DoD Budget
Explore in depth (455 more articles)

[I read this essay in The Free Weekly (3-6-14), Fayetteville, AR. – Dick]
There is disagreement about the Latin phrase in the logo. Does it mean liberator or oppressor? I guess that's why they keep it darkly hidden.

Notice the arrows through the head above - a throwback to the killing of the Native Americans. These are the crazy killers.

[new budget increase and where it will go]

Secretary of War Chuck Hagel yesterday [Feb. 24, 2014] announced the Obama administration’s Pentagon budget proposal for the coming year. Despite mandates for cuts in military spending after agreements with Congress under sequestration, Hagel actually calls for an increase of more than $115 billion for war making.

The Hagel budget basically calls for cuts in Army ground forces and cutbacks in military pay, housing and commissary facilities on bases. Life for the enlisted will become more difficult. The Pentagon is also calling for the closing of a few National Guard posts in some states.
Hagel calls for 'sustaining' the Pentagon’s nuclear triad - air, ground, and sea delivery systems of nuclear weapons. Also called for is an increase in drones and robotic forces as well as significant expansion in cyber warfare capabilities.

Wall Street immediately reacted by joyfully giving Lockheed-Martin all-time high stock gains. The writing on the wall is clear - cuts in troop levels and increase in high-tech space directed war-making capability.

We will see an expansion of US “hidden” wars in the near future and the Obama budget reflects this reality. While Hagel wants to pare back the size of the active-duty military by 13% and the reserves by 5% in coming years he would boost the size of Special Operations forces by about 6%. The plan is to add more than 3,000 personnel to the kinds of special ops forces teams that reportedly killed Osama bin Laden in Pakistan.

These same clandestine forces now operate in more than 75 countries around the world. In his film “Dirty Wars” investigative journalist Jeremy Scahill reports on the largely unaccountable Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) that is now doing targeted assassinations, destabilization, and training of right-wing and terrorist forces used by the US in places like Ukraine, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Libya, Yemen, Somalia, Syria, Venezuela and beyond. The corporate oligarchy is moving rapidly to consolidate their total control of the people around the world and the US is playing its role of “security export” rather well.

Mainstream media reports of the Hagel announcement also tag two key places on the planet that will receive special emphasis from this new budget. Those are the African continent and the Asia-Pacific. This is where the long-range military operations planning and funding are heading.

Our organizing (no matter whether it is local, regional, national or international) needs to take into account this very fundamental direction the Obama supported military complex is tacking toward.

[JOBS and CONVERSION]

In addition it is important that we all talk more about jobs. It will be hard to cut military spending because of the local jobs issue. We must speak to this fundamental concern that is wrapped in fear, as everyone knows that jobs are scarce these days.

The growing conversion movement across the nation indicates that more and more groups are making these job connections. Imagine if military production workers and the peace movement were to stand hand-in-hand calling for conversion of the military industrial complex. In the early 1990’s that was indeed happening across the nation when William Winpisinger served as President of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers. He vigorously took on the responsibility to link military production workers with peace groups in order to successfully demand conversion after the end of the Cold War. That promised “peace dividend” though never came to be as new “enemies” were created in the Middle East and Central Asia. The conversion issue was deflated….. but not defeated.

Many of us across the nation have stayed on message during these darker years. We’ve kept talking about conversion and linking jobs. We are eternally grateful to the Department of Economics and Political Economy Research Institute (PERI) at the
University of Massachusetts-Amherst. They’ve continued to give us the empirical evidence that proves military production was the very worst way to create jobs. In every other case – rail, wind, solar, conservation, teachers, hospitals, or even tax cuts create more jobs.

The jobs issue is the long-sought buried treasure that we’ve been looking for…. right before our eyes. Pick it up.

Bruce K. Gagnon
Coordinator
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globalnet@mindspring.com
www.space4peace.org
http://space4peace.blogspot.com/ (blog)
March 6, 2014

Tomgram: Mattea Kramer, Is the Pentagon Doomed -- To Be Flush Forever

Washington and Kabul have, for endless months, been performing a strange pas de deux over the issue of American withdrawal. Initially, the Obama administration insisted that if, by December 31, 2013, Afghan President Hamid Karzai didn’t sign a bilateral security agreement the two sides had negotiated, the U.S. would have to commit to “the zero option”; that is, a total withdrawal from his country -- not just of American and NATO “combat troops” but of the works by the end of 2014. Getting out completely was too complicated a process, so the story went, for such a decision to wait any longer than that. Senior officials, including National Security Adviser Susan Rice, directly threatened the Afghan president: sign or else. When Karzai refused and the December deadline passed, however, they began to hedge. Still, whatever happened, one thing was made clear: Karzai must sign on the dotted line “in weeks, and not months,” or else. Washington couldn’t possibly wait for the upcoming presidential elections in April followed by possible run-offs before a new Afghan leader could agree to the same terms. When, however, it became clear that Karzai simply would not sign -- not then, not ever -- it turned out that, if necessary, they could wait.

And so it goes. At stake has been leaving a residual force of U.S. and NATO trainers, advisors, and special operations types behind for years to come, perhaps (the figures varied with the moment) 3,000-12,000 of them. With time, things only got curioser and curioser. The less Karzai complied, the more Obama administration and Pentagon officials betrayed an overwhelming need to stay. In the 13th year of a war that just wouldn’t go right, this strange dance between the most powerful state on the planet and one of the least powerful heads of state anywhere, to say the least, puzzling. Why didn’t the Americans just follow through on their zero-option threats and pull the plug on Karzai and the war? [3 explanations follow –Dick] Obviously, fear that the Taliban might gain ground in a major way after such a departure was one reason.

In January, David Sanger and Eric Schmitt of the New York Times provided another. They reported that a paramount issue for Washington was “concerns inside the American intelligence agencies that they could lose their [Afghan] air bases used for drone strikes against al-Qaeda in Pakistan.” It might, it turned out, be difficult to find other regimes in the region willing to lend bases in support of the U.S. drone campaigns in the Pakistani tribal areas and possibly Afghanistan as well.

The Pentagon’s Phony Budget War

Or How the U.S. Military Avoided Budget Cuts, Lied About Doing So, Then Asked for Billions More

By Mattea Kramer

Washington is pushing the panic button, claiming austerity is
Today, TomDispatch regular Mattea Kramer provides a third potential reason in her striking explanation of just how the Pentagon has been managing to avoid serious sequestration cuts. It turns out that billions of dollars in extra funding are being salted away in a supplementary war-fighting budget that Congress grants the U.S. military, which is subject to neither cuts nor caps. But here’s a potential problem: that budget relies on the existence of an Afghan War. What if, after 2014, there isn’t even a residual American component to that war? Not that the Pentagon wouldn’t try to keep "war budget" funding alive, but it’s clearly a harder, more embarrassing task without a war to fund.

That's just one of the questions that emerges from Kramer’s clear-eyed look at what -- once you’ve read her piece -- can only be considered the Pentagon's sequestration con game. It’s a shocking tale largely because, while the budget figures are clear enough, you can’t read about them anywhere except here at TomDispatch.

The Pentagon’s Phony Budget War
Or How the U.S. Military Avoided Budget Cuts, Lied About Doing So, Then Asked for Billions More

By Mattea Kramer

Washington is pushing the panic button, claiming austerity is hollowing out our armed forces and our national security is at risk. That was the message Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel delivered last week when he announced that the Army would shrink to levels not seen since before World War II. Headlines about this crisis followed in papers like the New York Times and members of Congress issued statements swearing that they would never allow our security to be held hostage to the budget-cutting process.

Yet a careful look at budget figures for the U.S. military -- a bureaucratic juggernaut accounting for 57% of the federal discretionary budget and nearly 40% of all military spending on this planet -- shows that such claims have been largely fictional. Despite cries of doom since the across-the-board cuts known as sequestration surfaced in Washington in 2011, the Pentagon has seen few actual reductions, and there is no indication that will change any time soon.

This piece of potentially explosive news has, however, gone missing in action -- and the "news" that replaced it could prove to be one of the great bait-and-switch stories of our time.

Click here to read more of this dispatch.

Consider supporting TomDispatch by making a donation. Click here.

Sent to jbennet@uark.edu —
The Nation Institute · 116 E. 16th Street · New York, NY 10003 · USA
Dear Dick,

Urge Congress and the President to extend unemployment benefits by using the money in the war budget that President Obama didn't ask for.

**Sign our petition**

Just over a week ago, the Senate failed to pass a three-month extension of assistance to the long-term unemployed due to disagreements over how to pay for it. While many object to offsetting an extension of unemployment assistance with cuts elsewhere, there is no plausible political path now for extending assistance to the long-term unemployed that does not include an offset.

Fortunately, the roughly $6 billion cost can be covered by cutting $5.7 billion from the war budget that never belonged there in the first place. [1] The President never requested this money: Congress put the money there to pay for Pentagon contractor pork that wouldn't fit in the base Pentagon budget. If that money isn't redirected to some useful purpose, it's going to be wasted on Pentagon contractor pork.

Sign our petition to Congress and the President telling them to use the $5.7 billion of unrequested funding in the war budget to help 1.7 million unemployed Americans and their families rather than waste it on Pentagon contractor pork.

http://www.justforeignpolicy.org/act/unemployment-warbudget

The war in Afghanistan is a waste of resources as well as lives. We should bring our troops home and use the money for human needs instead. But if we want to cut the war budget, we have to start somewhere, and the easiest place to start is by cutting the money that President Obama didn’t even ask for.

Sign and share our petition to Congress and the President:

http://www.justforeignpolicy.org/act/unemployment-warbudget

Thanks for all you do to help bring our war dollars home,

Robert Naiman, Chelsea Mozen, and Megan Iorio
Just Foreign Policy

Help support our work — make a $10 tax-deductible donation today!
Your financial support helps us create opportunities for Americans to agitate for a more just foreign policy.

http://www.justforeignpolicy.org/donate

References:
DAVE GILSON, “DON’T TREAD ON ME,” MOTHER JONES (Jan/Feb. 2013). The battle over sequestration’s trillion $ budget cut over 10 years sees congressional hawks, Pentagon officials, and weapons contractors swarming over White House, Congress, and the media. Dramatic visuals and statistics divided into 10 topics.  

The Pentagon in classic “duh” thinking has asked for more billions to increase US missile “defense” (war, defensive threatening is peace), because it has finally occurred to them that the over 70 years of US military buildup throughout the Pacific and E. Asia against diverse “threats” (and no counter threats from the Reds) might have aroused China and North Korea (and throw in Iran another “evil empire” farther westward) to think of actually defending themselves from tangible, factual threats.  

PENTAGON: INCREASE THE BUDGET AGAINST MORE “THREATS”

Pentagon to boost missile defense spending by over $4 billion

Global Network [globalnet@mindspring.com]

To: Peaceworks [peaceworks@lists.riseup.net]


Exclusive: Pentagon to boost missile defense spending by over $4 billion. By Andrea Shalal-Esa Feb 7 2014

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The U.S. Defense Department plans to ask Congress for $4.5 billion in extra missile defense funding over the next five years as part of the fiscal 2015 budget request, say congressional sources and an expert.

Nearly $1 billion of that sum will pay for a new homeland defense radar to be placed in Alaska, with an additional $560 million to fund work on a new interceptor after several failed flight tests, said Riki Ellison, founder of the nonprofit Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance, and two of the congressional sources, who were not authorized to speak publicly.

The Pentagon's request for added funding comes despite continued pressure on military spending and cuts in other arms programs, a sign of Washington’s growing concern about missile development efforts by North Korea and Iran, the sources said.

The White House plans to send its fiscal 2015 budget request to Congress on March 4.

Missile defense is one of the biggest items in the Pentagon's annual budget, although Republicans have faulted the Obama administration for scaling back funding in recent years.
The request is expected to garner bipartisan support in Congress, but it may also spark questions about billions of dollars spent over the past two decades on a "kill vehicle" built by the Raytheon Co that is used to hit enemy missiles and destroy them on impact.

The kill vehicle is part of the larger ground-based missile defense system managed by Boeing Co. Orbital Sciences Corp builds the rockets used by the system.

Michael Gilmore, the Defense Department's chief weapons tester, last week questioned the robustness of the Raytheon kill vehicle after a series of test failures, and said the Pentagon should consider a redesign.

"We need a new interceptor that actually works," said one of the congressional sources, adding that both of the existing kill vehicle models also needed to be fixed and tested since the replacement would need about five years to be made ready.

Ellison said the issue needed to be addressed quickly, given the Obama administration's push to buy 14 additional ground-based interceptors to beef up U.S. defenses against a potential missile strike from North Korea.

"We need to have this thing as soon as possible," Ellison said. He said some lawmakers might balk at paying for new interceptors that carried the current troubled kill vehicle, since a replacement would not be ready for about five years.

Twenty of the existing 30 ground-based interceptors carry the CE-1 version of the kill vehicle which failed to separate from the rest of the rocket in a flight test last July, said one of the congressional sources.

The other ten interceptors are equipped with a newer CE-2 kill vehicle, which has also suffered several problems and flight test failures, said the source.

The Missile Defense Agency aims to test fixes developed for the CE-2 kill vehicle this summer, after it wraps up its review of the July flight test failure, said agency spokesman Rick Lehner. That is months later than initially planned.

The agency's investigation into the July failure pinpointed the cause as a power fluctuation in the kill vehicle's battery, which caused the flight control computer to reset itself, according to two of the congressional sources.

"That battery had been in that interceptor for 10 years," said one of the sources, adding that it remained uncertain what caused the power fluctuation in the battery.

It was not immediately clear if or when an additional test of the CE-1 kill vehicle was planned.

John Patterson, a spokesman for Raytheon, said his company was working closely with Boeing and the Pentagon "to improve this program's kill vehicle capability."

Raytheon, Boeing and Lockheed Martin Corp have already begun early conceptual work on a simpler and smaller "common kill vehicle." That program aims to build on the successes of Lockheed's Aegis missile system, which uses the SM-3 missile built by Raytheon, and the propulsion system used on the current kill vehicle. The effort also hopes to reduce costs by achieving more commonality.

Lehner said the approved fiscal 2014 budget included $70 million for initial work on the common kill vehicle, or a total of about $350 million over the five years through fiscal 2018.

He said he had no information on how the program would be designated or incorporated in future budget requests, or what future funding might be.
One of the congressional sources said the Pentagon now planned to transition its current concept work on a common kill vehicle into a full-fledged acquisition program, after a competition among the three companies working on the program.

Later the Pentagon also hopes to develop an interceptor that could carry multiple kill vehicles, the source said.

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www.space4peace.org
http://space4peace.blogspot.com/ (blog)

PUBLIC EFFORTS TO REDUCE PENTAGON’S HIMALAYA OF MONEY

Progressive Secretary, FCNL, WAND

Tell Washington to stop more Pentagon spending

Progressive Secretary PS.ActionReply@gmail.com via uark.edu
to James

Dear Dick,

Here is a new Progressive Secretary letter. You will be able to edit your name, address, etc. in the next step.

This action supports a campaign by US Action asking Congress to vote "no" on H.R. 3639. This bill would end sequestration cuts to Pentagon budgets by cutting Social Security and Medicare.
Our letter will be sent to the President and to Congress.

I urge you to vote "no" on H.R. 3639.

This bill would spare the Pentagon from the effects of sequestration by cutting Social Security and Medicare benefits.

The Pentagon budget is full of waste. Neither weapons, ammunition, nor or supplies are tracked. Thus the Pentagon purchases new supplies that it doesn't need.

The Defense Department has a backlog of more than 500 billion dollars in unaudited contracts with outside vendors. We don't know whether that money paid for actual goods and services. In fact, the Pentagon has not accounted for the 8.5 trillion dollars it has spent since 1996.

If the Pentagon needs more money, it should reduce its own waste. They shouldn't take it from elderly and disabled people or widows and children.

Click here to send this letter or to learn more (you can edit the subject or the letter itself in the next step, if you wish).

Sincerely, Kathie Turner, Executive Director

Cutting the Pentagon Budget: The Impossible Becomes Possible.
In 2010, we heard that cutting $500 billion from the Pentagon budget over a decade would be a stretch. At the Friends Committee on National Legislation we’ve always been up for a challenge, so we started lobbying for what seemed impossible: cuts to the Pentagon budget. Because of you, it was possible. Those cuts were written into law.

Now, the president has signed a funding bill for 2014 that keeps the Pentagon budget on a trajectory to save more than $850 billion over 10 years, compared to what the Pentagon asked for in 2010. We need to recognize how far we’ve come, but also to recognize that these cuts aren’t enough.

After the Cold War and Vietnam, Pentagon spending decreased much more than it is decreasing now, even with these new cuts. In fact, the “Overseas Contingency Operations” account – the extra funding that the Pentagon received to fight two wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are ending, but the war funds were increased this year to more than $80 billion.

Will you write a letter to the editor of one local paper letting your community know that we’re making progress in Pentagon spending — especially war funding?
We need your help to make the impossible happen again. Domestic programs — money that keeps people from going hungry, makes sure there's heat in the winter, provides preschool for at-risk kids and provides ladders out of poverty — are still cut to unbearable levels. Communities around the country need relief from a stagnating economy and cuts to the programs millions rely on. Your lobbying now can make it happen.

**Write a letter to the editor urging Congress to use the budget to reset our moral priorities as a country.** Members of Congress rely on locally published letters to the editor to gauge opinions among their constituents. Make sure they hear your point of view.

Sincerely,

Jim Cason  
Associate Executive Secretary  
for Strategic Advocacy

Friday, February 7, 2014

Dear WAND Activists:
Please WATCH and Share: **F:35: The Jet that Ate the Pentagon**

Please sign a petition demanding that Congress stop wasting taxpayer dollars on the F-35.

WAND is part of a coalition of organizations that has just released a video highlighting some of the many problems plaguing the F-35 Strike Fighter Jet. The Jet that Ate the Pentagon, features insights from industry and defense experts who discuss some of the program’s fatal flaws, including the extraordinary costs of the F-35, critical design failings, “concurrent development,” and extreme technical and performance problems. The video also highlights the role that targeted political contributions from Lockheed Martin and other defense contractors have played in keeping the F-35 off the budget chopping block. Read more about the F-35 here.

We urge you to join the over 100,000 people who have signed a petition demanding that Congress stop wasting taxpayer dollars on the F-35.

Sincerely,

The WAND Team
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Democrat, second term
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Constitution Avenue and
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HOT SPRINGS: (501) 520-5892
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Tomgram (Nick Turse), Kramer and Pemberton, Conversion: Demilitarize the Economy
United for Peace and Justice UFPJ vs. 2014 FY
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END PENTAGON BUDGET NEWSLETTER #2

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