How These Figures Were Determined

Current military includes Dept. of Defense ($707 billion) and the military portion from other departments as noted in current military box above ($162 billion). Past military represents veterans’ benefits plus 80% of the interest on the debt.* For further explanation, please go to www.warresisters.org.

These figures are from an analysis of detailed tables in the Analytical Perspectives book of the Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 2012. The figures are federal funds, which do not include trust funds — such as Social Security — that are raised and spent separately from income taxes. What you pay (or don’t pay) by April 18, 2011, goes to the federal funds portion of the budget. The government practice of combining trust and federal funds began during the Vietnam War, thus making the human needs portion of the budget seem larger and the military portion smaller.

*Analysts differ on how much of the debt stems from the military; other groups estimate 50% to 60%. We use 80% because we believe if there had been no military spending most (if not all) of the national debt would have been eliminated.
THE PERMANENT WAR ECONOMY

While local governments cut teachers, firefighters, senior centers, and other essential services, military contractors are laughing all the way to the bank. On Jan. 17, 2011, media attention was given to the 50th anniversary of former President and General Dwight D. Eisenhower’s warning that “we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex.” Today Congress is part of that complex, with money and staff flowing back and forth between Congressional offices and corporations.

Ready for a change? See below and take action!

CAMPAIGNS

New Priorities Network (national)
newprioritiesnetwork.org

True Cost of War (national)
mfso.org

Healthcare Not Warfare (national)
pdamerica.org/get-active/healthcare-not-warfare-campaign

CODE PINK: Bring Our War $$ Home (national), codelpink.org

Campaign to Bring Our War $$ Home (ME)
bringourwarlouhome.org

Bring the $Billion$ Home (Seattle)
wwfor.org

Peace Economy Project (St. Louis)
peaceeconomyproject.org

25 Percent Solution (Boston)
25percentsolution.com

Campaign for Smart Security (PA)
smartsecuritypa.org

25 Teachers’ Salaries (CA)
25teacherssalaries.org

Our Funds (MD)
ourfunds.org

Global Day of Action on Military Spending (international), demilitarize.org

... or start your own campaign!

WHAT YOU CAN DO

• Leaflet with this flyer now, on Tax Day — April 18, 2011 — and in the months before a new budget is passed in October.
• Write elected officials and local newspapers. Send them copies of this flyer. Demand that the Pentagon budget be slashed.
• Protest with your money! Sign up at wartaxboycott.org. Refuse to pay all or part of your federal income tax. Whatever you choose to refuse—$1, $10, or a percentage—send a letter to elected officials and tell them why. Though illegal, thousands of people openly participate in this form of protest. Contact us for information or referral to a counselor near you. Contribute resisted tax money to organizations that support the common good.
• Watch Death & Taxes, a 30-min. film featuring war tax resisters from across the country. Online at nwtrcc.org/deathandtaxes.php.
• For more about refusing to pay for war, contact the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee, PO Box 150553, Brooklyn, NY 11215, (800) 269-7464, nwtrcc.org. Support the Peace Tax Fund bill: peacetaxfund.org.
• Support military personnel who refuse to fight in Iraq and Afghanistan. For more information see iavw.org or girightshotline.org. Call the GI Rights Hotline if you are in the military and need help: (877) 447-4487.

RESOURCES

• Additional copies of this leaflet are available for 10¢ each (1-199), 7¢ each (200 - 499), 6¢ each (500+) plus 20% postage or call for exact amount.
• For sample brochures and resources on war tax resistance, send a self-addressed stamped (61¢) envelope to War Resisters League at the New York address below.
• War Tax Resistance: A Guide to Withholding Your Support from the Military, 144-page handbook with history, methods and resources. $15 plus $4.95 priority mail; $3 media mail.

LOCAL CONTACT:

War Resisters League
339 Lafayette Street, New York, NY 10012
Tel (212) 228-0450
Fax (212) 228-6193
wrl@warresisters.org
www.warresisters.org

“[O]ur analysis suggests that there is no battlefield solution to terrorism.”

“Together we must learn how to compose differences, not with arms, but with intellect and decent purpose.”

President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Jun. 17, 1961

“The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan — not to mention the Pentagon’s voracious appetite for expensive weapons systems — have been a gold mine for the Big Five.”

“From Pentagon, a Buy Rating on Contractors.”

“[W]e must guard against the acquisition of arms, but with intellect and decent purpose.”

President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Jan. 17, 1961

From The United States for FY 2012: Analytical Perspectives, Table 33-1—Federal Programs by Agency and Account.