

# WHERE YOUR INCOME TAX MONEY REALLY GOES

U.S. FEDERAL BUDGET 2022 FISCAL YEAR

## TOTAL OUTLAYS (FY 2022 FEDERAL FUNDS)

**\$3,543 BILLION**

**MILITARY: 48% AND \$1,704 BILLION**

**\$739 BILLION**

- Veterans' Benefits \$263 billion
- Interest on national debt \$476 billion (80% est. to be created by military spending)

**21% PAST MILITARY**

**27% CURRENT MILITARY**

**\$965 BILLION**

**Total Outlays DoD \$743 billion:**

- Military Personnel \$177 billion
- Operation & Maint. \$301 billion
- Procurement \$145 billion
- Research & Dev. \$105 billion
- Construction \$12 billion
- Family Housing \$1.5 billion
- Rev Fund & Adj. \$1.5 billion

**Non-DoD Military Spending\*:**

- Retiree Pay/Healthcare \$98 billion
- DoE nuke weapons/clean-up \$28 billion
- NASA (50%) \$12 billion
- Internl. Security Asst. \$13 billion
- Homeland Secur. (military) \$40 billion
- State Dept. (partial) \$8 billion
- Justice/FBI military \$12 billion
- Treas/Sec Serv/other \$11 billion

\*based on coding and the military nature of activities, such as armed border control, DoD space flights, etc.

**6% GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

**\$198 BILLION**

- Treasury, incl. 20% interest on debt (\$119 B)
- Government personnel
- Justice Dept.
- State Dept. (partial)
- Homeland Sec. (partial)
- Int. Sec. Assist. (partial)
- Judicial
- Legislative

**43% HUMAN RESOURCES**

**3% PHYSICAL RESOURCES**

**\$116 BILLION**

- Agriculture
- Interior
- Transportation
- Homeland Sec. (partial)
- HUD (partial)
- Commerce
- Energy (non-military)
- NASA (50%)
- Environmental Protection
- Nat. Science Fdtn.
- Army Corps Engineers
- FCC and other

**\$1,525 BILLION**

- Health & Human Services
- Soc. Sec. Administration
- Education
- Food/Nutrition programs
- HUD
- Labor Dept.
- Earned Inc/Child Credits
- Health Insurance Credits

**NON-MILITARY: 52% AND \$1,839 BILLION**

## HOW THESE FIGURES WERE DETERMINED

“Current military” includes Dept. of Defense (\$743 billion) and the military portion (\$222 billion) from other departments as noted in current military box above. “Past military” represents veterans’ benefits plus 80% of the interest on the debt.\* For further explanation, please go to warresisters.org.

These figures are from the FY2022 column in the *Analytical Perspectives* book of the *Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 2021*, issued last year, as the new budget with Covid relief has yet to be released this year. 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 May 17, 2021, 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.

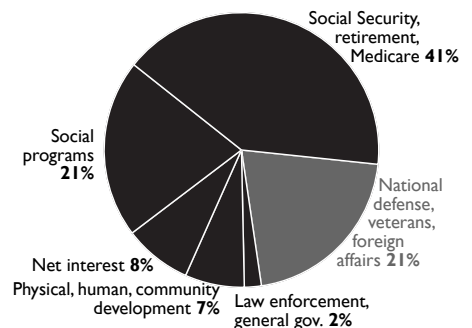
*\*Analysts differ on how much of the debt stems*

*from the military; other groups estimate 50% to 60%. We use 80% because we believe if there had been no military spending, most of the national debt would have been eliminated.*

## Government Deception

The pie chart (right) is the government view of the budget. This is a distortion of how our income tax dollars are spent because it includes Trust Funds (e.g., Social Security), and most of the past military spending is not distinguished from nonmilitary spending. For a more accurate representation of how your Federal income tax dollar is really spent, see the large graph.

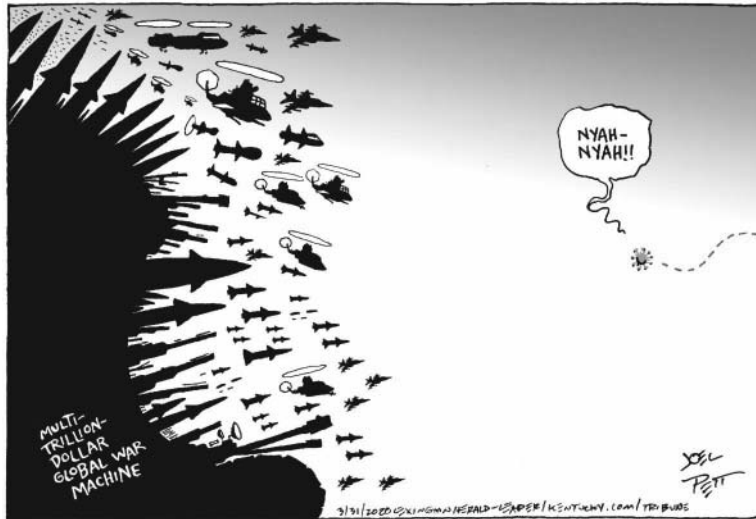
Source: 1040 Instructions 2020 Federal Outlays for FY 2019



# RETHINK "DEFENSE"

The global cost of the military is **\$2 trillion**, half of which is from the U.S. But all that money could not stop a microscopic virus from sickening and killing millions, and shuttering businesses with devastating job losses worldwide.

The major threats to our security — pandemics, climate crisis, domestic threats — cannot be stopped with troops and bombs. We need to rethink national security and redirect funding from the military to prevention, repair, and care.



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**PANDEMIC** Not every virus can be stopped but Covid-19 highlighted the lack of preparation in our health systems and the inequality of care between rich and poor in the U.S. and abroad. Even just 1% of the U.S. military budget would buy 87 billion N95 respirator masks or provide basic health care in all the developing countries or end worldwide hunger or provide 3 years of clean drinking water for all or create 540,000 health care jobs or fund 4-year college education for 8 million students.

## DOMESTIC THREATS

While the U.S. concept of "defense" is military intervention in 85 countries, 800 foreign bases, walls and troops at the Mexican border, combat-equipped police attacking people in communities of color who they perceive as threats, ignored are emboldened white supremacists, armed hate groups, and lies that fuel a growing divide. Priorities need to be shifted to civilian jobs and services to strengthen our economy, education, and democracy.



**CLIMATE CRISIS** The U.S. military, the biggest polluter on the planet, released 1.2 billion metric tons of greenhouse



Roger Peet, Justseeds Artists' Cooperative, justseeds.org

gases since 2001; dumped 63 million pounds of poisons into waterways from 2010-2014; consumes at least 100 million barrels of oil per year. And instead of funding nuclear weapons for one year, we could create 300,000 clean energy jobs. Ending war would be a big step to saving the Earth.

SOURCES: tomdispatch.com/demilitarizing-our-democracy; worldbeyondwar.org; watson.brown.edu/costsofwar; fao.org; nationalpriorities.org; aclu.org; ccrjustice.org; splcenter.org

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Leaflet with this flyer and on Tax Day, May 17, 2021, and during the Global Days of Action on Military Spending, April 13-May 9, demilitarize.org, and year round.
- Get involved in WRL's organizing and education work: nonviolent direct action training, counter-military recruitment, internationalist work, and more. Visit WRL's membership handbook at warresisters.org/joinwrl. Find resources to challenge militarism, curb police and border patrol power, strengthen nonviolent action and lift up community resilience!
- Write elected officials, letters-to-the-editor, and posts online. Send and share copies of this flyer. Explain your budget priorities for a better world.
- Divest from war! Refuse to pay all or part of your federal income tax. Though illegal, thousands of people openly participate in this

form of protest. Whatever you choose to refuse—\$1, \$10, 48% or 100%—send a letter to elected officials and tell them why. Contact us for information or referral to a counselor near you. Contribute resisted tax money to groups that work for the common good.

- For more about refusing to pay for war, brochures, and other resources, contact the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee, (800) 269-7464 or see nwtrcc.org.

### RESOURCES

- Additional copies of this leaflet are available for 15¢ each (1-199), 12¢ each (200 - 499), 10¢ each (500+) plus 20% postage. Order online at warresisters.org/store, or mail orders to the WRL address on this flyer.
- War Tax Resistance: A Guide to Withholding Your Support from the Military, 144-page

handbook with history, methods and resources. \$5 plus 20% postage at warresisters.org/store.

### LOCAL CONTACT

If no group is listed, check for a WRL chapter on the website below, or start your own. Contact WRL for more information.

WAR RESISTERS LEAGUE  
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