

Where Our Tax Dollars Go

The Founding Fathers believed that a peace-based economy was important.

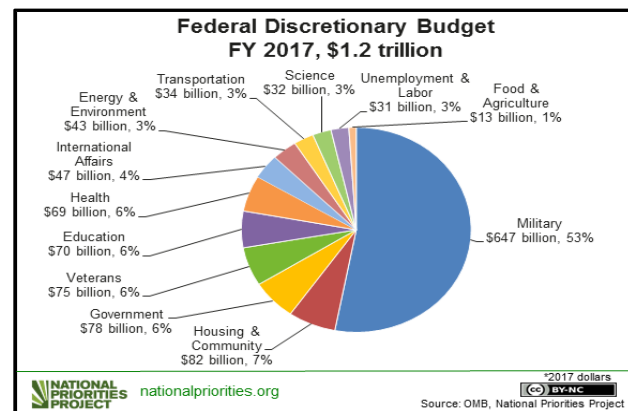
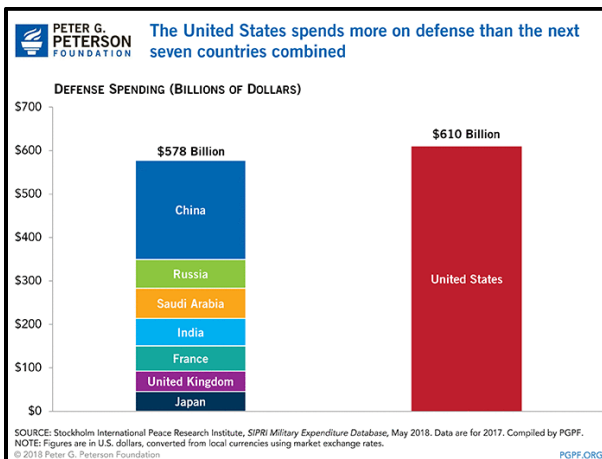
“Having seen the people of all other nations bowed down to the earth under the wars and prodigalities of the rulers, I have cherished their opposites, peace, economy, and riddance of public debt, believing that these were the high road to public as well as private prosperity and happiness.”

Thomas Jefferson, January 8, 1813

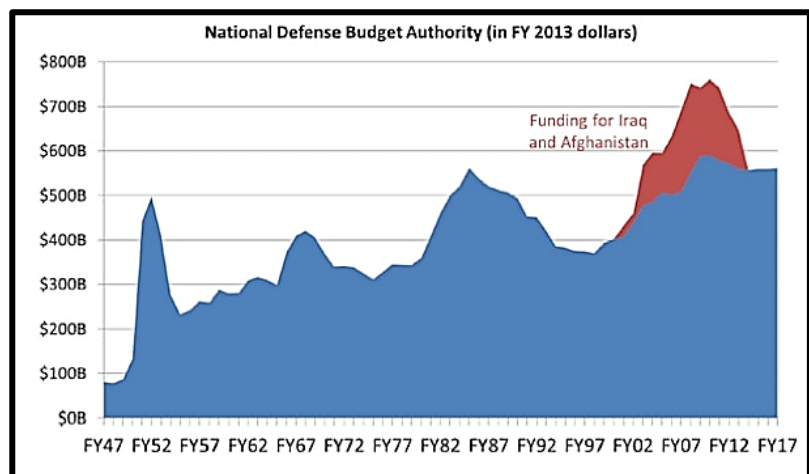
The average NH resident paid \$3,246 for military expenditures through federal taxes in 2017. (Source: <https://www.nationalpriorities.org>)

The U.S. spent \$610 billion on military programs in 2017. This was 35% of global military spending, more than the combined military expenditures of the next 7 countries, five of which are close U.S. allies. (SIPRI “Trends in World Military Expenditure,” 2018). The U.S. military budget for 2019 is an appalling \$716 billion.

U.S. Pentagon spending is well over half of federal discretionary spending.



When adjusted for inflation, the Pentagon budget is more now than during the Cold War, the Korean War or the Vietnam War. The Pentagon says we have spent more than \$1.4 trillion on direct war-related activities since September 11, 2001, but other analysts say we have spent as much as \$5.6 trillion on war during that period. (Source: *Costs of War Project*, Watson Institute, Brown University, 2017).



The U.S. has approximately 150,000 armed forces stationed at approximately 800 foreign bases in 80 countries, costing \$100 - 150 billion/year. (Source: *The Costs and Benefits of U.S. Military Bases Overseas*, David Vine and Luke Vargas, May 2017).

The United States has a stockpile of 6,450 nuclear warheads and is now spending \$1.7 trillion on a whole new generation of nuclear weapons that would have the ability to annihilate life on earth. (Sources: Federation of American Scientists; Arms Control Association.)



Research shows that tax dollars spent on health care, education, clean energy, and infrastructure create more jobs per dollar, than does spending on military programs. (Source: National Priorities Project using CBO data; UNH)

NH's Share of Pentagon Budget		\$2.54 billion
<i>Could buy all of these:</i>		
9,143	Infrastructure Jobs	\$508 million
6,520	Elementary School Teachers	\$508 million
6,923	Clean Energy Jobs	\$508 million
50,782	Veterans – VA Healthcare	\$508 million
28,821	UNH Students – Full tuition	\$508 million

Does not include Overseas Contingency Operations

The Town of Canterbury, New Hampshire passed a resolution at its 2018 Town Meeting calling on the U.S. Congress to “cut the Pentagon budget and to use that money to fund education, public and private sector family-sustaining job creation, environmental and infrastructure restoration, care for veterans and their families, and human services that our communities and state desperately need, and create tax cuts for working families.”

The U.S. Conference of Mayors passed a resolution in August 2018 calling on the President and Congress to reverse federal spending priorities and to redirect funds currently allocated to nuclear weapons and unwarranted military spending to programs that address human needs and job creation.

“This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children ... Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed.”

President Dwight Eisenhower, April 16, 1953

What you can do:

Promote a resolution in your town or city to reduce Pentagon spending and move the funds to programs that meet urgent needs.

Call or e-mail our Congressional delegation. They WANT to hear from you. It helps them to know what their constituents are thinking. You do not have to sound like an expert. They want to know what YOU think.

Sen. Jeanne Shaheen
(202) 224-2841
shaheen.senate.gov

Sen. Maggie Hassan
(202) 224-3324
hassan.senate.gov

Rep. Carol Shea-Porter
(202) 225-5456
shea-porter.house.gov

Rep. Ann Kuster
(202) 225-5206
kuster.house.gov

Talk to your friends, neighbors, co-workers and relatives. Share your views about spending in the military versus on domestic needs. Give them a copy of this flyer.

Write a Letter-to-the-Editor sharing your thoughts about this issue.

Talk to candidates, including candidates for President, about this issue. Share your opinions and ask them what their positions are about military spending versus spending on domestic needs.

“War is a perpetual violation of the rights of human beings to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

John Quincy Adams 1837