

Did you know?

- The U.S. spends almost as much as the rest of the world combined on its military.
- The U.S. maintains over 800 military bases in almost 100 foreign countries.
- The military budget almost doubled from 2001-2008.
- More than half of U.S. annual discretionary budget spending goes to the military and war fighting.
- Since 2001, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have cost the U.S. over \$1 trillion. In that time, they have cost Rhode Island more than \$4 billion.
- The U.S. has allocated another \$159 billion for the wars in 2011, of which Rhode Island taxpayers will pay \$682.7 million.
- Over 40% of the \$13+ trillion national debt stems from the military. As the U.S. sinks deeper into debt we must borrow more money from foreign entities (e.g. other countries and multinational banks), which actually makes the country less secure.
- The presidential deficit reduction commission calls for \$100 billion in defense cuts, including the closing of one-third of the nation's overseas military bases, a temporary freeze on Defense Department salaries, and a reduction on the Pentagon's reliance on private contractors.



The 25% solution originated from Greater Boston United for Justice with Peace. It is now part of a nationwide campaign, the New Priorities Network, which is endorsed in Rhode Island by East Bay Citizens for Peace (of RI), American Friends Service Committee of South East New England and the RI chapter of Progressive Democrats of America.

Some next steps

Educate yourself

Friends Committee on National Legislation
http://www.fcnl.org/issues/issue.php?issue_id=19
<http://www.fcnl.org/pdfs/budget/FY2011PieChart.pdf>
<http://www.fcnl.org/budget/budget-proposal11.htm>

Global Issues

<http://www.globalissues.org/article/75/world-military-spending>

National Priorities Project

<http://www.nationalpriorities.org>

New Priorities Network

<http://newprioritiesnetwork.org>

War Resisters League

<http://www.warresisters.org/federalpiechart>
<http://www.warresisters.org/nva/nva0501-2.htm>

Let your congressmen know your priorities

Senator Jack Reed
 1000 Chapel View Boulevard, Suite 290
 Cranston, RI 02920
 Phone: (401) 943-3100; Fax: (401) 464-6837

Senator Sheldon Whitehouse
 70 Westminster Street, Suite 1100
 Providence, RI 02903
 Phone: (401) 453-5294 ; Fax: (401) 453-5085

Representative David Cicilline
 25 Dorrance Street
 Providence, RI 02903
 Phone: (401) 421-7740; Fax: (401) 521-3920

Representative Jim Langevin
 300 Centerville Road, Suite 200 South
 Warwick, RI 02886
 Phone: (401) 732-9400; Fax: (401) 737-2982

Support the 25% Solution campaign

<http://www.eastbaycitizens4peace.org>

The 25% Solution

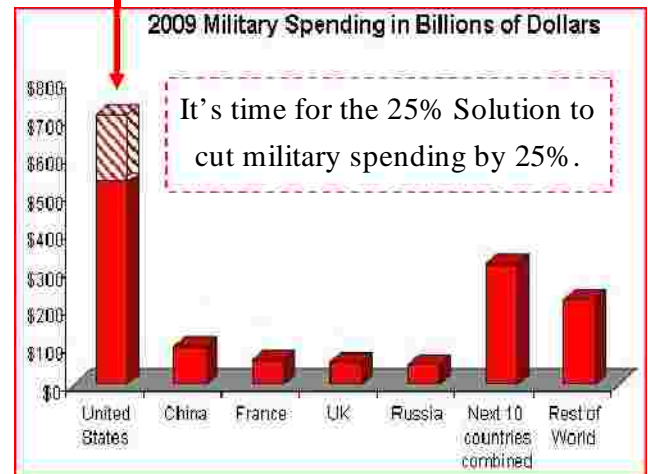


It's time to **red line** the defense budget and...

Reduce U.S. Debt

Save our Communities

Protect our Future



The 25% Solution

MILITARY (Dept. of Defense, War, Veterans Affairs, and Nuclear Weapons Programs)

FY 2011 Discretionary Budget

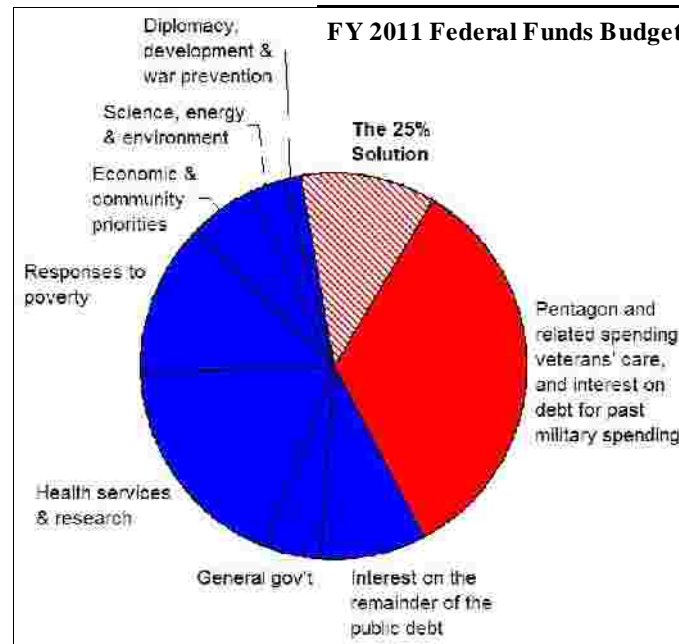
- NASA, Energy, Labor, Treasury, Interior, EPA, & Commerce
- Agriculture
- Justice
- Housing and Urban Development
- Dept. of Homeland Security
- Other Programs
- Education
- State
- Transportation
- Health and Human Services

Right now the economic future of the U.S. looks very shaky, and most of us are realistically scared. Our country is in debt and problems such as the budget gap and finding new forms of renewable energy seem insurmountable. Everybody is worried about jobs, as well as a host of other issues: young parents are worried about housing, healthcare and educational programs; seniors are concerned about social security, Medicare, and their grandchildren's future.

What can we do? Money can help solve many of our national problems. It can save our schools, libraries, improve health care programs and create jobs. But where is that money going to come from?

There is an available solution for a large number of our most pressing problems: REDUCE MILITARY SPENDING by 25%. As a nation, we simply cannot afford to provide an army or "police force" for countries that don't even want us there. Not only have the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan not made us safer, they have made us broke! It's important to point out that all this excessive spending has not made the brave men and women in our military any richer. They are still struggling. In the meantime, a large percentage of our expenditure can be attributed to wasteful spending, overpriced, underperforming weapons systems, and the high cost of outside contractors.

IT IS TIME TO CHANGE OUR PRIORITIES AND FUND PEOPLE'S NEEDS NOT WAR.



The fact is that we can make a 25% cut in military spending without endangering the country's security:

Potential Spending Cut	Savings/Year
Withdrawing from Iraq and Afghanistan	\$159 billion
Eliminating wasteful weapons systems	\$33 billion
Closing half of U.S. overseas military bases	\$51 billion
Eliminating waste in procurement and operations	\$20 billion

What can we do with the money we save?

We can help our communities; we can help our veterans; we can help our citizens; we can reduce our state and national debts. For instance, with just what Rhode Island will pay for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in 2011, the following could be provided:

- 85,772 Head Start slots for children **OR**
- 8,176 elementary school teachers **OR**
- 241,458 homes with renewable solar electricity **OR**
- 643,890 homes with renewable wind electricity **OR**
- 71,647 scholarships for university students **OR**
- 11,195 firefighters **OR**
- 10,616 police or sheriff's patrol officers **OR**
- 86,195 military veterans receiving VA medical care

For an entire year!

About the charts

The bar graph on the front panel shows world military spending totals for 2009.

The bar graph above represents the FY 2011 U.S. discretionary budget. The width of each bar corresponds to the percentage of the budget allocated to that particular item.

The pie chart above covers the FY 2011 U.S. federal funds budget, which is both the discretionary and mandatory spending supported by income taxes, estate taxes and other general revenues. Not included are trust funds, such as Social Security and Medicare, which are supported by dedicated revenues.