

# OBAMA AND CONGRESS WANT TO EXPAND THE PENTAGON'S SLUSH FUND TO INCREASE MILITARY SPENDING DESPITE THE SEQUESTRATION CAP

## **THE REALITY:**

A budget is a numerical way to express what we want. The U.S. budget, which is overwhelmingly dominated by military spending, shows that the U.S. government wants massive military violence.

In contrast, the American people want peace, not endless war. We want to reverse the federal budget's priorities. We want to **cut the military budget** and **fully fund human needs**.

However, both President Obama and our bipartisan Congress seem eager to continue overfunding the military, even despite the "sequestration" budget caps they imposed a few years ago to limit federal spending.

## **BACKGROUND:**

A few years ago Congress deadlocked about the federal budget and created a small Super Committee to produce a compromise, with the threat that if the Super Committee failed, mandatory across-the-board cuts would occur in all federal budgets, both military and domestic alike. (A certain percentage of each budget would be "sequestered.") The Super Committee failed, so the "sequestration" went into effect. This process imposed caps on military spending and on domestic spending. But the hawks want to keep increasing the military budget anyway, so they are monkeying around with a "slush fund" for the Pentagon that is outside of its budget cap.

## **THE CURRENT MONKEY BUSINESS TO INCREASE MILITARY SPENDING DESPITE THE CAP:**

Recently Congress passed a budget that slashes funding for nearly every vital domestic investment while putting many hundreds of billions of dollars into the Pentagon's regular budget and adding nearly \$40 billion more (for a new total of nearly \$90 billion) into a massive slush fund at the Pentagon known as the Overseas Contingency Operations Account (OCO).

The OCO was originally designed to fund our wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, but it is now being used as a slush fund for military spending beyond what's in the real budget, in order to help the Pentagon spend far beyond the spending caps. Budget caps have crippled funding for infrastructure, healthcare, education, and nearly every program outside the Pentagon. Republicans and hawkish Democrats (including President Obama) are using the OCO slush fund to massively increase the Pentagon's budget while at the same time they slash government programs that help people.

The National Priorities Project ([www.nationalpriorities.org](http://www.nationalpriorities.org)) is partnering with the Win Without War coalition ([www.winwithoutwar.org](http://www.winwithoutwar.org)) to promote a more progressive national security strategy. While Congress has passed their budget, they now have to fund the government by passing appropriations bills. In the coming weeks, Congress will decide whether they continue down this dangerous path or chart a new course. A responsible path forward recognizes that our national security starts with our economic security. Congress must recognize that we cannot underinvest in America just to pad the pockets of Pentagon contractors. → Please sign the petition to Congress posted at [www.nationalpriorities.org](http://www.nationalpriorities.org) and [www.winwithoutwar.org](http://www.winwithoutwar.org)

## **MORE INFORMATION:**

The National Priorities Project ([www.nationalpriorities.org](http://www.nationalpriorities.org)) is a respected source of information and action about cutting the military budget.

The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) has worked for decades from an ethically principled perspective on federal government issues, including budget priorities. See their information at [www.fcnl.org/issues/budget](http://www.fcnl.org/issues/budget).

The Olympia FOR website's "Bring Our Billion\$ Home" page includes articles on this subject. Visit [www.olympiafor.org](http://www.olympiafor.org) and click on "Bring Our Billion\$ Home Campaign."