

OMNI PENTAGON WATCH NEWSLETTER #2, October 29,
2011, Compiled by Dick Bennett for a Culture of Peace
(#1 June 21, 2011).

See Dick's Blog, "IT'S THE WAR DEPARTMENT" <http://jamesrichardbennett.blogspot.com/>

and the many newsletters related to U.S. militarism, empire, violence, torture, waste, war crimes, repression, secrecy, US economy, needs of the world in <http://www.omnicenter.org/newsletter-archive/>

The SOA, it's only a bit of hail in the global storm of US militarism and empire, yet a few citizens have created a SOA Watch. But for the \$600 billion Pentagon (not including the wars and nuclear weapons, interest on national debt for wars, and long-term treatment of the wounded) not one WATCH. One hundred are needed; one thousand. Why are the journalism departments not teaching the reporting of this national disaster? Why is the public not demanding relentless reporting by their newspapers and television news? Because they are afraid? Because they are part of the US war system? Get informed and join your voice with OMNI's.

Contents of #1

Pentagon War Budget, Cold War to Today
Pentagon Budget Today
Congress Will Trim the Budget?
Arming Mid-Eastern Despots
Nuclear Weapons
Pentagon Marketing Itself and Propaganda to Children
Counter-Recruiting Resistance
Book Censorship
Books: James Carroll, Arthur Ekirch, Sebastian Junger

Contents of #2

Lockheed Supports War Budget
Criminal Contractors
[War] Secretary Panetta and War Profiteers.
Military Fuel
Military Budget, Empire, China
Reducing Budget and the Fine Print
Empire/War Budget Increased 7-11
No-Bid Contracts
Clandestine War: Special Forces, Drones, Assassinations
War Industry, GOP, Debt
Military Sex Crimes
War Crimes and WikiLeaks
NBC Reports Pentagon
Cyber Security New War
Research on Militarism

[WAR] Industry: Keep Paying Us or the Economy Dies

Spencer Ackerman, Wired, October 27, 2011, RSN

Ackerman writes: "Defense giant Lockheed Martin had a totally sweet quarter, raking in \$700 million and looking forward to the same this time next year. So it raises eyebrows when Lockheed's anointed mouthpieces predict mass economic disaster if Congress touches the defense budget. On Tuesday, the aerospace industry put out a report saying that chopping the defense budget would put over a million Americans out of work. Cuts that could total up to a trillion dollars over 10 years would 'devastate the economy and the defense industrial base and undermine the national security of our country,' said Marion Blakeley, president of the Aerospace Industries Association, which sponsored the report."

READ MORE <http://www.readersupportednews.org/news-section2/320-80/8118-defense-industry-keep-paying-us-or-the-economy-dies>

“Shocking Report Reveals the Pentagon’s Addiction to Fraudulent Contractors by George Zornick, NationofChange,” Oct. 21, 2011 “The report, released today, showed that hundreds of defense contractors found guilty of civil fraud received more than \$1.1 trillion in defense contracts since 2001. The study took into account only companies that were found to have defrauded taxpayers of more than \$1 million dollars. More than \$573 billion went directly to companies that were guilty of defrauding taxpayers, and when you factor in the awards that went to the parent companies of those contractors, the total is \$1.1 trillion.” READ | DISCUSS | SHARE

<http://www.nationofchange.org/shocking-report-reveals-pentagon-s-addiction-fraudulent-contractors-1319204542>

“Panetta Is Dead Wrong on War Spending

Robert Greenwald info@bravenew01.org via uark.edu to James

October 15, 2011

[Watch the Video](#) | [Share It With Your Friends](#)

Dear James,

Your generous support allows to quickly respond to misinformation like this. Please help us get the truth out about the need to cut the bloated war budget.

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta is flagrantly advocating for war profiteers at the expense of real security for the American people. He's trying to browbeat Congress and other officials into continuing to send huge sums of our money to war profiteers who are killing jobs and ripping off the taxpayer. [Our new video busts Panetta's scare tactics and talking points--please watch it and share it.](#)

Huge military budgets cost jobs. That's an established fact. The corporations like Lockheed Martin, Northrup Grumman and General Dynamics that make billions every year selling the Pentagon super-expensive and often useless weaponry don't care about the effects of their profiteering. They just want to keep

the gravy train rolling (For example, Lockheed Martin's CEO made \$21.9 million last year, with most of the money coming from your taxes.). These contractors held a closed-door meeting with Panetta on September 13, and since then, he's parroted their untrue talking points and warned of "doomsday" if elected officials make even modest cuts to the bloated, corruption-filled war budget.

Panetta repeated more misleading spin when he testified before Congress this week. War spending kills jobs and productivity in the economy, but Panetta recently claimed just the opposite. Even the largest cuts to the military budget on the table in deficit reduction talks would simply return us to spending at 2007 levels--which was the highest level ever at the time--but Panetta strangely claims this is "doomsday."

We don't need to spend six times China's military budget on war to keep America safe, and the last thing our economy needs right now is more job-killing spending on war profiteers.

Please [watch our video and share it with your friends](#) as soon as you can. Don't let Panetta and the war industry get away with misleading Congress again.

Your financial support makes our effort possible. Thank you for helping us stand strong against the war industry and the Pentagon's spin campaign.

Sincerely,

Derrick Crowe, Robert Greenwald
and the Brave New Foundation team

P.S. After you watch our video and share it with your friends, [join War Costs on Facebook](#).

Military changes way it uses energy

By JULIET EILPERIN *THE WASHINGTON POST*

Posted: October 3, 2011

- [Print item](#)
- [E-mail](#)

- [Share](#)

With the Navy's Blue Angels and their F/A-18 Hornets arrayed in a neat line behind him, Navy Secretary Ray Mabus announced that they would perform in the Labor Day Air Expo using a 50-50 mix of a plant-based biofuel and conventional fuel. MORE (from the Arkansas Democrat/Gazette, must log in) <http://www.nwaonline.com/news/2011/oct/03/military->

[changes-way-it-uses-energy-20111003/?business](http://www.readersupportednews.org/off-site-opinion-section/83-83/6885-enormous-cuts-in-military-spending-read-the-fine-print)

FRITZ HOLLINGS, “Military budget linked to sputtering economy” *The Progressive* POPULIST September 1, 2011 .

Osama bin Laden wanted to save the Muslim world from a Western Christian takeover. His perception is borne out by the 800 US bases abroad and the five wars. The US did not learn its Vietnam lesson, but again uses **military force to gain policy goals**, in contrast to China that employs our Good Neighbor Policy around the world to make friends. More. Hollings was Dem. Senator from S. C. for 39 years.

Medea Benjamin, “Enormous Cuts in Military Spending? Read the Fine Print” by Medea Benjamin and Charles Davis, Common Dreams

"In this age of austerity, all the politicians are talking about the need for spending cuts. But when it comes to shared burdens and slashed budgets, don't expect the Pentagon to start holding bake sales, despite what you may have heard about reductions to its obscenely bloated funding."

READ MORE <http://www.readersupportednews.org/off-site-opinion-section/83-83/6885-enormous-cuts-in-military-spending-read-the-fine-print>

“Pentagon Gets Double-Digit Increase”

Donna Cassata, Associated Press July 9, 2011

Intro: "The House overwhelmingly passed a \$649 billion defense spending bill yesterday that boosts the Pentagon budget by \$17 billion and covers the costs of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan."

READ MORE <http://readersupportednews.org/news-section2/306-10/6554-pentagon-gets-double-digit-increase>

“Pentagon's No-Bid Contracts Triple In 10 Years of War”

Sharon Weinberger, News Analysis, Nation of Change, August 29, 2011: “The bomb fighting contract is a small example of a problem that’s been exacerbated by 10 years of war: awarding contracts without competition. While the Pentagon says its overall level of competition has remained steady over the past 10 years, publicly available data shows that Defense Department dollars flowing into **non-competitive contracts have almost tripled since the terrorist attacks of 9/11**. According to analysis by the Center for Public Integrity’s iWatch News, the data shows that the value of Pentagon contracts awarded without competition topped \$140 billion in 2010, up from \$50 billion in 2001.” READ | DISCUSS |

SHARE <http://www.nationofchange.org/windfalls-war-pentagons-no-bid-contracts-triple-10-years-war-1314637188>

“Shadow Warriors: Movin' On Up”

Conn Hallinan, News Analysis, Nation of Change, August 21, 2011: “For decades the U.S. military has waged clandestine war on virtually every continent on the globe, but for the first time, high-ranking **Special Operations Forces (SOF)** officers are moving out of the shadows and into the command mainstream. Their emergence suggests the U.S. is embarking on a military sea change that will replace massive deployments, like Iraq and Afghanistan, with **stealthy night raids, secret assassinations, and death-dealing drones**. Its implications for civilian control of foreign policy promises to be profound. Early this month, Vice Adm. Robert Harward—a former commander of the SEALs, the Navy’s elite SOF that recently killed al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden—was appointed deputy commander of Central Command, the military region that embraces the Middle East and Central Asia. Another SEAL commander, Vice Adm. Joseph Kernan, took over the number two spot in Southern Command, which covers Latin America and the Caribbean.” <http://www.nationofchange.org/shadow-warriors-movin-1313944113>

[WAR] Industry Threatens America's Economy

Nation of Change, August 13, 2011

William A. Collins, Op-Ed: Weapons manufacturers have historically pulled a lot of strings in Congress, and there are usually plenty of votes that can be traded to protect every state's pet products. But now signs of nervousness are showing up at the edges of the debate. Those crazy Republicans brought the nation to the edge of default. No one thinks the GOP gives a fig about either default or excessive military spending, but in their posturing Republican lawmakers may have unleashed something they can't control. Similar fallout is already apparent in Europe. READ | DISCUSS | SHARE <http://www.nationofchange.org/defense-industry-threatens-americas-economy-1313253242>

1.

PressTV - 'Pentagon ignores military sex crimes'

www.presstv.ir/detail/180324.html

May 17, 2011

Victims of sexual assault in the US military say the **Pentagon** has turned a blind eye on reports of sex **crimes** and failed to bring sex ...

Pentagon's Skeletons: WikiLeaks puts war crimes in spotlight ...

www.youtube.com/watch?v=3NaoL5YIMic

5 min - Jul 27, 2010 - Uploaded by RussiaToday

The U.S. military is desperately trying to close-in on the sources behind the biggest leak in its history. **Pentagon** chiefs admit it will ...

1.

[More videos for Pentagon Crimes »](#)

“Meet the New Boss: NBC's Pentagon Beat Sweetener”

07/13/2011 by Peter Hart from FAIR <http://www.fair.org/blog/2011/07/13/meet-the-new-boss-nbcs-pentagon-beat-sweetener/>

You may have heard about new Defense Secretary [Leon Panetta](#)'s trip to Iraq--mainly because while in the country he told some U.S. soldiers that they were there because of 9/11. That led to coverage like [this](#) in the **Washington Post**:

On Monday, in his first visit to Iraq as Pentagon chief, Panetta appeared to justify the U.S. invasion of the country as part of the war against Al-Qaeda, a controversial argument made by the George W. Bush administration but rebutted by President Obama and many Democrats.

Also rebutted by...reality.

Panetta's visit was covered on television too. But on **NBC Nightly News (7/11/11)**, Pentagon reporter [Jim Miklaszewski](#) was paying tribute to the new boss at the government agency he's paid to cover (a practice known as a "[beat sweetener](#)"). Panetta's Al-Qaeda gaffe? Well, in Miklaszewski's view, "Panetta misspoke when he appeared to suggest to these soldiers that the U.S. invaded Iraq because of al-Qaeda."

What you really need to know is that Leon Panetta's a stand up guy: "Throughout this trip, Panetta showed he's a different kind of Defense secretary, bold and outspoken." I think we [very recently](#) had a Pentagon leader who was "bold and outspoken" and [attempted to link](#) Al-Qaeda and Iraq.

Miklaszewski closed with this:

At 73, Panetta's s already had a lifetime of public service. And he told us today he took the Pentagon job because he loves the work. And so far, Brian, there's no holding him back.

Way to hold his feet to the fire.

“Pentagon Declares the Internet a War Domain “

John T. Bennett, The Hill , RSN

Excerpt: "The Pentagon released a long-promised cybersecurity plan Thursday that declares the **Internet a domain of war...** The Defense Department's first-ever plan for cyberspace calls on the department to expand its ability to thwart attacks from other nations and groups, beef up its cyber-workforce and expand collaboration with the private sector."

READ MORE <http://www.readersupportednews.org/news-section2/306-10/6610-pentagon-declares-the-internet-a-war-domain>

[Cold War, Drug War, Energy Wars, War on Terror.....War on Cyberspace.....fear and violence.....more jobs and bigger budgets for the Pentagon! D]

Establishing Trust and Accountability: An Integrated Approach to Research on Militarism **by John Lindsay-Poland Fellowship (Spring 2011)**
<http://forusa.org/book/export/html/8835>

When we are conscious of living in an unjust world, what more do we need to know before we act?

A lot, usually. Without risking the “paralysis of analysis,” I think we need to understand the terrain and forces around us that will shape the outcome of our efforts. If we are to demilitarize life and land, we need to know about **militarism**, and potential allies, and history, and what are potential obstacles, and how the **money** flows.

And these things are not static: they change over time, so that it’s helpful to know how and in what direction they are changing. How much is the Pentagon investing in recruiting women, immigrants, people of color, low-income whites, medical professionals? What corporations in our area benefit from the war in Afghanistan, and how much do ordinary people pay for the war in taxes? How much and what kinds of militarization have branched out from the Defense Department to Homeland Security, Drug Enforcement Administration, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and other government agencies? What is the role of non-governmental organizations in wars and militarism?

In short, we need to do research.

The Fellowship of Reconciliation is undertaking a project to increase the capacity of our movement – broadly speaking – to **do research that serves activism to overcome militarism**. We aim to provide tools for learning, space for exchanging skills such as webinars and “cyber-camps,” and hopefully opportunities to distribute the findings of research on militarism.

Research can both help us to make strategic choices about how and where we direct our energies, and its findings can be public tools for agitating, informing, and persuading. When we are good enough and persistent in research, journalists come **to us** for stories.

Research produces information, but information by itself is not necessarily of any strategic use. If I give you an Excel file with thousands of lines of raw data on Pentagon contracts being carried out in, say, Colombia, with no interpretation, that file may well remain inert on your hard drive. It will be of greater value if I connect that information to context, to other information, and observe relationships between things.

There are some qualities that facilitate activism-oriented research. Patience is useful, especially when dealing with large amounts of detail, or long waits for responses to Freedom of Information Act requests of the U.S. government. Curiosity – that propensity to ask open questions and really seek the answers – also helps a lot, but so does a sense of purpose and focus. While toodling around a large database (such as the U.S. State Department cables posted by Wikileaks) or conducting an interview with someone who has deep experience in a subject of interest, it is easy to get drawn into fascinating paths. This is one way to learn about areas we hadn’t been aware of, and to reconsider assumptions. And it can offer that understanding of context that permits us to analyze and connect what we find and give it more meaning. A lot of militarism is embedded in banal bureaucracy, for example. But this can also be, as many dissertation writers know, a way of multiplying inquiries way beyond our capacity to pursue them. Another important ingredient, but also something that many activists experience as scarce, is time. That’s something to consider in a group that wants to undertake research.

Where can we go to learn about militarism? A universe of sources lives in those who are most affected by militarism – its participants in the military, government, and private contractors, the communities where military activities take place, and most of all, its victims and survivors. These may be sources who lack “official” legitimacy, yet often contribute more to our knowledge than the official documents or spokespeople, because they have firsthand knowledge that hasn’t been written down. Often these folks have been deceived and lied to by outsiders, and they may face real risks by talking about what they know. So establishing trust – and being trustworthy – is key to the relationship.

Trust is related to accountability, especially to people who are negatively impacted by militarism (by war, human rights violations, sexual violence, usurpation of sovereignty, environmental contamination, health effects, etc.). When we do research on militarism, there is an ethical obligation to share our results with those harmed by it, in a form that is intelligible to them – not in academic obscurity, a foreign language, or technically inaccessible – so that they can be better informed agents of their liberation.

Beginning with their experience will also shape our research questions. In Vieques, Puerto Rico, the movement to stop U.S. naval bombing practice on the island took a turn when the Puerto Rico Department of Health reported that Vieques had a 27% higher incidence of cancer than the rest of Puerto Rico. At a resident’s request, the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) began an environmental study of Vieques. But, instead of asking **why Viequeses were getting sick** at a higher rate, with no industrial activity on the island, ATSDR did a computer simulation of air particles during bombing practice, and concluded that the air was safe during bombing. In contrast, some Puerto Rican scientists concerned with **why** cancer was occurring measured the amount of heavy metals in islanders’ body tissue and vegetation, and found exceptionally high levels.

Of course, official documentary sources are also important. Some of these are online; for research on U.S. military activities, these include sites on [federal contracts](#), [foreign military training](#), and [domestic and foreign military bases](#). *An active community that uses these public sources is critical to protecting transparency and democratic debate about the country’s policies and use of funds.*

Once we obtain information, sometimes we can leverage that information to obtain more, for example, by partnering with other organizations, journalists, or legislators, and by making more sophisticated Internet searches.

Whatever the findings of our research, it is critical to analyze them in order to try to understand what is occurring and articulate a narrative about it. And then to choose ways to distribute our findings, analysis, and narrative that are most likely to get to those we want to reach.

If you are interested in increasing your skills in research on militarism, to share skills you have, or be part of a collective of research on militarism, please contact [John Lindsay-Poland by e-mail](#) or phone (510-282-8983).

John Lindsay-Poland is research and advocacy director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, based in Oakland, California. June, 2011

<http://forusa.org/book/export/html/8835>

END OF PENTAGON WATCH NEWSLETTER #2