

July 29, 2013

August Recess Legislator Meeting Fact Sheet: Military Spending

Key Facts

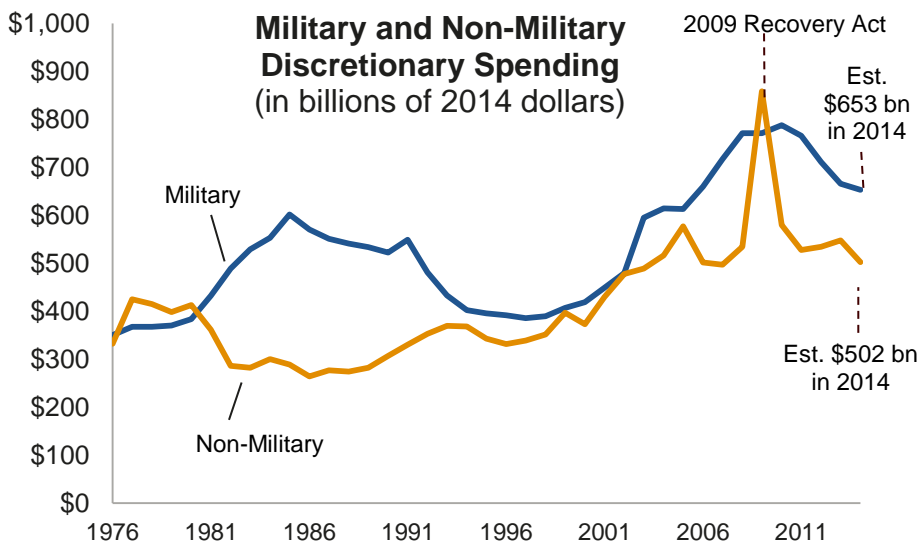
- **Total Security Spending:** The U.S. has spent more than \$8 trillion on national security since Sept. 11, 2001. That includes funding for the Department of Defense, the U.S. nuclear weapon stockpile, wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and homeland security.
- **Military Funding in Context:** Funding for the military is projected to account for around 17 percent of the total federal budget in fiscal 2014, and 57 percent of the discretionary budget. The discretionary budget is spending that lawmakers determine each year in the appropriations process.
- **War Costs:** President Obama proposes spending \$79.4 billion in fiscal 2014 to fund war operations in Afghanistan and Iraq; by way of comparison, the president's 2014 budget allocates a total of \$65 billion for all federal education programs. Through fiscal 2013, an inflation-adjusted **\$1.65 trillion** has been spent on the two wars.
- **U.S. and the World:** In 2012, the U.S. accounted for 39 percent of global military spending, while Iran, North Korea and Syria accounted for less than 1 percent, according to SIPRI, a Swedish research

What Americans Say:

"We spend plane loads of money on the wars and, supposedly, to rebuild countries; big skids that you have to forklift around, loaded with hundred-dollar bills. That's my tax money."

– Wayne (Independence, MO)

institute that tracks global military spending.



Source: OMB | National Priorities Project

What's Happening Now: Committees in both the House and Senate voted to increase military funding in fiscal 2014, a move that could necessitate additional cuts to domestic programs in order to keep overall spending within mandated spending caps. **The House proposed offsetting a 5 percent increase in military spending with an 18.6 percent cut to Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education.**

What to Ask Your Legislator: On average the American public wants to reduce military spending by around 18

percent, according to research by the Center for Public Integrity and reported in the Washington Post. Meanwhile lawmakers of both parties have voted to increase military spending in 2014. Where do you come down on this issue?

More About Military Spending: bit.ly/2012securitybudget