

## THE RUNAWAY US MILITARY BUDGET

(Source: Friends Committee on National Legislation, FCNL, Washington)

(March, 2006)

The Bush administration released its budget request for fiscal year 2007 (FY 2007) in February 2006. As part of this request, the President is seeking \$439.3 billion for the US Department of Defense. The request is \$28.5 billion more than the current Pentagon spending level of \$410.7 billion, an increase of seven percent. The figure does not include funding for the nuclear weapons activities of the Department of Energy (DoE) or other miscellaneous funds. Together these “extras” would bring the total amount requested to \$463 billion. Adjusted for inflation, this request exceeds the average amount spent by the Pentagon during the Cold War, for a military that is one-third smaller than it was just over a decade ago.

This increase continues a trend of growing military budgets that dates back to the last years of the Clinton administration and has accelerated since the September 11, 2001, attacks. The annual Defense Department budget (excluding DoE funding and the cost of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan) has grown by \$143 billion since 2001. Adjusted for inflation, military spending has grown by 27 percent over this period.

### MORE COSTLY WEAPONS SYSTEMS

(Source : FCNL, March 2006)

The US administration’s February 2006 budget request continues to fund a wide range of costly weapons systems. For example:

- The Pentagon is requesting \$10.4 billion in FY07 for its Missile “Defense” Programme, up roughly \$1.7 from the current \$8.7 billion, making it the largest single weapons programme in the annual military budget
- The US Navy is seeking more than \$1 billion for its \$36 billion Aircraft Carrier Replacement Programme, and \$2.6 billion for the purchase of one SS-774 “Virginia” class nuclear attack submarine, the per unit cost of which has grown to over \$3 billion per vessel
- The US Air Force, along with the Navy, is requesting \$5.3 billion for continued joint development of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, which at a total cost of almost \$260 billion makes it the most expensive weapons programme ever
- The US air Force is also requesting \$2.8 billion for its premier fighter plane, the F-22 “Raptor”.

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