

DE-MILITARIZING U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

U.S. foreign policy has never been de-militarized and it has brought death, destruction, and debt in the decades since 9/11. It is time to try mutual respect and real, not fraudulent, diplomacy! Military-buildups, war exercises, and wars not only emit great quantities of GHG but also squander money needed for social needs and climate justice. In addition, cooperation among nations, necessary to address the climate crisis, is destroyed. For example, the Russian invasion of Ukraine prompted a new arms race in NATO nations and ended productive scientific work on climate issues in Russia and Ukraine. The wars in Gaza, Ukraine, and Iran not only inflict suffering on their populations and their environments, but also deplete global humanitarian funds, while placing the world closer to nuclear annihilation. The U.S. must seek negotiations with allies and foes alike to prevent or stop conflicts instead of unlawfully attacking countries, such as Iran and Venezuela. The U.S.'s belligerent posture towards China is nonsensical. China spends 3X more on transitioning to clean energy than on its military, while the U.S. has the opposite ratio. In the first few days of the U.S.-Israeli attacks on Iran, U.S. expenditures in the war exceeded the total U.S. contributions to the global Green Climate Fund (GCF). Because the major threat to humanity is climate change, tax dollars spent on jets, drones, missiles, and U.S. military bases all over the world would be better utilized by the GCF to decrease global emissions and help preserve a livable planet for present and future generations.



OUR GOALS

CCMP strives to bring climate awareness to VFP members and chapters, and to bring the issues of militarism to the forefront of the climate movement. Our work supports VFP's foundational goal of abolishing war as an instrument of national policy.

Explore the intersection of climate crisis and militarism at the CCMP website:



Use your phone to scan the QR code, or visit www.veteransforpeace.org/ccmp

GET IN TOUCH!

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CLIMATE CRISIS & US MILITARISM



CLIMATE CRISIS AND MILITARISM PROJECT

(CCMP) of Veterans For Peace (VFP) is part of the worldwide movement to mitigate the climate crisis and promote peace and justice—climate, racial, and economic.

As educators and activists, we focus on U.S. militarism's damage to the climate.



March 2026

EXPOSING U.S. MILITARISM'S CLIMATE DAMAGE

- Its vast and largely unreported **direct and indirect** greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions
- Its role in providing military protection for oil corporations
- Its squandering of trillions needed for addressing climate and people's needs
- Its promotion of war—a human, climate and environmental disaster

COALITION-BUILDING

In 2021, CCMP gathered hundreds of endorsements from organizations and prominent individuals worldwide urging Climate Envoy John Kerry to address the military's role in the climate crisis. One CCMP member attended COP26 in Glasgow; another went to COP27 in Egypt and attended COP28 virtually, working with other attendant groups on climate and militarism issues.

CCMP heads up coalitions of climate groups on the NO MAS! (NO Military Air Shows) campaign, increasingly with 350.org. We work with local organizations and municipalities on "Move the Money" resolutions telling Congress to move money away from militarism. The Veterans and Labor for Sensible Priorities campaign works for labor endorsement of People Over Pentagon (POP) legislation that calls for a \$100 billion decrease in the Pentagon budget. CCMP has joined with youth groups, such as Youth vs Apocalypse, who have marched against the climate crisis and militarism as they fight for their future.

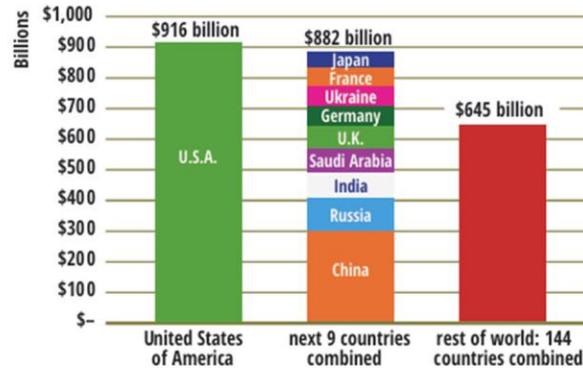
People of the Global South suffer most from our Climate Crisis and contribute to it the least.



Island nations are already heavily impacted by rising sea levels; refugees in record numbers are fleeing both climate catastrophes and war.

U.S. vs. World Military Spending, 2023

Global Total: \$2.443 Trillion



DATA SOURCE: SIPRI Military Expenditures
GRAPH: National Priorities Project • nationalpriorities.org

The bar graph shows Pentagon expenses; however, total annual costs attributable to U.S. militarism are about \$1.5 trillion. This includes expenses for veterans and about \$400 billion of the interest on the national debt.

REPORTING & REDUCING MILITARY GREENHOUSE GAS (GHG) EMISSIONS

The climate movement's reluctance to focus on military emissions stems both from the general U.S. difficulty in challenging militarism and from the lack of reporting of military emissions. Bowing to U.S. pressure, the 1997 Kyoto Protocol stipulated that most military emissions would not count toward any country's national totals. The U.S. military is globally the largest institutional source of GHG, emitting more than the militaries of the next 10 countries combined. The Department of Defense (DoD) has only reported its emissions to Congress once, in 2021. Following executive orders from Biden, in 2022 DoD issued GHG emission reduction goals, but with neither concrete plans nor congressional funding to implement them. The GHG emissions from creating concrete and steel for rebuilding after a war must be considered as part of military emissions.

RACISM & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

The environmental justice and climate justice movements have increasingly organized in frontline communities, opposing the climate and environmental damage from fossil fuel and other corporations that have heavily affected Black, Indigenous and people of color, poor and working-class people. We focus our public education efforts (150+ presentations to date) and activism on environmental and climate damage due to war, to 750 overseas U.S. military bases, and to stateside military bases with their toxic legacies.

REDUCING THE U.S. MILITARY BUDGET & REDIRECTING FUNDS

In the United States, militarism is considered indispensable, unchangeable, benign, and/or invisible. Money for the military and wars, over \$21 trillion since 2001, appears to come from some magical source and without the limitations applied to social program funds. Results? Not one U.S. war or intervention in the last 75 years has helped create a stable democracy. Meanwhile, the Pentagon has failed all six of its audits. Money going to fund U.S. global militarism should be re-directed to support displaced workers, fund public health, end poverty, transition to renewables, and promote ecological preservation and restoration.



MOVE THE MONEY

