

Proposal for a SftP Militarism Working Group.

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- What is militarism?
- How does it affect scientists and science?
- How does it affect society and what can scientists do about that?
- Can we learn better to communicate and effectively discuss militarism and other potentially controversial topics?

Militarism allows for the presumption of and preparation for war.

- "...the reliance on a relatively small number of volunteer fighters; **heavy reliance on complex technologies**; and the rationalization and expansion of government advertising and recruitment programs designed to promote military service."
- [Roberts, Alasdair. *The Collapse of Fortress Bush: The Crisis of Authority in American Government*. New York: New York University Press, 2008, 14 and 108–117.](#)

So STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) is seen as necessary for USA competitiveness and for the success of the "War on Terror."

Scientists are intrinsic movers of militarism.

- National Academy of Sciences reports *Rising Above the Gathering Storm* and *Rising Above the Gathering Storm, Revisited: Rapidly Approaching Category 5*
- America Competes Legislation of 2007, 2010, 2015 increased spending for science and technology with collaborations btw universities, corporations, and various federal agencies, including the DoD.

The Department of Defense (DoD) is the largest employer of scientists in the USA.

BUT many scientists work for other military and security federal agencies, defense contractors, or have military funding in academic laboratories.



ASBMB 2015 Annual Meeting, Boston 2015

Militarism on campus is about the money. It is invisible. It buys compliance as well as technology.

- DoD lab research- applied, basic, medical
- 17 intelligence agencies- war is labeled “security.”
- 1.4 million academics with Top Secret clearance
- Law enforcement grants, ICE and Joint Terrorism Task Forces, etc.
- Homeland Security contracts, alliances, initiatives, Centers of Excellence, etc

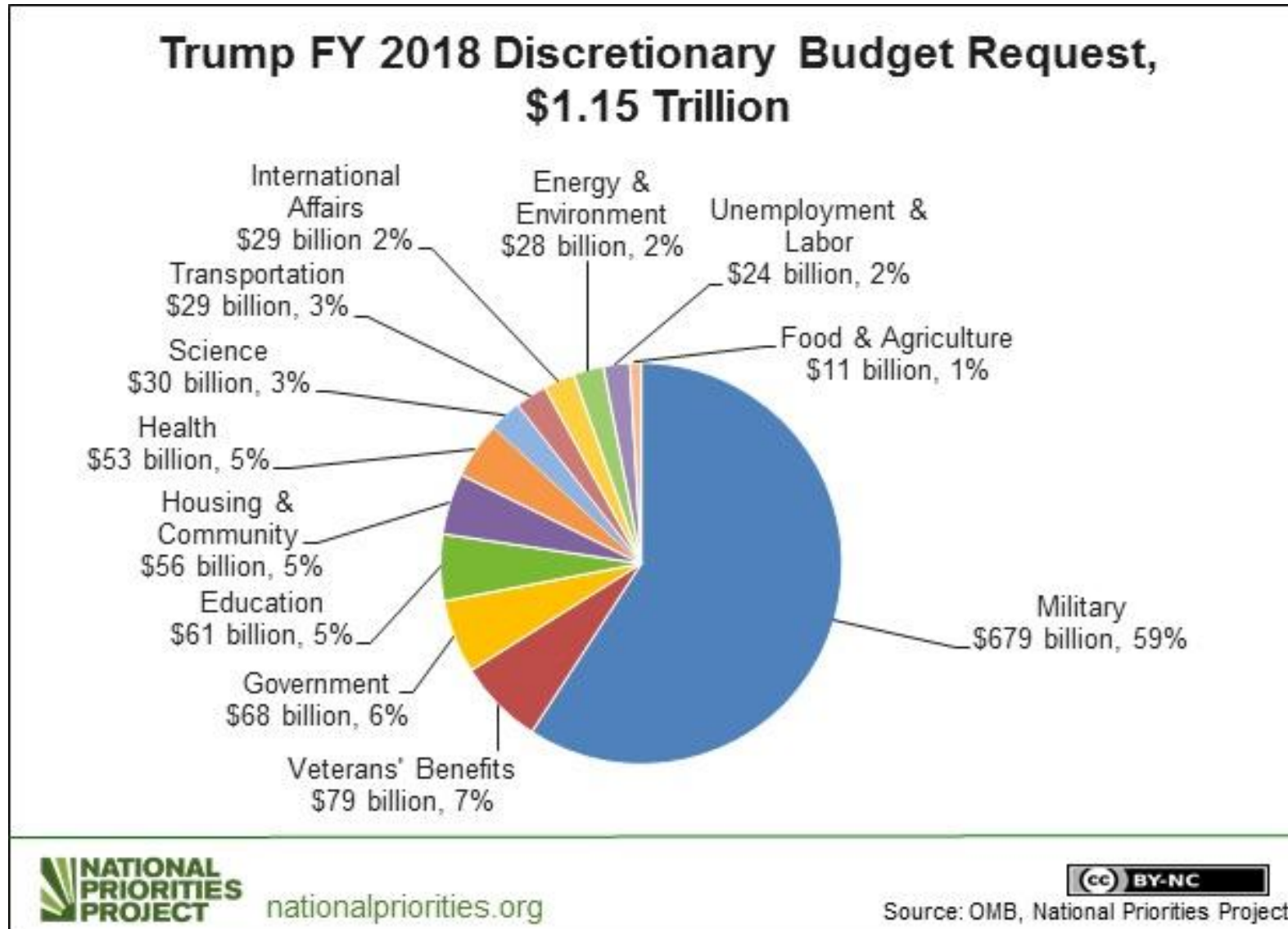
- Arkin, William M. and Alexa O’Brien. 2015. These are the 100 Most Militarized Universities in America. Vice News, November 5, 2015.
- Arkin, William M. and Alexa O’Brien. 2015. “The Most 100 Militarized Universities in America: Our Ranking Explains. Vice News, November 5, 2015.

And the \$\$ is hard to track.

- “...one of the problems is that for any university as big as Carnegie-Mellon, it’s really difficult to identify military ties, because the funding streams associated with the military come from so many different sources. The Department of Defense, of course, DARPA, O.N.R., there’s a stream of acronyms that many people are unaware of, and then there are all those third party contractors when Boeing and Lockheed contribute funds to other individual researchers or centers like the Robotics Institute and Software Engineering Institute.”
- Antiwar activist David Meieran, in interview with Amy Goodman of Democracy Now, 11/19/2004

- **So, while many object to the COI of corporate funding, military funding is almost invisible, much less objected to. We can:**
- Daylight military and military contractor funding for research on campus and make a blueprint for others to use.
- Discuss (and write about) the ethics and implications of military funding on campuses.
- Describe alternative programs e.g. the Peace Engineering Program at Drexel University.
- Propose individual and group actions.

The federal budget and use of government funds support militarism at the expense of social programs.



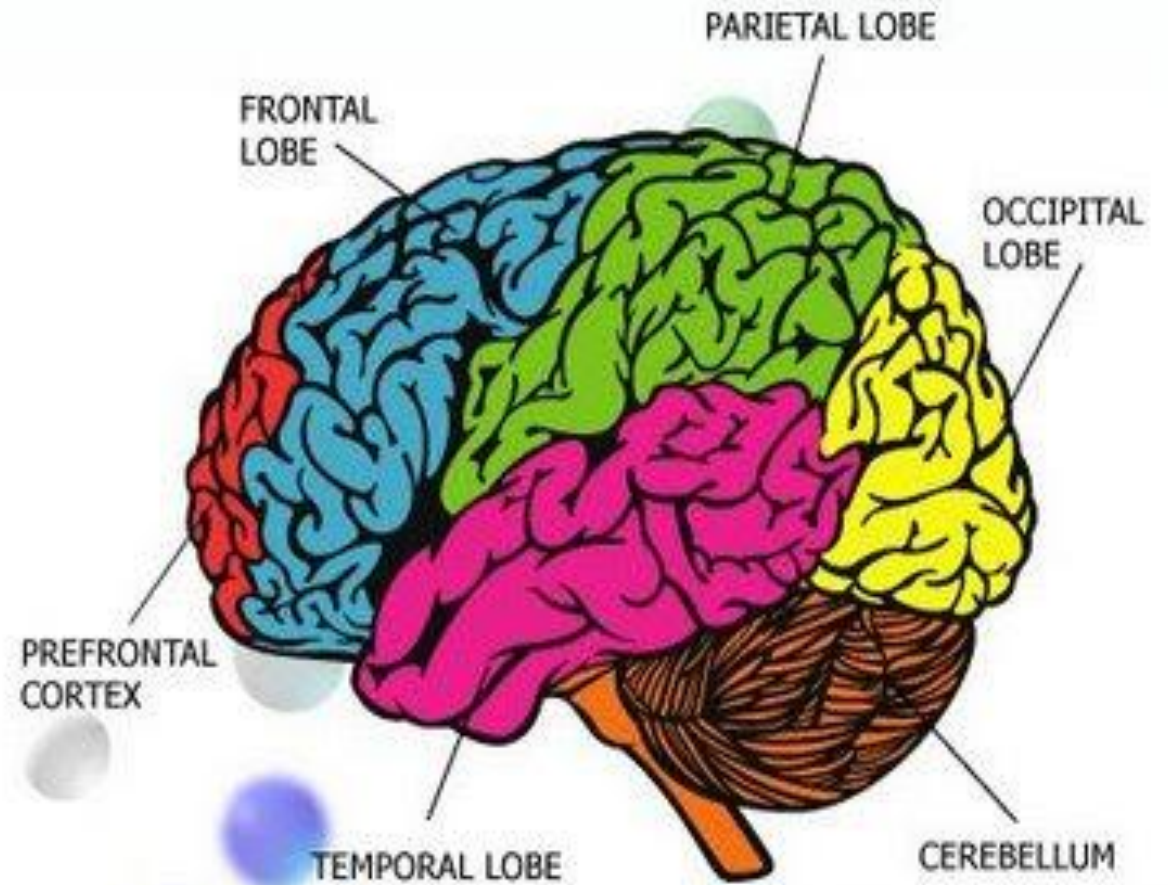
The process of military recruiting in public schools is based often on games and is disconnected from war.



We know that the brain is not yet developed in the young students being recruited to war.

- The prefrontal cortex, which handles reasoning, grows during the pre-teen years. But it is pruned back during adolescence, increasing impulsive, risk-taking behavior—and susceptibility to addiction.

(<http://learn.genetics.utah.edu/content/addiction/adolescent/>)



International law on the recruiting of minors-minors are recognized as needing protection.

- **1977** UN Additional Protocols to 1949 Geneva Conventions prohibited military recruitment and use of children under the age of **15**.
- **1989** UN Convention on the Rights of the Child- Defined a child for the 1st time as any person under **18**.
- **1999** Africa Union Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child prohibits state armed forces from recruiting volunteers under **18**.
- **2000** UN Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (OPAC)- UN prohibits the conscription of children under **18** and their participation in hostilities. **(THE USA REQUIRED AN EXCEPTION SO IT COULD STILL RECRUIT STUDENTS UNDER 18).**

Federal laws and policies support or enforce military recruiting of minors in high school.

- National Defense Authorization Act and No Child Left Behind /Every Student Succeeds Act (NCLB/ESSA)
- Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC)
- Armed Forces Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)
- Selective Service (SS) registration
- Delayed Enlistment Program

Scientific expertise could weigh in to mitigate or change policies.

STEM classes cost \$\$\$. The DoD teaches STEM to middle through high schools to have access to students, to develop needed tech- trained kids, and promote a good image of the military. There are dozens of programs.

Vision Statement



To be the premier Department of Defense youth outreach program for raising the interest in learning and improving the knowledge and skills of our nation's at risk youth so that we may develop a highly educated and skilled American workforce who can meet the advance technological requirements of the Department of Defense.

Environmental degradation by military activities.

- The USA is the largest user of fossil fuel in the world
- War destroys the environment
- Resource wars will increase as global warming effects increase
- Few environmental groups try to mitigate war or military activities



The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was passed by the UN in July 2017.

56 countries have ratified it as of Jan. 2018

No nuclear power (Including the USA) either voted for or ratified the treaty.

How can scientists show the militarism that informs our nuclear weapons policy?

We will focus on problems scientists are involved with.

We hope to collaborate with other SftP working groups and other organizations, as militarism is a vital force in many facets of society, especially in the USA.

The challenges of effectively talking with scientists about militarism.

- Most don't see it. And don't want to.
- Many believe it is "political" to mention it.
- Some don't want to risk losing funding from the military by talking about militarism.
- Some feel defensive and challenged if questioned about their own roles in militarism.
- Some enthusiastically applaud militarism, military funding, and believe that war settles conflicts.
- Some feel hopeless about the ubiquity of military \$\$.
- **We want to develop scripts and hints for having these sometimes difficult conversations.**