

Critical Considerations

Has Eisenhower's worst nightmare come true?

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On April 3, 2026, the Trump administration submitted [its budget request for FY 27](#), which included an astounding \$1.5 trillion (\$1,500,000,000,000) for the military. This figure represents an increase of almost fifty percent over FY 26, and the increase itself (\$500 billion) is larger than the military budgets of every nation on Earth, including U.S. rivals Russia and China. On top of this, the Trump administration is also asking for additional supplemental funding (as much as \$200 billion) for its war on Iran.

[In a recent article published on both the TomDispatch and Foreign Policy in Focus websites](#), William D. Hartung, a senior research fellow at the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft, said, “Right at this moment, we are witnessing an unprecedented shift of resources from domestic investments in the United States to the military-industrial complex.”

For example, Pentagon budget experts estimate that the cost of the first two weeks of the U.S./Israel war on Iran was \$28 billion. This sum is more than three times the Trump administration's annual budgets for both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Environmental Protection Agency, government entities responsible for protecting the country from emerging pandemics and the increasingly detrimental impact of climate change.

This massive influx of money to the Pentagon is even more scandalous in light of cuts to nutrition assistance programs and health care such as subsidies to help people purchase health insurance under the Affordable Care Act.

[In his farewell address to the nation](#) on January 17, 1961, outgoing President Dwight Eisenhower warned the country about the influence of the military-industrial complex. He said,

This conjunction of an immense military establishment and a large arms industry is new in the American experience. The total influence—economic, political, even spiritual—is felt in every city, every state house, every office of the Federal government. We recognize the imperative need for this

development. Yet we must not fail to comprehend its grave implications. Our toil, resources and livelihood are all involved; so is the very structure of our society.

In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist.