

# John Kerry U.S. Senate

## JOHN KERRY ON THE DEFENSE BUDGET

"We are continuing a defense buildup that is consuming our resources with weapons systems that we don't need and can't use."

The Reagan Administration has no rational plan for our military. Instead, it acts on misinformed assumptions about the strength of the Soviet military and a presumed "window of vulnerability", which we now know not to exist.

And Congress, rather than having the moral courage to challenge the Reagan Administration, has given Ronald Reagan almost every military request he has made, no matter how wasteful, no matter how useless, no matter how dangerous.

The biggest defense buildup since World War II has not given us a better defense. Americans feel more threatened by the prospect of war, not less so. And our national priorities become more and more distorted as the share of our country's resources devoted to human needs diminishes.

### JOHN KERRY HAS A DIFFERENT APPROACH

John Kerry believes that the time has come to take a close look at what our defense needs are and to plan for them rather than to assume we must spend indiscriminately on new weapons systems.

John Kerry believes that we can cut from \$45 to \$53 billion from the Reagan Defense budget this year. Some of these cuts include:

#### MAJOR NUCLEAR PROGRAMS

* MX Missile	Cancel	\$5.0 billion
* B-1 Bomber	Cancel	\$8.0 billion
* Anti-satellite system	Cancel	\$ 99 million
* Star Wars	Cancel	\$1.3 billion
* Tomahawk Missile	Reduce by 50 per cent	\$294 million

#### LAND FORCES

* B-100 Chemical Weapons	Cancel	\$100 million
* AH-64 Helicopters	Cancel	\$1.4 billion
* Division Air Defense Gun (DIVAD)	Cancel	\$638 million

(over)

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* Patriot Air Defense Missile	Cancel	\$1.3 billion
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NAVAL FORCES

* Aegis Air-Defense Cruiser	Cancel	\$800 million
* Battleship Reactivation	Cancel	\$453 million

AIRCRAFT

* AV-8B Vertical Takeoff and Landing Aircraft	Cancel	\$1.0 billion
* F-15 Fighter Aircraft	Cancel	\$2.3 billion
* F-14A Fighter Aircraft	Cancel	\$1.0 billion
* F-14D Fighter Aircraft	Cancel	\$286 million
* Phoenix Air-to-Air Missile	Cancel	\$431 million
* Sparrow Air-to-Air Missile	Cancel	\$264 million

In addition, acquisition of equipment and supplies should depend on real defense needs, not inter-service rivalries. "National security" is no excuse for bad management practices. The Congressional Budget Office and the General Accounting Office agree that an additional \$8 billion can be saved by implementing the recommendations of the President's own Grace Commission Report.

"I will never forget that the Defense Budget is not an employment program, but a tool to provide the nation with a strong, lean and stabilizing defense posture."

Finally, John thinks it's time for a Senator who will stand up for what's right and not go along with what's expedient.

"If we don't need the MX, the B-1 or these other weapons systems, then there's no excuse for casting even one vote for unnecessary weapons of destruction and as your Senator, I will never do so."