

Obama plans to cut defense spending to Pre-9/11 levels

Only politicians determined to spend \$1 billion a day to "stimulate" the economy could balk at committing tens of millions less than that to bolster our national defense.

But that's where the Obama administration and liberals in Congress stand at this writing: Investing another \$26 billion next year to protect America isn't as important as putting American taxpayers on the hook for trillions in dubious spending to take over businesses and "create or save" jobs.

President Obama's defense budget for fiscal 2010 falls short of providing sufficient resources for the nation's core defense program. What's more, the administration's spending plan invites a hard question: Is it forcing the Defense Department onto an ill-advised diet that will deprive the U.S. military of modern weapons and equipment?

The White House's own numbers anticipate cutting defense spending within five years to slightly above

2001 levels as a percentage of America's economic output -- and to pre-9/11 levels within 10 years.

"The FY 2010 budget request fails to provide adequate funding for the basic building blocks in the core defense program, which are needed to protect national security over the long term."

That's the assessment of Baker Spring, a leading authority on national security and the defense budget at The Heritage Foundation. Inadequate military funding is the subject of today's "à la chart," the complimentary infographic from Heritage.

"Fighting and winning the long war on terrorism will require a sustained commitment to fund national defense programs," Spring says in a new paper detailing shortcomings of the president's plan. "The U.S. needs to fund defense programs that protect Americans and friends and allies against ongoing threats from hostile states such as Iran and North Korea, as well as potential threats such

as the one posed by a hostile China."

Since the Kennedy administration, annual defense spending has averaged 5.3 percent of gross domestic product (GDP).

Once the Vietnam War wound down, the military budget didn't approach 6 percent of GDP again until President Reagan's defense buildup of the 1980s. The Clinton administration reduced defense spending; it didn't climb again as a percentage of GDP until after the terror attacks of 2001.

President Obama's plan allocates \$562.8 billion to core defense, an amount equivalent to 3.8 percent of GDP. Funding then is slated to increase by about \$10 billion a year over four years -- but Spring notes that means no real growth after inflation.

"As a result, the core defense budget will fall to less than 3.3 percent of GDP in 2014," he writes.

So far, Congress generally has agreed with the administration's plan.

Two exceptions are Sen. James Inhofe (R-Okla.) and Rep. Trent Franks (R-Ariz.), who introduced bills to commit the nation to spending no less than 4 percent of GDP on core defense for 10 years.

In real money, that would mean adding \$26.4 billion to next year's defense budget and a total of \$397.4 billion through fiscal 2014.

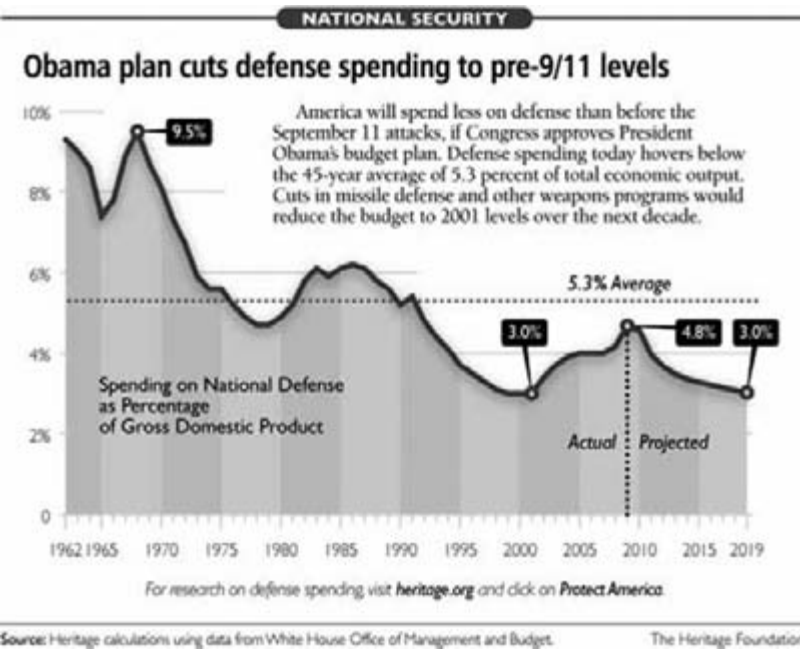
The Pentagon's emphasis needs to be on "developing and deploying the next generation of weapons and equipment that U.S. forces will need to fight effectively," Spring says. Doing what's possible to protect America from missile attack, rather than cutting \$1.2 billion from that program, must be part of that focus, he argues in a related paper.

It's a good time for Americans to consider: Should the defense of their

freedom be sacrificed to liberal lawmakers' pet causes and to runaway automatic spending on Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid -- not to mention a government-run health care program costing well into the trillions?

"Growth in entitlement spending, not defense

spending, created the fiscal crisis facing the federal government," Spring says. "Defense expenditures -- even spending 4 percent of GDP on defense -- will not jeopardize either the health of the economy or the prosperity of the American people."



Disabled Veterans Receive Property Tax Relief

(AUSTIN) - Military veterans who are totally disabled or cannot work because of service-related injuries will pay no property taxes on their homes under a new tax exemption approved by the Legislature.

"Texas has done the right thing by providing property tax relief for our military men and women who have served their country and paid a heavy price," Texas Comptroller Susan Combs said.

House Bill 3613 provides an exemption of the total appraised value of the homesteads of Texas veterans who have received a 100 percent disability rating or are considered unemployable by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The new law is effective for the 2009 tax year, and swift action is necessary to update local property tax rolls and ensure eligible veterans receive the new tax break.

Eligible disabled veterans must apply for the tax exemption through their county appraisal district. An application form for veterans and appraisal districts to use can be found on the Comptroller's Web site at <http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/taxforms/vetexempt.pdf>.

Veterans may also need to contact their mortgage lenders to adjust their escrow payments.

Dove, Season to open Sept. 18

Austin, Texas - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service SRC (Service Regulation Committee) has approved the 2009-2010 Texas dove season, including a 70-day season and 15-bird daily bag statewide, and a 16-day early teal season.

Additionally, the SRC approved moving the Texas South Zone dove season opening the Friday nearest Sept. 20, but no earlier than the 17th. This year the season will open Sept. 18.

Texas dove season in the North and Central Dove Zones will run

Governor Rick...

spending of the funds and the grant will total \$1.5 million over four years.

Pct. 2 Commissioner Erasmo "Eddie" Chapa said the funds come from the operation of oil wells in the "middle of the Gulf of Mexico," and can only be used for environmental remediation of coastal areas.

Commissioners also approved an application for a \$532,832 grant to pay overtime wages to sheriff's deputies who patrol the coastline in our county.

Deputy investigator Danny Solis, said that the money can also be used for equipment such as thermal imaging devices that can spot human movement in the dark. Such equipment will aid in spotting drug movers and illegal aliens with criminal or terrorist intentions.

Known as "Operation Stonegarden" the funds can be used county wide.

In other business:

Commissioners agreed to abandon the portion of a road at Port Mansfield that crosses property leased by Manuel "Manny" Armenta and his wife, Susan. The couple has bought the Port Mansfield Marina and are busy adding a second floor and expanding the business.

Mrs. Armenta said they plan to reopen the business in late July and that they expect to add a restaurant at a later date.

from Tuesday, Sept. 1 through Sunday, Oct. 25 and reopen Saturday, Dec. 26 through Sunday, Jan. 9, with a 15-bird bag and not more than two white-tipped doves.

The South Zone dove season will run Sept. 18-Nov. 3, reopening Dec. 26-Jan. 17 with a 15-bird bag and not more than two white-tipped doves.

Possession limit is twice the daily bag for all migratory game birds except light geese, which currently does not have a possession limit.

The Special South Texas White-winged Dove Area will open to white-winged dove afternoon-only (noon to sunset) hunting the first two full weekends in September running from Sept. 5-6 and 12-13 and reopen when the regular South Zone season begins on Friday, Sept. 18 through Tuesday, Nov. 3 and again from Saturday, Dec. 26 through

Wednesday, Jan. 13. The Special White-winged Dove Area season takes four of the allowable 70 days, so when the regular season opens, this area most close four days earlier than the rest of the South Zone. The daily bag limit is 15 birds, not more than four mourning doves during the first two weekend splits and 2 white-tipped doves. Once the general season opens, the aggregate bag limit will be 15.

The Service also approved a proposal to give TPWD the option to adjust a portion of the boundary of the Special White-winged Dove Area. This change would remove portions of Jim Hogg and Staff counties.

Texas' 16-day September teal season will run Sept. 12-27.

The season for rail and gallinule is Sept. 12-27 and Oct. 31-Dec. 23; for snipe, Oct. 31-Feb. 14; and for woodcock, Dec. 18-Jan. 31.

The Chronicle/News will be closed Friday, July 3, in observance of Independence Day. We will re-open at 8 a.m. Monday.

Raymondville Chronicle & Willacy County News

Notice of Public Hearing on Kenedy County Central Appraisal District 2010 Budget

The Kenedy County Central Appraisal District will hold a public hearing on a proposed budget for 2010.

The hearing will be held on July 13, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. at the Kenedy County Justice Center.

A summary of the proposed budget follows:

The total amount of the Budget.	\$136,810
The total amount of increase over The current year's budget	\$12,310
The number of employees compensated under the proposed budget	1
The number of employees compensated Under the current budget	1

The appraisal district is supported solely by payments from the local taxing units served by the appraisal district.

If approved by the appraisal district board of directors at the public hearing, the proposed budget and reappraisal plan will take effect automatically unless disapproved by the governing bodies of the county, school districts, cities and towns served by the district.

Copies of the proposed budget and reappraisal plan are available for public inspection in the office of each of the governing bodies. A copy is also available for inspection at the appraisal district office.

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will be closed on the following days:
July 3, 6, & 7, 2009
Regular business hours will resume July 8, 2009.