

## Global military spending up 37% since 1997, new study reports :: David Goodner



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World military expenditures topped 1.2 trillion dollars last year, an increase of 37 percent since 1997, **according to a press release sent by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.**

The United States is the world's biggest military spender and accounts for almost half of global military expenditures each year.

The costs of the war in Iraq are projected to exceed two trillion dollars by 2016.

“It is worth asking how cost-effective military expenditure is as a way of increasing the security of human lives, if we talk about avoiding premature deaths and disability due to current dangers,” said Elisabeth Skons, a SIPRI Programme Leader.

“For example, we know that millions of lives could be saved through basic health interventions that would cost a fraction of what the world spends on military forces every year.”

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