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**DID YOU KNOW?**

**The Army  
Spent  
\$6.5  
Trillion  
It Can't  
Explain**



→ In 1996, Congress passed legislation requiring all federal agencies to undergo annual audits, but a July 2016 report by the U.S. Defense Department's inspector general found that the Army alone has accumulated \$6.5 trillion in expenditures that can't be accounted for over the past two decades.

As Dave Lindorff reported for the news website This Can't Be Happening!, the DOD "has not been tracking or recording or auditing all of the taxpayer money allocated by Congress—what it was spent on, how well it was spent, or where the money actually ended up." But the Army wasn't alone. "Things aren't any better at the Navy, Air Force and Marines," he added.

The report appeared at a time when "politicians of both major political parties are demanding accountability for every penny spent on welfare....Ditto for people receiving unemployment compensation," Lindorff wrote. Politicians have also engaged in pervasive efforts "to make teachers accountable for student 'performance,'" he added. Yet, he observed, "the military doesn't have to account for any of its trillions of dollars of spending...even though Congress fully a generation ago passed a law requiring such accountability."

In March 2017, after Trump proposed a \$52 billion increase in military spending, Thomas Hedges reported for *The Guardian* that "the Pentagon has exempted itself without consequence for 20 years now, telling the Government Accountability Office that collecting and organizing the required information for a full audit is too costly and time-consuming."

The most recent DOD audit deadline was September 2017, yet the Pentagon, Congress and the media don't seem to have paid any attention.