

Letter: Lawmakers must take aim at defense budget

At a time when budgets are tight and programs and services in our community are being cut back, the Pentagon budget keeps getting bigger.

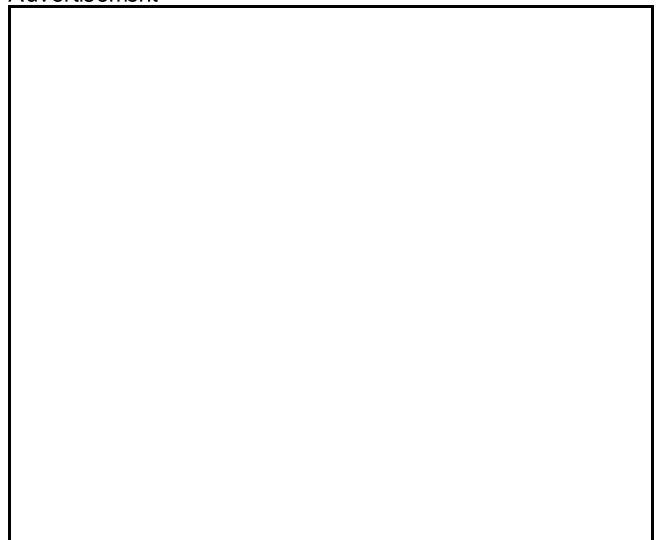
The secretary of defense announced on Jan. 26 that he plans to slow the rate of growth for the Pentagon budget, but even under this proposal in 10 years the Pentagon budget would still be bigger than it is today.

During the past decade, the Pentagon budget has grown by 100 percent.

Some of that growth was to pay for the wars, but a lot of it went right into the annual budget. We are all having to cut back. The Pentagon should have to as well.

I hope that our members of Congress, including Rep. Michele Bachmann and Sens. Al Franken and Amy Klobuchar, will stick with the current law, which requires the Pentagon to cut its budget by nearly \$1 trillion during the next decade — twice what the secretary is proposing.

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