

## LEGISLATIVE - NATIONAL

The VCOC Legislative Committee drafted the following VCOC National Legislative Objectives for 2010. These objectives will be presented **for approval at the 8 Jan meeting of the full VCOC.**

### NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE TOP PRIORITY OBJECTIVES

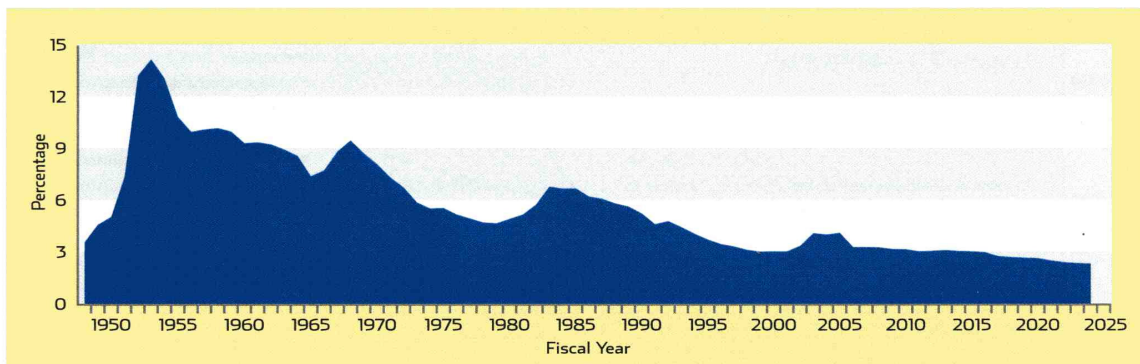
2010 -2011

#### Strengthen the All Volunteer Force

Our nation is at war and defense is the first duty of national government. We are in an “era of persistent conflict” and we need a national strategy for the long term violent extremism. Also, the threat of a conventional high intensity war is a real possibility. We must re-balance our force to meet the full spectrum of potential conflict. Our defense budget must match our strategy; not the reverse.

**We need a wartime budget!** Our country can afford, and must devote, a greater share of its resources to national defense. Past wars have required a larger sacrifice from our nation; this war is no less important. Our defense budget must be increased to at least 5% of our GDP! Only the military is bearing the brunt of war; we must quit shortchanging them. Also, we need a national solution to our energy problem in order to maximize our available defense dollars.

**Defense Spending as a Percentage of GDP  
(1948-2024)**



The Defense budget for FY 2010 represents approximately 3.6% of the U.S. Gross Domestic Product and is projected to decline even further to levels far below what the country has sustained in the past – even in peacetime.

**1. Increase the size of ground forces:** We are finally starting to increase the size of our land forces. But, we have dangerously stretched our Army and no longer have a viable strategic reserve. We must rebuild our readiness! We urge Congress to fully fund and permanently increase the end strength of the active Army to 700,000; ARNG to 358,000, Army Reserve to 206,000 and Marines to 202,000. Do not reduce USAF/Navy strength to increase our land forces.

**2. Prevent the erosion of TRICARE benefits:** Cost savings in the Defense Budget must not be borne by service members who have served an arduous 20 - 30 year career. TRICARE increases are unfair to those serving and to those who have served. ***We must have a permanent fix to the Medicare statutory reimbursement rate-setting formula!!***

**3. Help the Widows and Wounded:** The “Widows Tax” (SBP/DIC offset) is grossly unfair as is the concurrent receipt injustice. Relief for both has been sought for years to no avail. Congress has applied its “funding offset rules” to widows and wounded; but not to failed commercial institutions. If Congress can find billions for “clunkers”, it can find the money for our widows and wounded too. Our Wounded Warriors deserve the best mental health care this nation can provide.

***DRAFT as of 9 Nov 2009***

*/ Sam Wilder, COL, USA, Ret, VCOC Legislative chair (and President-elect for 2010-2011)  
VCOC Legislative Chair for 2010/2011 is Don Kaiserman, COL, USA, Ret (also VCOC 1<sup>st</sup> VP)*

*VCOC Legislative Vice-Chair for National Legislation  
is Stu Williams, COL, USA, Ret, of Mt Vernon Chapter  
[shw13@worldnet.att.net](mailto:shw13@worldnet.att.net)*

See VCOC Website (National Legislative Section)  
for previous year objectives and more info:  
**VirginiaMOAA.com**