



Exposing Corruption. Exploring Solutions.

PROJECT ON
GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT

Outside In: How Watchdogs Fight Government Fraud and Corruption

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Project On Government Oversight

Founded in 1981, POGO is a nonpartisan independent watchdog that champions good government reforms. POGO's investigations into corruption, misconduct, and conflicts of interest achieve a more effective, accountable, open, and ethical federal government.

POGO was founded in 1981 by: Pentagon Insiders



POGO at a Glance

POGO oversees federal agencies, Congress, and government contractors. We made our mark in the 1980s by looking into Pentagon waste, fraud, and abuse, spotlighting overspending on toilet seats (\$640), coffee makers (\$7,600), and hammers (\$436).

POGO at Work

POGO uses investigative journalism techniques to shed light on the government's activities, including working with whistleblowers and anonymous sources and accessing information through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

How POGO Works

- **IDENTIFY** systemic corruption or other misconduct in the federal government
- Launch independent **INVESTIGATIONS**
- Work with whistleblowers, insiders, and other knowledgeable individuals to research and confirm **FINDINGS**
- Recommend common-sense solutions for **POSITIVE CHANGE**
- **INFORM THE PUBLIC** of findings
- Work with government officials to initiate systemic policy **IMPROVEMENTS**
- Continue to demand a more **ACCOUNTABLE** and **TRANSPARENT** federal government

Making A Change

By applying internal and external pressure through the media, the public, government insiders, and policymakers, POGO helps ensure that the federal government implements policies and programs in a manner that benefits all Americans.

INDEPENDENCE

INTEGRITY

REPUTATION

CREDIBILITY

POGO Funding

In order to preserve our independence, POGO does not knowingly accept contributions from anyone who stands to benefit financially from our work. POGO does not accept contributions from the government, labor unions, or for-profit corporations exceeding \$100, and limits contributions from law firms to less than 1% of POGO's operating budget. POGO does accept employee-directed contributions and donor-matching funds.

POGO's Areas of Interest

- 1. Contract Oversight**
- 2. Financial Oversight**
- 3. Good Government**
- 4. Government Corruption**
- 5. Government Oversight**
- 6. Government Secrecy**
- 7. Homeland Security**
- 8. Housing**
- 9. National Security**
- 10. Natural Resources**
- 11. Nuclear Security & Safety**
- 12. Public Health**
- 13. Transportation**
- 14. Whistleblower Issues**

Blowing the whistle without blowing their cover



Life of a Whistleblower

- Public
- Non-Public
- Anonymous

Pitfalls

- **A slow government**
- **Political wrangling**
- **Burdening government**
- **Costs of good government**
- **Preventing innovation**
- **Reluctant whistleblowers**
- **Access to government information**
- **Litigation**

Federal Spending Oversight

“Men must turn square corners when they deal with the Government.”

United States Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes. *Rock Island, Arkansas & Louisiana R. Co. v. United States*, 254 U.S. 141, 143, 41 S. Ct. 55, 65 L. Ed. 188 (1920).

On May 8, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson issued Executive Order (E.O.) 11222, which instructed agencies to establish “standards of ethical conduct for government officers and employees.” President Johnson stated that “**every citizen is entitled to have complete confidence in the integrity of [their] government.**”

Scandals

- **Corporations**
- **Executive Branch Officials**
- **Congressional Officials**
- **Government Programs and Missions**

Contracting Reality

- \$ Inadequate Competition
- \$ Deficient Accountability
- \$ Lack of Transparency
- \$ Risky Contracting Vehicles

Federal Contract Spending

FY 2000

\$205 BILLION



Federal Contract Spending

FY 2014

**\$445
BILLION**

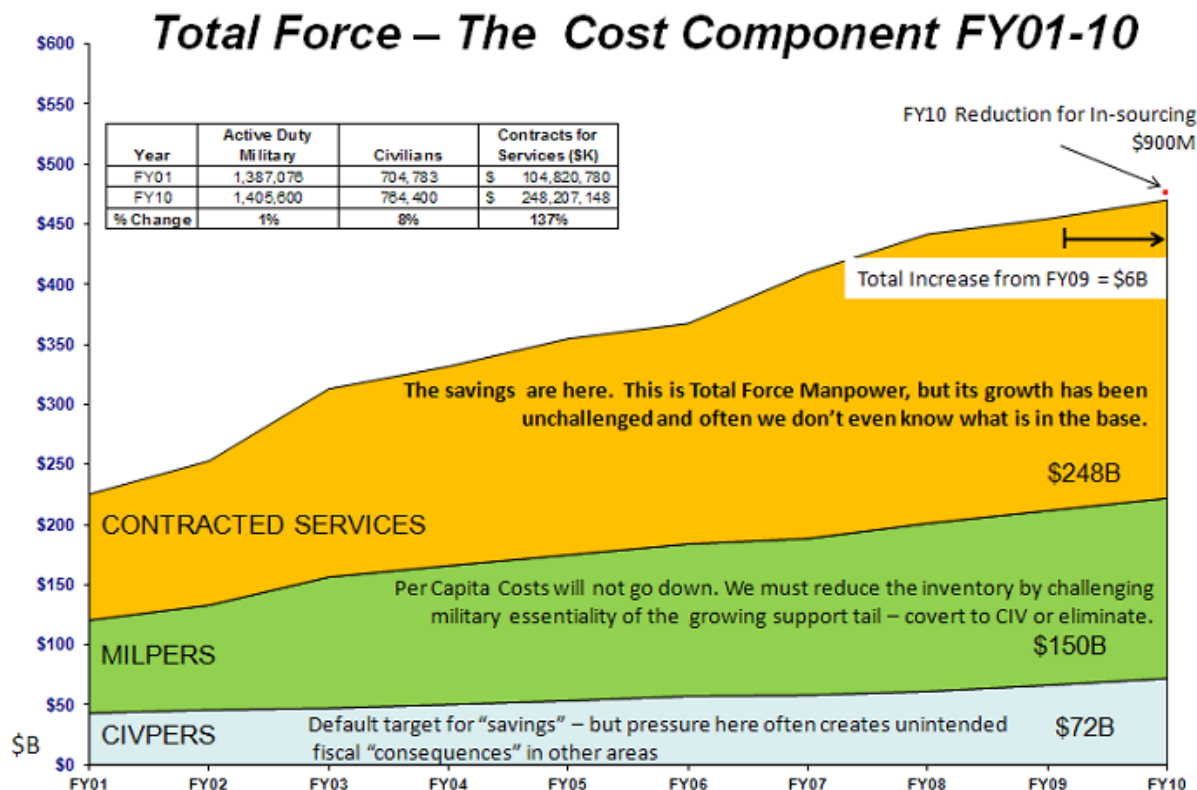


Federal Service Contract Spending

FY 2014

\$281 BILLION





National Defense Budget Estimates for FY2011 ("Current Dollars") – BASE and OCO \$\$
 OUSD(P&R) – Requirements and Program and Budget Coordination Directorate

6

Federal Grant Spending

FY 2000
\$295 BILLION



Federal Grant Spending

FY 2014

**\$591
BILLION**



What to Ask

1. What are we buying?
2. What mission will we accomplish?
3. Who is involved in the decision?
4. How are we buying it?

Making It All Work

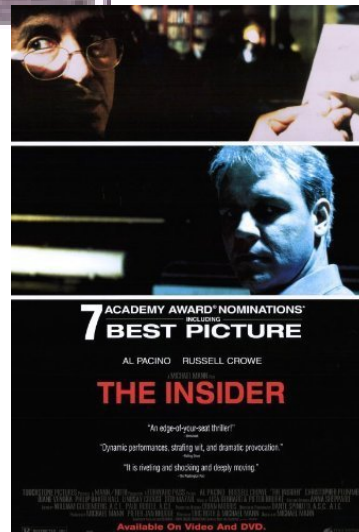
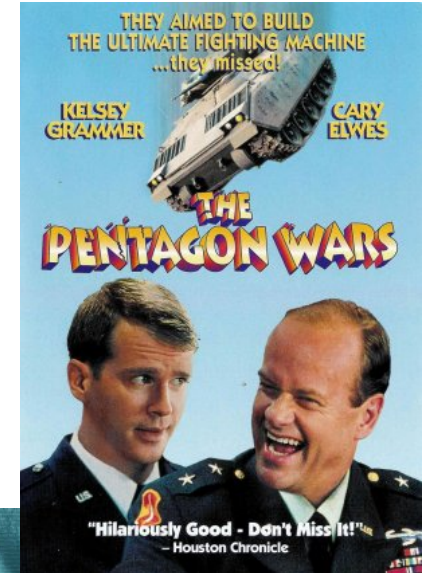
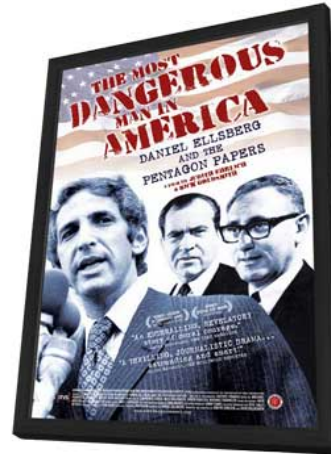
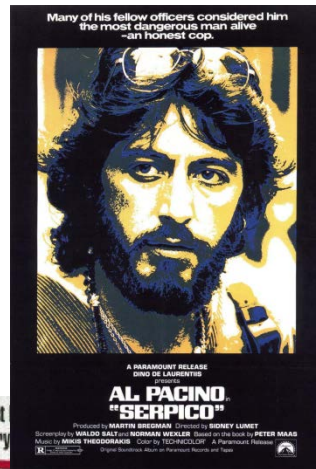
- Whistleblowers
- Executive Branch (White House)
- Federal Agencies (DOJ, agency staff, IGs)
- Congress (Personal Staff and Committees)
- Other NGOs
- Contractor Competitors
- Civil Society
- Media

Anti-Corruption Entities

- Department of Justice (DOJ)
- Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
- Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)
- Federal Election Commission (FEC)
- Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
- Government Accountability Office (GAO)
- Inspectors General (IG)
- Federal Auditors (ex. COs, DCAA, DCMA)
- Office of Government Ethics
- Agency-level ethics offices
- Congress
- Courts
- Private entities (especially competitors)
- Non-governmental organizations (including watchdogs & unions)
- Media
- Taxpayers

Challenges By Vested Interests

- Industry Associations
- Contractors
- Lobbyists
- Government Personnel (often conflicted)
- Members of Congress (constituents or campaign supporters)



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