

After September 11, 2001, increases in annual U.S. Department of Defense spending dwarfed increases in spending for all other departments critical to counterterrorism combined (U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Department of State, and U.S. Department of Homeland Security) by five to one, even when the costs of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq were excluded.<sup>14</sup> In aggregate terms, the Pentagon significantly outspent other U.S. government agencies on counterterrorism-related issues. Between 2001 and 2007, for example, the U.S. Congress approved a total of \$609 billion for a wide range of counterterrorism purposes. Approximately 90 percent went to the U.S. Department of Defense. These resources went to military operations and assistance in a range of areas, such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Philippines, Somalia, and the Horn of Africa. The U.S. Department of State and USAID together received about \$40 billion for counterterrorism assistance and foreign-aid programs over this period.<sup>15</sup> As one assessment of U.S. counterterrorism spending concluded,

As we ask our military to become the leading edge of our international engagement, we are putting a security face on that engagement. However benign and well-intended our forces, for other nations and peoples this can create a backlash against our policies and our presence. In the end, leading with our military chin could have the effect of endangering, rather than increasing, American security.<sup>16</sup>

Military force is too blunt an instrument to defeat most terrorist groups. Military forces may be able to penetrate and garrison an area that terrorist groups frequent and, if well sustained, may temporar-

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<sup>14</sup> David C. Gompert and James Dobbins, "A Far Too Costly Pentagon," United Press International, February 27, 2006.

<sup>15</sup> Amy Belasco, *The Cost of Iraq, Afghanistan, and Other Global War on Terror Operations Since 9/11*, Washington, D.C.: Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress, 2007, p. 6. On the cost of the global war on terrorism, also see Steven M. Kosiak, *The Global War on Terror (GWOT): Costs, Cost Growth and Estimating Funding Requirements*, testimony before the U.S. Senate Committee on Budget, February 6, 2007.

<sup>16</sup> Gordon Adams, *Budgeting for Iraq and the GWOT: Testimony, Committee on the Budget*, United States Senate, February 6, 2007.