

would necessitate shrinking the size of the Army, Air Force and Marine Corps to the smallest numbers in decades and also **lead to the smallest Navy in nearly 100 years.**"

Pentagon Spokesperson George Little

"There is no doubt in my mind that the continued strength and global reach of the American military will remain the greatest deterrent against aggression and the most effective means of preserving peace in the 21st century, as it was in the 20th."

Former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates

"Everything's on the table, everything's being discussed. There are all sorts of scenarios. We're looking at every aviation program, every shipbuilding program. We're trying to wring out cost wherever and whenever we can find it."

Under Secretary of the Navy Bob Work

"I also share your deep trepidation over sequestration and the potential for cuts so devastating and so dramatic that we place at risk the very security we're charged to provide, that we negate the very reason we exist."

*Former Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff
Admiral Mike Mullen*

Cutting another \$600 billion from national defense "is **a red line that this government should not cross.**"

Pentagon Spokesperson George Little

"Currently, we are not able to meet all the forward presence requirements of the other combatant commanders... in the case of another major contingency operation, the United States Marine Corps would not, right now, be able to meet the timelines of the combatant commanders in response to another major contingency operation should it occur simultaneously with current operations in Afghanistan." In reference to \$1trillion cuts, "We would start to have to make some **fundamental changes in the capability of the Marine Corps.**"
General Joseph F. Dunford, Jr., Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, U.S. Marine Corps

"I will tell you that some of our low-density, high-demand requirements, personnel recovery, ISR, and a few are **right at the ragged edge.** In reference to \$1trillion cuts, "We would

have to go into a fundamental restructure of what it is our nation expects from our Air Force."

General Philip M. Breedlove, Vice Chief of Staff, U.S. Air Force

On current ability to meet needs of commanders in field, "No, **we cannot meet all the other COCOM commander's validated demands.** Those are prioritized through the global force management process. We work hard to meet them. We are not able to meet them all." In reference to \$1trillion cuts, "You're reaching an area there that I think would definitely we'd have to look very, very hard at our strategy, what we can and cannot do."

General Peter W. Chiarelli, Vice Chief of Staff, U.S. Army

"To meet Combatant Commanders needs unconstrained, doing some analysis, **I need about 400 ships. I have 285 ships.**" In reference to \$1trillion cuts, "If we have a reduction of the kind that was passed around here - \$400 billion or \$886 billion - without a comprehensive strategic review, a fundamental look at what were asking our forces to do, we won't be able to meet the Global Force Management Plan today. It will exacerbate our readiness trends. And if we have to go to a reduction of force structure, I am concerned about the industrial base."

Admiral Jonathan W. Greenert, Chief of Naval Operations, U.S. Navy