

2-15-12

This is Phil Arnot for Community Comment on KINS Radio.

through

Well our current Administration ~~who~~ President Obama has just announced that they will cut the Pentagon budget by half a trillion dollars or more in the next decade. According to an editorial in the Wall Street Journal, this Administration's record to date is undeniable. Defense was targeted from day one that he stepped into office and Mr. Obama disguised this new strategic review earlier last month. The Pentagon on Thursday previewed the cuts announcing that the 2013 defense budget due this Spring will decline for the first time since 1998.

As spending on entitlements rises, budget cuts disproportionately hit the Pentagon, which accounts for a fifth of Federal spending, but over half of the deficit reduction.

The current Administration wants to turn to our Navy as its strategic defense. However, when you look at the Navy and discover that there is damage there as well because the Pentagon announced that seven cruisers will be decommissioned sooner than plan. [^]Plans to purchase new Virginia class submarines, a large deck amphibious ship and smaller attack vessels will be delayed or reduced. Chief of Naval Operations Jonathan Greenert stated that the Navy will be smaller after these cuts than it is today.

Many will say that Navy's fleet is already too small and its ships are too old to perform its multiple missions. The fleet has shrunk by half in two decades and currently stands at 285 in number. At the height of the Reagan war build up in 1987, the Navy had 568 carriers, destroyers, submarines and other ships.

All of this comes at a time when we are being threatened by Iran. If Israel attacks Iran as it is being discussed and it this takes place sometime in the Spring, Iran is likely to attack the United States, or at least ^{our} the Navy vessels. In the Pentagon's last defense review in 2002, it said that the United States needed a larger Navy, not a smaller one. ^{Iran} ^{needs}

And it is not just Iran, China is increasing its navy by leaps and bounds. China's strategic goal is to undercut America's naval preeminence in the Pacific.

I leave you with a point to ponder. With these cuts in the Pentagon budget and the reduction of our fleet in the US Navy, do you think that this current Administration believes that the planet has gotten smaller?

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