



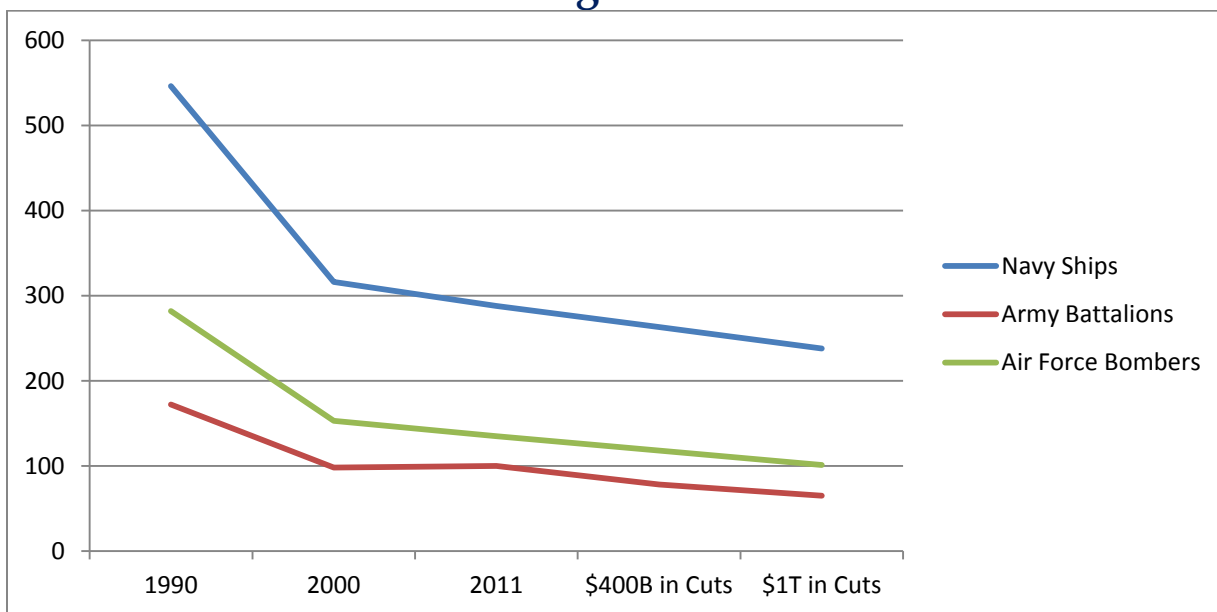
# Strong Defense: **STRONG AMERICA**

\*\*\*\*\* An initiative of Congressman Randy Forbes

## A Snapshot of the Future of American National Defense

*Shrinking the Fleet, Decimating the Marines, and Defaulting on Commitments*

### Disturbing Trend-Lines



**ARMY.** Today the Army is 569,400 strong. Under cuts already enacted their strength will be cut to 481,000 and if \$1 trillion dollar cuts are enacted, as required by sequestration, the Army will shrink to 426,000. This means nearly 150,000 soldiers separated and **a force below pre-9/11 levels insufficient to respond to contingencies.**

**NAVY.** Navy plans call for 313 ships. Today it has 288 ships. CBO has said the Navy will not reach its goal if average funding levels continue. Under cuts already enacted, the fleet will shrink to roughly 263 ships. Under trillion dollar cuts the Navy will shrink to less than 240 ships-**the smallest Navy in nearly 100 years.**

**AIR FORCE.** Under \$1 trillion defense cuts, the Air Force will have 2,843 less fighter jets and 181 fewer bombers than it had in 1990. This means our nation would only have **35% of our fighter inventory** and **nearly two-thirds fewer bombers.**

**MARINE CORPS.** The Marine Commandant has said he needs 186,800 Marines to carry out his missions. With cuts already enacted he will have 173,000 and under \$1 trillion cuts he will have 145,000- **the smallest Marine Corps in 5 decades.**

## What it Means for Our Security

It brings 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*

It will be "**extraordinarily difficult and very high risk**" to cut \$1 trillion from defense spending.

*Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff General Martin Dempsey*

"The roughly \$1 trillion in cuts ... would **seriously weaken our military, and it would really make us unable to protect this nation from a range of security threats that we face**

*Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta*

## Impacts for the Security of Friends and Allies

Questionable ability to respond to crises involving **North Korea or Iran**

Potentially leaves long-time partners like **Taiwan and Israel undefended** against competitors like China and Iran

**Stabilizing influence of U.S. presence diminished** in key economic and strategic areas around the world such as the Asia-Pacific region

## Why It Matters

"Our record of predicting where we will use military force since Vietnam is perfect. We have never once gotten it right."

*Former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates*

"Without the bolstering weight of a robust, capable and agile military, the United States risks trading its powerful diplomatic influence to become just another member of the United Nations."

*Congressman Randy Forbes*