

## Defending America – On A Budget

Friday, January 27, 2012 | MATTHEW BARAKAT, Associated Press



WASHINGTON – Defense Secretary Leon Panetta unveiled a plan Thursday that would cut nearly a half-trillion dollars from the defense budget over the next decade by retiring older planes and ships, delaying some projects and shrinking U.S. ground forces by about 100,000. Amid concerns from some lawmakers that the cuts would endanger security, Panetta cast the proposal as a response to changing times. Panetta said the plan shifts the Pentagon's focus from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to future challenges in Asia, the Mideast and in cyberspace. More special operations forces like the

Navy SEALs who killed Osama bin Laden will be available around the world, he said.

Panetta announced that the administration will request a 2013 budget of \$525 billion, plus another \$88 billion for operations in Afghanistan. Combined, those totals are about \$33 billion less than the Pentagon is spending this year. Panetta said, however, that the Pentagon's base budget will grow to \$567 billion in 2017. At that point, the cumulative budgets over five years would be \$259 billion less than had been planned before the administration struck a deficit-cutting deal with Congress last summer that requires projected defense spending to be reduced by \$487 billion by 2022.

Among the details Panetta disclosed: The Army would shrink by 80,000 soldiers, from 570,000 today to 490,000 by 2017. That is slightly larger than the Army on 9/11. The Marine Corps would drop from today's 202,000 to 182,000 -- also above the level on 9/11. The Air Force would retire some older planes including about two dozen C-5A cargo aircraft and 65 of its oldest C-130 cargo planes. The Navy would keep a fleet of 11 aircraft carriers but retire seven cruisers earlier than planned. Panetta described those cruisers as "lower priority," and said they either have not been upgraded with "ballistic missile defense capability" or require significant maintenance. The plan would delay purchase of some other ships, including a new Virginia-class submarine. Purchase of F-35 stealth fighter jets, to be fielded by the Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps, would be slowed. Current plans for building a new generation of submarines that carry long-range nuclear missiles would be delayed by two years. The current fleet of nuclear-capable bombers and land-based nuclear missiles would be left unchanged. Panetta said the move would not harm the country's nuclear deterrence. Military pay raises will remain on track until 2015, when the pace of increase will be slowed by an undetermined amount. However, the Pentagon recommended an increase in health care fees, co-pays and deductibles for retired military members. President Obama will ask Congress to approve a new round of domestic base closures, although the timing of this was left vague and there is little chance that lawmakers would agree to this in a presidential election year.

1. In appropriate paragraph form, compare and contrast the pros and cons of Defense Secretary Leon Panetta unveiling a plan this past Thursday that would cut nearly a half-trillion dollars from the defense budget over the next decade. Thoroughly explain your reasoning and provide specific artifacts and evidence limited solely to passage above to support your response. Create and illustrate a Venn Diagram to effectively explore relationships and patterns and to make arguments about relationships between sets. **(LA.910.3.2.2; LA.910.1.6.2; MA.912.D.7.2; MA.912.A.10.1)**
2. A matrix is a unique rectangular arrangement of numbers in rows and columns. Select any eight digits from the passage above. Write the eight digits as corresponding elements into a matrix and simplify. Explain how a number minus its opposite is twice the original number. Explain why the difference of two numbers is not less than the sum of those two numbers. **(MA.912.A.1.4; MA.912.A.2.13; MA.912.A.10.3)**
3. A pentagon is a derivative from the Greek root word *pente* and is any five-sided polygon as well as the headquarters of the U.S. Department of Defense, located in Arlington County, Virginia. Sketch a pentagon that is equilateral but not equiangular. One side of a pentagon measures  $(7x - 3)$  inches whereas another is  $(4x + 6)$  inches. Find a side length and evaluate one of the expressions with the value of  $x$ . What is the perimeter of this pentagon? Can you find the circumference? Explain. A segment that joins two nonconsecutive vertices of a polygon is called a diagonal. How many diagonals exist in a pentagon? **(MA.912.G.2.3); (MA.912.G.2.5); (MA.912.G.8.2); (MA.912.G.8.6);**
4. Using contextual clues only, define the following italicized words: *cumulative*, *deterrence*, *ballistic*, and *deductibles* as obtained from the passage above. Additionally, use each word in a complete sentence to demonstrate further comprehension. **(LA.910.1.6.3; LA.910.1.6.1)**
5. **SARASOTA MILITARY ACADEMY WORD-OF-THE-WEEK** Create a concluding paragraph aligned with the passage above using the following italicized word: *laconic* (*adj.*) Terse in speech of writing. **(LA.910.1.6.1; LA.910.1.6.5)**

**Next Generation Sunshine State Standards** adapted from [floridastandards.org](http://floridastandards.org). Standards specifically addressed in this edition are strategically aligned with state standards and annotated adjacent to the respective inquiry.

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