



Obama's Sequestration

Obama's Sequestration Makes Devastating Cuts To Defense As A Result Of His Failure To Lead

OBAMA HAS OUTLINED DANGEROUS CUTS TO DEFENSE AND NATIONAL SECURITY

Obama Outlined \$109 Billion Worth Of Cuts Set To Take Effect In FY2013. "The White House Office of Management and Budget said in the report to Congress today that it would have to chop \$109 billion from government programs in fiscal 2013, split evenly with \$54.7 billion coming from defense and \$54.7 billion from programs outside defense, including an \$11 billion reduction, or 2 percent, from Medicare." (Roger Runnigen, "Obama Sequestration Report Warns Of 'Devastating Impact' Of Cuts," [Bloomberg](#), 9/14/12)

Obama's Sequestration Report "Simply Lists The Dollar Amount Of The Cuts But Fails To Address Their Real-World Impact." "The 394-page report, however, simply lists the dollar amount of the cuts but fails to address their real-world impact. For instance, it would cut the number of food inspectors and air traffic controllers on the job. But when asked on a conference call, a top White House official wouldn't say whether such cuts would require closing meatpacking plants or shutting down smaller airports." (Andrew Taylor, "Administration Warns Of 'Destructive' Budget Cuts," [The Associated Press](#), 9/14/12)

Dangerous Cuts To Defense Spending And Veterans Care Are Mandated By Obama's Sequester

"Total Defense Function Spending Must Be Reduced By \$54.667 Billion." ("OMB Report Pursuant To The Sequestration Transparency Act Of 2012," Office Of Management And Budget, p.6, 9/14/12)

- **Obama's Sequestration Would Cut Defense Programs By 9.4 Percent And A Number Of Pentagon Accounts By 10 Percent.** "The overview: There would be a 9.4 percent cut to most defense programs — except those exempted in the sequestration law — and a 10 percent cut to a handful of other Pentagon accounts that are not subject to annual congressional appropriations." (Austin Wright And Jonathan Allen, "White House Releases Sequester Details," [Politico](#), 9/14/12)
- **The White House Sequestration Report Claims That "Sequestration Would Result In A Reduction In Readiness Of Many Non-Deployed Units."** "While the Department of Defense would be able to shift funds to ensure war fighting and critical military readiness capabilities were not degraded, sequestration would result in a reduction in readiness of many non-deployed units, delays in investments in new equipment and facilities, cutbacks in equipment repairs, declines in military research and development efforts, and reductions in base services for military families." ("OMB Report Pursuant To The Sequestration Transparency Act Of 2012," Office Of Management And Budget, p. 1, 9/14/12)

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta Says Cuts To Defense Will Result In The “Smallest Ground Force Since 1940, The Smallest Number Of Ships Since 1915 And The Smallest Air Force In Its History.”

“Defense Secretary Leon Panetta spelled out a doomsday scenario Monday that he said could occur if Congress fails to take action to avoid a \$1 trillion cut in defense spending over the next decade. Panetta, responding to a letter from Republican Senators John McCain and Lindsay Graham, said cuts of nearly \$100 billion a year would leave the United States with its smallest ground force since 1940, the smallest number of ships since 1915 and the smallest air force in its history.” (David Alexander, “Panetta Spells Out Budget Cut Doomsday Fears,” [Reuters](#), 11/14/11)

- **“‘The Impacts Of These Cuts Would Be Devastating For The Department,’ Panetta Wrote Monday In His Letter, Which Was Released By The Senators.”** (David Alexander, “Panetta Spells Out Budget Cut Doomsday Fears,” [Reuters](#), 11/14/11)
- **If Sequestration Takes Effect, The Navy’s Current Fleet Of 285 Ships Would Be Reduced To 235 Ships.** “Ayotte later told New Hampshire reporters that Navy officials say if the cuts take place, the current fleet of 285 ships must be reduced to 235 over the next 10 years, which, she said, would be the smallest U.S. Navy since 1915. She said the Navy believes 313 ships are needed to adequately fulfill defense needs.” (John DiStaso, “Ayotte Warns: Defense Cuts Potentially ‘Devastating’ For Shipyard, Contractors,” [New Hampshire Union Leader](#), 3/29/12)
- **The Reduction Would Include Submarines, Of Which The Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Is Responsible For Maintenance On.** “The reduction would include submarines, and Ayotte noted that the shipyard is responsible for maintenance of attack submarines.” (John DiStaso, “Ayotte Warns: Defense Cuts Potentially ‘Devastating’ For Shipyard, Contractors,” [New Hampshire Union Leader](#), 3/29/12)

Defense Programs Will Be Cut At A Higher Rate Than Domestic Programs. “The overview: There would be a 9.4 percent cut to most defense programs — except those exempted in the sequestration law — and a 10 percent cut to a handful of other Pentagon accounts that are not subject to annual congressional appropriations. Medicare would get hit with a 2 percent cut, while domestic discretionary programs — such as scientific grants and Education Department programs — would be subject to 8.2 percent cuts. Most mandatory domestic programs — those that are funded based on eligibility — would be slashed by 7.6 percent.” (Austin Wright and Jonathan Allen, “White House Releases Sequester Details,” [Politico](#), 9/14/12)

- **Obama’s Sequestration Would Cut \$5 Million From The Armed Forces Retirement Home.** (“OMB Report Pursuant To The Sequestration Transparency Act Of 2012,” Office Of Management And Budget, p. 169, 9/14/12)
- **Obama’s Sequestration Would Cut \$4 Million From Veterans Employment And Training.** (“OMB Report Pursuant To The Sequestration Transparency Act Of 2012,” Office Of Management And Budget, 9/14/12)
- **Obama’s Sequestration Would Cut \$6.867 Billion From The Defense Department’s Operation And Maintenance, Army.** (“OMB Report Pursuant To The Sequestration Transparency Act Of 2012,” Office Of Management And Budget, pp. 42, 9/14/12)
- **Obama’s Sequestration Would Cut \$296 Million From The Defense Department’s Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Fund.** (“OMB Report Pursuant To The Sequestration Transparency Act Of 2012,” Office Of Management And Budget, pp. 48, 9/14/12)
- **Obama’s Sequestration Would Cut \$2.010 Billion From The Defense Department’s Aircraft Procurement, Air Force.** (“OMB Report Pursuant To The Sequestration Transparency Act Of 2012,” Office Of Management And Budget, pp. 48, 9/14/12)
- **Obama’s Sequestration Would Cut \$1.325 Billion From The Defense Department’s**

Afghanistan Security Forces Fund. ("OMB Report Pursuant To The Sequestration Transparency Act Of 2012," Office Of Management And Budget, pp. 43, 9/14/12)

- **Obama's Sequestration Would Cut \$4.27 Billion From The Defense Department's Operations And Maintenance, Air Force.** ("OMB Report Pursuant To The Sequestration Transparency Act Of 2012," Office Of Management And Budget, pp. 43, 9/14/12)
- **Obama's Sequestration Would Cut \$3.879 Billion From The Defense Department's Operations And Maintenance, Defense-Wide.** ("OMB Report Pursuant To The Sequestration Transparency Act Of 2012," Office Of Management And Budget, pp. 40, 9/14/12)
- **Obama's Sequestration Would Cut \$3.269 Billion From The Defense Department's Defense Health Program.** ("OMB Report Pursuant To The Sequestration Transparency Act Of 2012," Office Of Management And Budget, pp. 41, 9/14/12)
- **Obama's Sequestration Would Cut \$4.291 Billion From The Defense Department's Operations And Maintenance, Navy.** ("OMB Report Pursuant To The Sequestration Transparency Act Of 2012," Office Of Management And Budget, pp. 42, 9/14/12)
- **Obama's Sequestration Would Cut \$2.141 Billion From The Defense Department's Shipbuilding And Conversion, Navy.** ("OMB Report Pursuant To The Sequestration Transparency Act Of 2012," Office Of Management And Budget, pp. 46, 9/14/12)

As Embassies Overseas Are Being Attacked, Obama Announced Sequestration Would Cut Millions For Embassy Security

Obama's Sequestration Would Cut \$1.084 Billion From The State Department's Diplomatic And Consular Program, Including \$2 Million For The Protection Of Foreign Missions And Officials, And \$129 Million For Embassy Security, Construction, And Maintenance. ("OMB Report Pursuant To The Sequestration Transparency Act Of 2012," Office Of Management And Budget, pp. 135-136, 9/14/12)

OBAMA PUT SEQUESTRATION IN THE DEBT CEILING DEAL, THEN STOOD ON THE SIDELINES AND LET THE SUPER COMMITTEE FAIL, TRIGGERING THE CUTS

The Idea For Including A Trigger In The Debt Ceiling Deal Which Included Defense Cuts Originated From The White House. "Lew, Nabors, Sperling and Bruce Reed, Biden's chief of staff, had finally decided to propose using language from the 1985 Gramm-Rudman-Hollings deficit reduction law as the model for the trigger. It seemed tough enough to apply to the current situation. It would require a sequester with half the cuts from defense, and the other half from domestic programs. There would be no chance the Republicans would want to pull the trigger and allow the sequester to force massive cuts to Defense." (Bob Woodward, *The Price Of Politics*, 2012, p. 339)

- **The White House Was Pushing For Defense Cuts So That They Could Sell Their Plan To The "Rank And File."** "Boehner seemed to agree. Simply put, the White House and the Democrats were going to be able to sell a deal to their rank and file because of Defense cuts." (Bob Woodward, *The Price Of Politics*, 2012, p. 204)
- **White House: "We Have An Idea For The Trigger. ... Sequestration."** "At 2:30 p.m. Lew and Nabors went to the Senate to meet with Reid and his chief of staff, David Krone. 'We have an idea for the trigger,' Lew said. 'What's the idea?' Reid asked skeptically. 'Sequestration.' Reid bent down and put his head between his knees, almost as if he were going to throw up or was having a heart attack. He sat back up and looked at the ceiling. 'A couple of weeks ago,' he said, 'my staff said to

me that there is one more possible' enforcement mechanism: sequestration. He said he told them, 'Get the hell out of here. That's insane. The White House surely will come up with a plan that will save the day. And you come to me with sequestration?' Well, it could work, Lew and Nabors explained. What would the impact be? They would design it so that half the threatened cuts would be from the Defense Department. 'I like that,' Reid said. 'That's good. It doesn't touch Medicaid or Medicare, does it?' It actually does touch Medicare, they replied. 'How does it touch Medicare?' It depends, they said. There's versions with 2 percent cuts, and there's versions with 4 percent cuts." (Bob Woodward, *The Price Of Politics*, 2012, pp. 326)

Biden Admitted That Cutting Defense Spending, Particularly Veterans Programs, Was Politically Dangerous But Said, "We Should Look At It." "On the national side, including Defense, the State Department, Homeland Security and Veterans Affairs, Lew said, 'We are beginning a strategic review – a fast strategic review is being initiated. But it's possible to talk about the numbers without Defense being on the table.' 'Veterans Affairs,' Biden interrupted in some wonderment. The military was sacred, and it could be political suicide for Democrats to consider cuts for vets. 'This is a dangerous area,' he acknowledged, 'but we should look at it.'" (Bob Woodward, *The Price Of Politics*, 2012, p. 115)

Obama "Sat Happily On The End Of The Bench" And Let The Super Committee Fail

"President Barack Obama Prides Himself On Being A Clutch Player, But He Sat Happily On The End Of The Bench As The Clock Ran Out On The Supercommittee." (Carrie Budoff Brown and Glenn Thrush, "Obama's Rules Of Disengagement," [Politico](#), 11/22/11)

- **Rather Than Working With The Super Committee, Obama Believed The Greater Political Benefit Came From Campaigning For A Second Stimulus.** "And with the economic recovery at risk and Democrats pressing for help, Mr. Obama sees greater economic and political benefit in emphasizing his \$447 billion job-creation plan rather than longer-range deficit reduction. And that is precisely what he has been doing all over the country since September, after giving the committee his own proposals for \$3 trillion in tax increases and spending cuts to reduce projected deficits over 10 years." (Jackie Calmes, "Panel Is At Impasse, But Obama Sees No Reason To Step In," [The New York Times](#), 11/9/11)
- **The White House Made An Early Decision To Keep Its Distance From The Super Committee.** "For administration officials, the prospect of the committee's failure reinforces the decision early on for President Obama to keep his distance, focus on his jobs plan and avoid the sort of prolonged debt-limit fight with Republicans that dragged down his approval ratings last summer." (Jackie Calmes, "Panel Is At Impasse, But Obama Sees No Reason To Step In," [The New York Times](#), 11/9/11)

NBC's David Gregory Asked "If [Obama Is] So Committed To Bringing Down The Nation's Debt, Why Is He Not In There Driving Toward A Solution?" DAVID GREGORY: "If he's so committed to bringing down the nation's debt, why is he not in there driving toward a solution? My own reporting tells me, from people involved in those talks, that the White House has had much more of a hands-off approach to dealing with what the Super Committee will agree to on reducing the debt." (NBC's "Meet The Press," 11/13/11)