

# THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

## Redirect war funds to create jobs

May. 17, 2012 12:00 AM

Your editorial about the 2013 reduction in the military budget being a "financial calamity" read like a press release from the conservative American Enterprise Institute ("A quiet crisis in the offing," Friday).

The logical extension of this opinion is that the U.S. must be permanently at war. American citizens are war-weary, both with the loss of human lives and as taxpayers. One of every two military dollars in the world is spent by the U.S. When is enough enough?

In 1953, President Eisenhower foresaw this: "To amass military power without regard to our economic capacity would be to defend ourselves against one kind of disaster by inviting another." Even the libertarian Cato Institute said U.S. ground forces could be cut by one-third over time without reducing U.S. security, because a large standing Army is not what is needed to counteract tactics by terrorists.

Your next editorial should be about how many U.S. jobs can be created with the money redirected from the perpetual war machine.

-- Elaine McKenna, *Phoenix*