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Heritage Foundation: You're Wrong

In a blog post today, titled [American's Don't Fear Defense Cuts? They're Wrong](#), Mike Brownfield of the Heritage Foundation erroneously asserts that:

Geography matters. If the U.S. did not have global bases, it would need twice as many ships, planes and troops to cover the same missions.

This entire argument, which makes up the basis of Brownfield's position, is patently false. What Heritage, and Mike Brownfield, would like you to believe is that the missions America is engaged in are legitimate... but that's simply not true nor are these missions essential to American safety or National Defense. In fact, there is compelling evidence to show that **our presence overseas actually makes America less safe.**

The only thing Brownfield's argument shows conclusively is that America can't afford to be the world police.

Benjamin H. Friedman, Co-Editor of the book *Terrorizing Ourselves: Why U.S. Counterterrorism Policy Is Failing and How to Fix It*, [wrote that](#):

"To really keep us safe, we should slash defense spending. Americans should prepare for fewer wars, not different ones. Far from providing our defense, our military posture endangers us. It drags us into others' conflicts, provokes animosity, and wastes resources."

In a more recent article titled [U.S. Military Should Cost Less and Do Less](#), published yesterday on CNN.com, the CATO Institute's Christopher Preble wrote:

Indeed, stationing our troops in foreign lands does more to aid terrorist recruitment than to stop it.

...the mere presence of foreign troops can engender resentment, animosity and, in the worst cases, violence. People don't like having foreigners coming into their country and advising them on how to run their schools, farm their fields and administer justice.

Interested in reading more?

Check out the [CATO Institute's Defense Budget/Policy Page](#) and this exceptional article from The Freeman by Sheldon Richman entitled [Can America Afford an Empire?](#) where Sheldon points out that the extra defense expenses hidden in other departments budgets, such as the Department of Energy's nuclear-weapons program and Homeland Security, increase the Pentagon's proclaimed "defense budget" by 61.5%.

