

# Andrew Sullivan – The Dish

## Can Defense Cuts Transform Our Foreign Policy?

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Benjamin Friedman [hopes so](#):

The [Pentagon's boosters](#) are right that big cuts will limit military capabilities. But that would actually be a good thing for the United States. Shrinking the U.S. military would not only save a fortune but also encourage policymakers to employ the armed services less promiscuously, keeping American troops -- and the country at large -- out of needless trouble.

[Joshua Goldstein](#) and [Michael Cohen](#) feel similarly. Andrew Exum [dissented](#) from this view a couple of months ago. Spencer Ackerman [bets](#) that proposed cuts won't happen:

Don't believe the poverty story that the service chiefs brought to the House Armed Services Committee on Wednesday morning...The so-called "sequestration" process that the chiefs fear, whereby automatic congressional cuts decimate the Pentagon budget — in Defense Secretary Leon Panetta's memorable phrase, "[this goofy meataxe scenario](#)" — is way less automatic than advertised. Even if the military's nightmare comes to pass, there are lots of ways the Pentagon can *still* save its bloated budget, much like the kids on Elm Street always stave off Freddy Krueger.