

Cut the Waste

Hello readers of *The American Conservative*. My name is Dick Young, and I am chairman of Richard C. Young & Co., Ltd., a registered investment advisory firm dedicated to serving retired and soon-to-be retired investors who are focused on avoiding risk and securing wealth. Clients who make up our firm's base are most often prudently frugal and appreciate that virtue in others, especially in our government. My friend Jon Basil Utley, publisher of *The American Conservative* magazine you currently are holding, recently wrote about how, when discussing the Defense Department budget in Washington, frugality seems to be a taboo subject.



Jon dared to wonder why no one wants to talk about cutting waste at the Pentagon. Despite claims of fiscal responsibility in the capital, the subject of cuts to the defense budget is considered almost criminal. As Jon notes, “All the claptrap on cable news and not a word of these Pentagon boondoggles and mishandling of taxpayer funds! Most Republicans are ready to cut health care, much less reform much of its inordinate waste and monopoly pricing, but they can't talk about military waste?”

Unlike most in the nation's pundit-class, Jon provides a way forward, which I find is pretty typical of writers at *The American Conservative*. The articles are not published simply to get your head nodding in agreement with *TAC* writers. Instead, *The American Conservative* suggests realistic ways forward.

For example, Jon goes so far as to suggest 16 ways to cut defense spending. A few of my favorites are the closing of some of America's 5,000 military facilities at home and abroad, participating in fewer expensive foreign interventions, and combining the military's various medical services.

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Warm regards,
Richard C. Young
Chairman, Young Research & Publishing Inc.

“The military maintains some 4,000 bases inside the U.S. and 1,000 overseas with personnel in 140 nations; many installations have fewer than 100 troops. Many are simply tripwires filled with potential hostages so as to get America involved in new conflicts and wars. Vast cutbacks are possible. We need a new base closing commission to take the matter out of the hands of our corrupted Congress.”
– Jon Basil Utley

“It cost half a million in Iraq and nearly a million dollars in Afghanistan to maintain each soldier per year. Obviously fewer foreign interventions would save hundreds of billions, if not trillions, of dollars.”
– Jon Basil Utley

“Combine military medical services. Each of the armed forces has its own medical corps. An excessive number of Army colonels are doctors. The Navy and Air Force presumably have similar overstaffing, usually based on World War II models. Yet it's the infantry and Marines who suffer nearly all the casualties. Other services face fewer risks to their lives and health.”
– Jon Basil Utley