

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Tom Rooney (FL-16) today issued the following statement after the President released his proposal to dramatically reduce the size of the United States military:

“Over the last several months, we have heard [dire warnings](#) from our top military chiefs and even from Secretary Panetta about the serious consequences of defense cuts of this magnitude. I took their warnings very seriously, and I’m disappointed that the President is apparently willing to accept the grave risks of massive defense cuts.

“The President’s new strategy relies on the flawed assumption that by retreating from the world and reducing the size of our military, we can make our threats go away. This strategy of appeasement has never worked. Shrinking and weakening our military made us less safe under Presidents Carter and Clinton, and it will make us less safe under President Obama as well.

“I believe that America should speak softly and carry the biggest stick. A strong, effective military is critical to deterring our enemies, keeping America safe and preserving our interests around the world.”

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