

Trump Proposes \$1.5 Trillion Defense Budget



An artist's conception of the proposed Trump-class USS Defiant battleship. *Image credit: White House*

President Trump has proposed a \$1.5 trillion defense budget for fiscal 2027 that would begin funding of the Trump-class battleship, provide \$65.8 billion for shipbuilding, provide a pay raise for the troops and continue funding for the "Golden Dome" missile defense system.

"The Budget builds upon the historic \$1 trillion overall defense topline enacted for 2026 and requests \$1.5 trillion in total budgetary resources for 2027," says a budget outline released April 4. "This is a \$441 billion or 44-percent increase from the 2026 enacted level in combination with the \$151.5 billion in mandatory funding provided through the Working Families Tax Cut Act (WFTC), Public Law 119-21."

The budget request serves as a road map for Congress to follow, but Congress will ultimately have to approve or

disapprove the various spending levels in the president's budget, many of which will prove controversial, as it also calls for cutting renewable energy, housing and health programs.

Defense Spending

The military shipbuilding budget would include the 18 battle force ships and 16 non-battle force ships and "establishes President Trump's Golden Fleet, including initial funding for the Trump-class battleship and next generation frigates," according to the outline.

It would also "maintain or increase" procurement of Columbia- and Virginia-class submarines and would expand procurement of strategic sealift vessels, hospital ships, tankers, submarine tenders and more.

"The repair capacity of public shipyards would be increased, while improved production across the fleet would help address delays and ensure the timely delivery of vessels," the outline says.

The budget will also call for "unprecedented investments" in unmanned and counter-unmanned systems and "historic investments to aggressively scale its AI [artificial intelligence] ecosystem and ensure broad adoption throughout the armed forces."

It will also call for realigning funding from "aging, legacy platforms" toward spending on "next-generation, cutting-edge capabilities that are necessary to win 21st Century wars," reversing "a longstanding negative trend of under-resourced investment that forces DoW [the Department of War] to retain obsolete military capabilities, the sustainment of which further crowds out procurement of new systems."

To help pay for these new investments, the budget proposes further elimination of spending related to diversity, equity

and inclusion, or DEI, efforts, as well as “effectively disestablishing the department’s ‘climate’ portfolio and eliminating climate-specific funding” for electric vehicles and infrastructure, climate change research, climate-related wargames and simulations, and others.

The heads of the House and Senate Armed Services Committee praised the budget on Friday.

“America is facing the most dangerous global environment since World War II. Growing threats from adversaries such as China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, Islamic radicals, and narco-terrorists require decisive action and renewed urgency to reinvest in our defenses. This bold commitment provides the resources needed to rebuild American military capability and confront those challenges head-on,” Sen. Roger Wicker, (R-Mississippi), and Rep. Mike Rogers, (R-Alabama), said in a joint statement.

Some Democrats were less impressed. Rep. Brendan Doyle, ranking member of the House Budget Committee, said, “the President is now demanding a massive increase in defense spending, including a \$350 billion slush fund for his reckless war with Iran, while cutting billions from health care, education, housing, and more. This budget represents ‘America Last’.”

Congressional hearings on the budget request are expected to begin soon.