

Pacific Forces Wish List Seeks \$3.5 Billion More Than Biden Budget

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U.S. Indo-Pacific Command is asking Congress for a \$3.5 billion plus-up over the president's budget request as it seeks to bolster its presence in the region to deter China.

The command's wish list is the largest request on the unfunded priorities lists of six combatant commands obtained by Defense News.

Africa Command came in a distant second at \$397.8 million for its unfunded priorities list, which is largely devoted to developing a "persistent presence" in Somalia.

The \$376.7 million Northern Command wish list asks for several key upgrades to the air defense architecture of North American Aerospace Defense Command. A significant portion of the \$278.3 million list for Southern Command, which oversees U.S. forces in Latin America, is also allocated for air defenses.

European Command's \$159.5 million list also includes more cash to upgrade its bases against missile threats, while Central Command, which oversees U.S. forces in the Greater Middle East, cites <u>the threat of Iranian drones</u> in its \$280 million unfunded priorities list.

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Featured image: An MH-60S Seajawk helicopter flies past the U.S. Navy guided-missile destroyer Sterett. (MC1 Daniel Barker/U.S. Navy)

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