



Trump's 2019 Missile Defense Budget

Choosing Capacity over Capability

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Publié le 29/03/2018

Expériences alliées

President Trump's 2019 budget request includes \$12.9 billion for missile defense programs, including \$9.9 billion for the Missile Defense Agency and about \$3 billion in modernization in the military services, building upon the acceleration initiated in the \$323 million FY 2017 Above Threshold Reprogramming and the FY 2018 Budget Amendment of \$2.0 billion.

The proposed budget continues the recent trend of procurement consuming a greater portion of overall missile defense spending, reflecting a choice for prioritizing near-term capacity over longer-term capability.

With the exception of two new Pacific radars and a modest effort for tracking hypersonic threats, the request includes strikingly few changes to the program of record.

The submission fails to address past shortfalls for more research and development of new missile defense technologies and capabilities, most significantly with its lack of real movement toward a space-based sensor layer for tracking and discrimination, as opposed to merely missile warning.

Pursuit of more advanced capabilities will require substantial programmatic changes in the 2020 budget, or with a budget amendment later this year, if such capabilities are recommended by the forthcoming Missile Defense Review.

On February 12, the Department of Defense (DoD) released its budget request for FY 2019, which included a total of \$12.9 billion for missile defense-related activities. The proposed topline for the Missile Defense Agency comes in at \$9.9 billion, comprising \$2.4 billion for procurement, \$6.8 billion for research, development, test, and evaluation (RDT&E), \$500 million for operations and maintenance (O&M), and \$206 million for military construction (MILCON).

The \$9.9 billion request is a 26 percent increase from the FY 2018 budget request of \$7.9 billion. Funding for ballistic missile defense within the services includes about \$3 billion, largely for the procurement of Patriot Advanced Capability-3 Missile Segment Enhancement (PAC-3 MSE) and Standard Missile-6 (SM-6) interceptors.

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Date de parution : 29/03/2018

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