

Trump issues fiery new threat against Iran as details of US aviator's rescue emerge

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TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — U.S. President Donald Trump on Sunday made expletive-laden new threats to escalate strikes on Iran and its infrastructure if it doesn't open the Strait of Hormuz by his deadline, after American forces rescued an aviator whose Iran-downed plane fell behind enemy lines.

A defiant Iran struck infrastructure targets in neighboring Gulf Arab countries, challenged the U.S. account of the rescue and threatened to restrict another heavily used waterway in the region, the Bab el-Mandeb Strait off the Arabian Peninsula.

In a social media post, Trump vowed to hit Iran's power plants and bridges and said the country would be "living in Hell" if the Strait of Hormuz, crucial for global trade, isn't opened by Tuesday. He ended with "Praise be to Allah."

Trump has issued such deadlines before but extended them when mediators have claimed progress toward ending the war, which has killed thousands, shaken global markets and spiked fuel prices in just over five weeks.

"It seems Trump has become a phenomenon that neither Iranians nor Americans are able to fully analyze," Iranian Culture Minister Sayed Reza Salihi-Amiri told visiting Associated Press journalists in an interview in Tehran, adding that the president "constantly shifts between contradictory positions."

Both sides have threatened and hit civilian targets like oil fields and desalination plants critical for drinking water. Iran's U.N. mission on social media called Trump's threat "clear evidence of intent to commit war crime."

Iran's military joint command warned of stepped-up retaliatory attacks on regional oil and civilian infrastructure if the U.S. and Israel attack such targets there, according to state television.

The laws of armed conflict allow attacks on civilian infrastructure only if the military advantage outweighs the civilian harm, legal scholars say. It's considered a high bar to clear, and causing excessive suffering to civilians can constitute a war crime.

U.S. describes a dramatic rescue

An intense search had followed Friday's crash of the F-15E Strike Eagle, while Iran promised a reward for

the "enemy pilot."

Trump said that the service member was "seriously wounded and really brave" and rescued from "deep inside the mountains" in an operation involving dozens of armed aircraft. He said a second crew member was rescued in "broad daylight" within hours of the crash.

A senior U.S. administration official said that prior to locating the pilot, the CIA spread word inside Iran that U.S. forces had found him and were moving him for exfiltration, confusing Iranian officials. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss details not yet made public.

The fighter jet was the first known American aircraft to crash in Iranian territory since the U.S. and Israel launched the war with strikes on Iran on Feb. 28.

Iran also shot down another U.S. military plane, demonstrating both the perils of the bombing campaign and the ability of Iran's degraded military to hit back. Neither the status of the A-10 attack aircraft's crew nor where it crashed is known.

On Sunday, Iran's state television aired a video showing what it claimed were parts of U.S. aircraft shot down by Iranian forces. The broadcaster said that Iran had shot down a transport plane and two helicopters that were part of the rescue operation.

However, a regional intelligence official briefed on the mission told The Associated Press that the U.S. military blew up two transport planes because of a technical malfunction and brought in additional aircraft to complete the rescue. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the covert mission.

Two Black Hawk helicopters were hit during the rescue but navigated to safe airspace, according to a person familiar with the situation who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive information.

Diplomatic efforts continue

Trump's upcoming deadline centers on growing alarm over Iran's grip on the Strait of Hormuz, critical for shipments of oil and gas from the Persian Gulf to Europe and Asia as well as humanitarian supplies. Some ships have paid Iran for passage.

An Iranian presidential spokesperson, Seyyed Mohammad Mehdi Tabatabaei, said on social media that the strait can reopen only if some transit revenues compensate Iran for war damages.

A top Iranian adviser, Ali Akbar Velayati, warned on social media that Tehran also could disrupt trade on

the Bab el-Mandeb, a key waterway to and from the Suez Canal.

Diplomatic efforts continued.

Oman's Foreign Ministry said that deputy foreign ministers and experts from Iran and Oman met to discuss proposals to ensure "smooth transit" through the strait. Oman has often served as a mediator between the U.S. and Iran.

Egypt said that Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty had spoken with U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff and Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, as well as with Turkish and Pakistani counterparts.

Islamabad has said that it would soon host talks between the U.S. and Iran.

Gulf targets struck by Iran

In Kuwait, Iranian drone attacks caused significant damage to power plants and a petrochemical plant. They also put a water desalination station out of service, according to the Ministry of Electricity.

In Bahrain, a drone attack caused a fire at one of the national oil company's storage facilities and a state-run petrochemical plant, the kingdom's official news agency said.

In the United Arab Emirates, authorities responded to fires at a petrochemical plant in Ruwais that they said were caused by intercepted debris, halting operations.

The strikes came a day after Israel struck a major petrochemical plant in Iran that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said generated revenue used to fund the war. The petrochemical industry converts oil and gas into products like plastics and fertilizer.

Meanwhile, more than 1,900 people have been killed in Iran since the war began.

In Gulf Arab states and the occupied West Bank, more than two dozen people have died, while 19 have been reported dead in Israel and 13 U.S. service members have been killed. In Lebanon, more than 1,400 people have been killed and more than 1 million people have been displaced. Ten Israeli soldiers have died there.

Bassem Mroue reported from Tehran, Iran, Sam Metz from Jerusalem and Samy Magdy from Cairo. Jon Gambrell in Dubai, United Arab Emirates; Lisa Mascaro and Seung Min Kim in Washington; Munir Ahmed in Islamabad; and Farnoush Amiri in New York; contributed to this report.

Trump budget seeks 43% boost in defense spending, cuts in many domestic programs

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States Newsroom

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration released its fiscal 2027 budget request Friday, asking Congress to increase spending on defense programs by 43% and decrease funding for non-defense accounts by 10%.

The proposal kicks off what will be a monthslong process on Capitol Hill as lawmakers write the dozen annual government funding bills ahead of the Oct. 1 deadline.

Congress rarely adheres to the president's request entirely, and didn't do so last year, rejecting many of the proposed cuts, including to health and education.

Last year's process, the first of President Donald Trump's second term, was considerably rocky, leading to a 43-day shutdown that began in October, a brief partial shutdown that ended in early February and an ongoing shutdown for the Department of Homeland Security.

This budget request proposes Republicans again use the complex budget reconciliation process they used last year to enact the "big, beautiful" law to further bolster spending on the Pentagon and DHS.

The Defense Department would have its budget raised to \$1.5 trillion, a \$445 billion increase over its current funding level. The administration proposes lawmakers put \$1.1 trillion of that in the annual spending bill that would require bipartisan support to move through the Senate and place the other \$350 billion in the partisan reconciliation bill.

"America has already begun to strengthen and reinvigorate the military by committing tens of billions of dollars to new and innovative programs such as the Golden Dome for America, and making critical investments in the defense industrial base," the document states. "By continuing to provide the resources necessary to rebuild America's military, the Budget re-establishes deterrence, revives the warrior ethos of America's Armed Forces, and prioritizes investments against the most acute national security threats."

Department-by-department requests

The budget asks that lawmakers also increase spending on:

The Energy Department by \$4.8 billion, or 10%, to \$53.9 billion.

The Justice Department by \$4.7 billion, or 13%, to \$40.8 billion.

The Veterans' Affairs Department by

\$11.5 billion, or 9%, to \$144.9 billion in discretionary spending.

The proposal asks Congress to decrease spending on:

The Agriculture Department by \$4.9 billion, or 19%, to \$20.8 billion.

The Commerce Department by \$1.3 billion, or 12.2%, to \$9.2 billion.

The Education Department by \$2.3 billion, or 2.9%, to \$76.5 billion.

The Environmental Protection Agency by \$4.6 billion, or 52%, to \$4.2 billion.

The Department of Health and Human Services by \$15.8 billion, or 12.5%, to \$111.1 billion.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development by \$10.7 billion, or 13%, to \$73.5 billion.

The Interior Department by \$2.3 billion, or 12.9%, to \$15.9 billion.

The Labor Department by \$3.5 billion, or 25.9%, to \$9.9 billion.

The Small Business Administration by \$671 million, or 67%, to \$329 million.

The State Department and other international programs by \$15.5 billion, or 30%, to \$35.6 billion.

The Transportation Department by \$1.6 billion, or 6.2%, to \$26.6 billion.

The Treasury Department by \$1.5 billion, or 12%, to \$11.5 billion.

The budget proposes \$63 billion in funding for the Department of Homeland Security, which doesn't yet have its appropriations bill from the current year for comparison.

Senate Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Susan Collins, R-Maine, said in a statement there are issues with some of its proposals for both defense and domestic spending.

"While there are some improvements over last year's domestic discretionary budget request, including full support for the Pell Grant program, the request has several shortcomings," she said. "For example, the proposal includes unwarranted funding cuts in biomedical research. It would also terminate worthwhile programs like LIHEAP, which helps low-income families and seniors to pay their energy bills during the cold winter and hot summer months, and TRIO, which assists low-income, first-generation students in pursuing higher education."

Collins indicated she may bolster defense spending for a certain type of ship that she views as essential to the country's military.

"The request for just one DDG-51,

the workhorse of the U.S. Navy, is insufficient to counter the ever-growing Chinese fleet, which now exceeds the size of the American Navy, as well as other global threats," she said.

Privatizing TSA screening

The president's request asks lawmakers to cut funding for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's non-disaster grant program and to begin the process of offloading security screening at the nation's airports.

"The Budget begins the privatization of TSA's airport screeners by requiring small airports to enroll in the Screening Partnership Program, under which TSA pays for private screeners at designated airports," it states. "The airports that already use this program have demonstrated savings compared to Federal screening operations. The move would yield cost savings compared to Federal screening and begin reform of a troubled Federal agency."

The budget asks Congress to provide an increase of \$1.7 billion to the Bureau of Prisons to improve working conditions and pay, with \$152 million of that going to the first year costs to "rebuild Alcatraz as a state-of-the-art secure prison facility." The Bureau of Prisons has been evaluating whether to restore the closed California facility.

The budget proposes increases in funding for Trump's efforts to improve the District of Columbia, including a \$10 billion Presidential Capital Stewardship Program run through the National Park Service and \$403 million for a new Transportation Department program to upgrade security in the Metro system and other local projects.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration, which launched the Artemis II mission this week to orbit the moon, would receive a \$5.6 billion, or 23%, cut under Trump's budget proposal to a total funding level of \$18.8 billion.

It asks Congress to decrease funding for the International Space Station by \$1.1 billion and "prioritizes the rapid development and deployment of commercial space stations, while also keeping the safe de-orbit of the ISS on track for 2030."

Dems reject 'bleak' budget

Washington Democratic Sen. Patty Murray, ranking member on the Appropriations Committee, wrote in a statement that the budget request was "bleak

and unacceptable."

"President Trump wants to slash medical research to fund costly foreign wars," she wrote. "It doesn't get more backward than that, and the only responsible thing to do with a budget this morally bankrupt is to toss it in the trash."

Murray added that she expects Congress to pursue bipartisan spending bills, just as lawmakers did during last year's process, including investments in domestic issues.

"This week, President Trump said that our country cannot afford to help families with child care or health care—but his own budget proves what a ridiculous farce that is," she said. "Imagine how many families we could help if, instead of giving the Pentagon more money than they can even figure out what to do with, we cut people's heating bills in half and made child care affordable for every family in America."

Senate Budget Committee ranking member Jeff Merkley, D-Ore., wrote in a statement the request lacks detail for programs that run outside of the annual budget and appropriations process, like Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security.

"Going back decades, presidents have sent to Congress detailed budgets with 10 years' worth of detailed plans — outlining their approach to tax policy and our growing debt, as well as the solvency of our biggest programs like Medicare and Social Security," he wrote. "This budget doesn't do any of that. It's just an out-of-touch plea for more money for guns and bombs, and less for the things people need, like housing, health care, education, roads, scientific research, and environmental protection."

Minnesota Democratic Rep. Betty McCollum, ranking member on the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, said the Pentagon doesn't have an issue with how much in taxpayer money lawmakers allocate, but "a problem with efficiently spending the funding that Congress has provided them — and accounting for it."

"The President's request for \$1.15 trillion in defense spending is outrageous and unacceptable, especially when President Trump and Congressional Republicans intend to make further cuts to critical services that Americans rely on at home," she said. "Our nation cannot be secure without investments in our country's critical health care, education, nutrition, and infrastructure."

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