



Where the proliferating U.S. war machine deploys the most troops

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Donald Trump apparently believes the United States doesn't spend nearly enough money on military. In fact, his budget last week proposed a 10% increase, which the president hailed as one of the biggest bumps in defense spending of all time.

Some, of course, took issue with that superlative.

Nevertheless, Trump aims to spend a lot of cash — an extra \$54 billion to be exact — on the military. For some perspective, the amount he wants to increase federal funding by matches the entire U.K. defense budget. In total, the U.S. spends more on defense than the next seven countries combined, as you can see by this chart from the Visual Capitalist blog.

Clearly, it's expensive to spread such military might around the world. Government figures show that, excluding civilian support staff, there are about 2.1 million U.S. troops, with 1.3 million on active duty. Most of those are stationed in the U.S., but Visual Capitalist's Jeff Desjardin mapped out where you can find the rest of them.

John Glaser, associate director of foreign policy studies at the Cato Institute, recently made a case that those 800 or so bases are an unnecessary drain on the U.S. budget.

“Many view our bases as a symbol of our status as the dominant world power,” he wrote. “But America's forward-deployed military posture incurs substantial costs and disadvantages, exposing the U.S. to vulnerabilities and unintended consequences.”