

NAVY LEAGUE LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
ISSUE BRIEF: MARINE CORPS UNFUNDED PRIORITIES
April 18, 2024



ASK: Appropriate ~\$2.3 billion required to fully fund all requests on the Marine Corps Unfunded Priorities List for FY25

Quality of Life

The UPL includes necessary Quality of Life improvements to barracks, base operations support, and facilities modernization. With the accelerating challenges associated with recruitment and retention across all of the military branches, now is not the time to neglect these vital improvements that could make the difference between a Marine continuing to serve or transitioning out of the service, and between a Marine recommending military service to friends and family members versus dissuading them from joining the Corps.

Critical Weapon Systems

The Marine Corps UPL for FY25 also includes requests for essential weapon systems. Some examples of these include the Autonomous Low-Profile Vessel which could be important to resupply operations in contested waters, long range anti-ship missiles which would undoubtedly prove vital to any potential conflict among the islands of the South Pacific, and additional heavy-lift helicopters for support of our forces engaged in a long-term military conflict. These weapon systems, along with the others listed in the UPL, are not without urgent need. Let's not deny our warfighters the weapon systems and technologies that they need to fight and win.

Needed Construction

The UPL also seeks military construction funds for improvements to hangars, flightlines, and electrical systems. These improvements increase efficiency of operations, expand operational capacity, and improve overall morale among the men and women dependent on these systems and facilities. They also improve safety, ensuring that our best and bravest are not exposed to unnecessary risks prior to deploying to dangerous theatres across the globe.

The total amount sought in the Marine Corps' FY25 Unfunded Priorities List comes to \$2.3b, a rounding error in terms of the overall federal budget. Every item in this list is of critical importance to our Marines who are on the front lines of every conflict, and who will play a vital role in any potential conflict in the Pacific.