

Pathankot attack: Indian Air Force to spend over \$1 billion to secure its top air bases

By [Manu Pubby](#), ET Bureau | 4 Feb, 2016, 06.09AM IST

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NEW DELHI: The [Indian Air Force](#) will need to spend over \$1 billion for securing its air bases, after a [security audit](#) post Pathankot has pointed to the need for smart [surveillance](#) systems, drones and advanced [intrusion](#) detection systems at 54 major bases across the country.




The audit ordered by defence minister [Manohar Parrikar](#) within two days of the attack looked at the current security setup and perimeter defence at all bases and recommended a comprehensive upgrade, a senior air force official who is involved in the process said.

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"We estimate that about Rs 100-150 crore each will be required for new security measures for 54 major bases. This will be the first stage to be followed by upgrade of security of other installations," the official said. The first phase will cost Rs 5,400 crore to 8,100 crore.

IAF will now move a comprehensive security upgrade proposal to the government that will include raising new troops to guard bases, besides procurement of surveillance and anti-intrusion systems. At certain bases, quadcopter drones will also be deployed for surveillance.

"The requirements of each base are unique and there will not be any standard upgrade. Depending on the specific requirements of the base, a plan will be drawn," the official said, adding that while security audits were a routine procedure, a comprehensive plan was being moved for the first time

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THE AIR force will also move an anti-encroachment drive to free up the perimeter of its installations and has requested the government for strict implementation of the ban against construction within 100 metres of its bases



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