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DEFENSE

MARKET UPDATE

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Temporary Self-Sustaining Base Near Gaza, Israel

Up to 10,000 Personnel (NAVSUP / WEXMAC RFI)

The U.S. military is exploring whether to build a temporary base capable of housing 10,000 people near Gaza, according to an internal contracting document, as the U.S. pushes for a stabilization force to monitor a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas.

The Navy is seeking a cost estimate from a list of prequalified companies for “a temporary, self-sustaining military base of operations capable of supporting 10,000 personnel and providing 10,000 square feet of office space for a period of 12 months,” according to a request for information seen by Bloomberg News.

The request for information identifies the potential site as “near Gaza, Israel.” It was sent to eligible contractors on Oct. 31, according to two people familiar with the matter who asked not to be named discussing private deliberations. Responses were due Nov. 3.

The U.S. has been seeking international support for a proposal to send foreign troops to Gaza to help secure the fragile truce between Israel and Hamas that was signed last month. Those troops, dubbed the International Stabilization Force, would work with Israel and Egypt to secure the territory and enable rebuilding efforts after more than two years of war between Israel and Hamas.

A U.S. official, who also asked not to be identified discussing the matter, said the request represents an early planning step for a potential base in southern Israel for the stabilization force. The official said no U.S. troops would be involved.

White House spokeswoman Karoline Leavitt said the White House had not yet approved such a step.

“This story is based on a single piece of paper produced by random people within the military,” Leavitt said when asked for comment. “Such a plan has not been considered or approved by the highest levels of the United States government and should not be deemed as an official plan in the Middle East.”

Requests for information are not a formal call for bids and don't guarantee a future contract, though they offer a window into what federal agencies are hoping to source from private companies. Among the demands detailed in the contract are a "comprehensive security plan that includes procedures for access control, threat response, incident reporting, and mass casualty events."

Asked about the prospect of a big U.S. base being built, an Israeli military spokesman, Lieutenant Colonel Nadav Shoshani, said on Tuesday he had nothing concrete to share. Israel relies on U.S. military aid and equipment but has only rarely allowed a U.S. military base on its soil and so far those bases have been small.

"We are working alongside the Americans and different partners on the future in Gaza," Shoshani said. "There are different ideas on the table."

Shomrim, a nonprofit news organization in Israel, reported earlier Tuesday that the U.S. was planning a large base in the Gaza area to oversee the ceasefire. It cited Israeli officials who saw the preliminary plans.

The request says the contractor will "provide a complete turnkey solution," meaning that it would take care of every aspect of the base's construction and management. It goes on to detail that a contractor must offer three meals a day to all 10,000 personnel and take care of water and waste management, power generation, laundry service, a reliable communications network and a medical clinic.

The companies that are eligible for the contract are part of a contracting process called WEXMAC, or the Worldwide Expeditionary Multiple Award Contract, managed by the U.S. Navy's Naval Supply Systems Command. The contracting vehicle is typically used for international military work, but has been re-purposed to meet the Trump administration's demand for more immigration detention space.

The same process was used to award a \$1.26 billion contract in July to build a 5,000-bed tent camp on an El Paso Army base.

1. Details

Government Agency

- U.S. Department of Defense – Department of the Navy
- Contracting activity: Naval Supply Systems Command (NAVSUP) using the Worldwide Expeditionary Multiple Award Contract (WEXMAC) IDIQ vehicle.

Contract Vehicle

- Worldwide Expeditionary Multiple Award Contract (WEXMAC) – existing IDIQ used for expeditionary logistics, life-support, lodging, camp operations, etc., via multiple primes.
- Only holders of WEXMAC IDIQ awards were invited to respond (pre-qualified vendor pool).

Location / Area of Performance

- Described as “near Gaza, Israel” / southern Israel, supporting a potential International Stabilization Force (ISF) linked to ceasefire monitoring and reconstruction.

Requirement type / size

- RFI / market research only – NOT yet a formal RFP / solicitation.
- Base designed to support up to 10,000 personnel and provide 10,000 ft² (~929 m²) of office space for 12 months.
- Media in Israel (Ynet, Shomrim) report indicative value around USD ~500M, but this is unofficial and not confirmed in U.S. government documentation.

Timeline (as known)

- RFI issued to WEXMAC contractors: 31 October 2025.
- Responses due: before year-end 2025.
- Current status: Internal planning / assessment stage. White House and CENTCOM emphasize that no plan has been formally approved and no U.S. troops would be deployed into Gaza; the base is framed as support to a multinational stabilization force.

2. Technical & Operational Scope

2.1 Core requirement

Based on the internal RFI described in multiple press reports (sourcing a Bloomberg document), the Navy is seeking cost estimates for:

- A temporary, self-sustaining base of operations:
 - Capacity: up to 10,000 personnel (likely international stabilization troops + support staff).
 - Infrastructure: at least 10,000 ft² of office space (command, admin, coordination areas).
 - Duration: 12-month period of performance (continuous operations).

2.2 Required functions (as reflected in the RFI language)

The RFI highlights a set of turn-key, integrated life-support and security capabilities, including but not limited to:

- Power generation (likely redundant, with backup systems).
- Water production & distribution, including wastewater and solid-waste management.
- Food services (bulk catering for 10,000 pers., storage, cold chain, dining facilities).
- Accommodation / man camp operations (housing, ablutions, laundry, recreation, etc.) – implied by the “supporting 10,000 personnel” phrasing and typical WEXMAC “man camp operations” scope.
- Communications networks (voice/data, secure and non-secure, internal & external).
- Medical support (clinic, trauma capability, MEDEVAC protocols).
- Comprehensive security framework, including:
 - Perimeter security and access-control systems
 - Threat-response procedures
 - Incident reporting
 - Mass-casualty event planning and emergency response.

In short: this is a full-spectrum expeditionary camp + base operations requirement, aligned with what WEXMAC was created to deliver: expeditionary logistics, camp services, facilities management, and life-support in austere overseas environments.

3. Contracting Context & Competitive Environment

3.1 WEXMAC framework

- WEXMAC is a multi-year IDIQ contract designed to provide rapid, flexible procurement of expeditionary support services for the Navy, Army, and other federal customers in remote or contingency locations.
- Current iterations include WEXMAC 2.0 and WEXMAC 2.1 TITUS, with total ceilings in the multi-billion USD range.
- Services typically include:
 - Logistics & distribution,
 - Lodging and camp services,
 - Facilities O&M, fuel, water, power,
 - Transportation,
 - Misc. life-support and contingency operations.

3.2 Who can bid?

- The 10,000-person base near Gaza is *not* an open competition.
- The RFI was sent only to companies already holding WEXMAC contracts, i.e., pre-qualified primes (e.g., Noble, ADS, Centerra/Constellis, + Releyant Global, others).
- Non-WEXMAC firms (like Mogador Solutions) can only participate via:
 - Teaming / subcontracting with a WEXMAC prime, or
 - Acting as local delivery partner in Israel and the region.

3.3 Political & program risk

- The White House has publicly downplayed the plan, calling the Bloomberg-based story “based on a single piece of paper” and stating that no such plan has been considered or approved at senior levels.
- CENTCOM has been clear: no U.S. troops are planned to deploy into Gaza, and the base is framed as support to a multinational stabilization force.
- Result: there is a significant risk that:
 - The requirement is scaled down,
 - Delayed pending political decisions, or
 - Cancelled entirely if the diplomatic track changes.