

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6018

To establish an interagency program to assist countries in the Sahel, Maghreb, and adjacent regions of Africa to improve immediate and long-term capabilities to counter terrorist threats, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 6, 2018

Mr. McCAUL (for himself and Mr. KEATING) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To establish an interagency program to assist countries in the Sahel, Maghreb, and adjacent regions of Africa to improve immediate and long-term capabilities to counter terrorist threats, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Trans-Sahara Counter-
5 terrorism Partnership Act of 2018”.

1 **SEC. 2. TRANS-SAHARA COUNTERTERRORISM PARTNER-**
2 **SHIP.**

3 (a) TRANS-SAHARA COUNTERTERRORISM PARTNER-
4 SHIP.—

5 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of State,
6 in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and
7 the Administrator of the United States Agency for
8 International Development, shall establish a partner-
9 ship, to be known as the “Trans-Sahara Counterter-
10 rorism Partnership” (TSCTP), to coordinate all
11 United States programs, projects, and activities in
12 the Sahel, Maghreb, and adjacent regions of Africa
13 that are conducted for any of the following purposes:

14 (A) To build the capacity of foreign mili-
15 tary and law enforcement entities in such re-
16 gions to conduct counterterrorism operations.

17 (B) To improve the ability of foreign mili-
18 tary and law enforcement entities in such re-
19 gions to cooperate on counterterrorism efforts.

20 (C) To enhance the border security capac-
21 ity of partner countries in such regions, includ-
22 ing the ability to monitor, restrain, and inter-
23 dict terrorist movements.

24 (D) To strengthen the rule of law in such
25 countries, including access to justice, and the
26 ability of the law enforcement entities of such

1 partner countries to detect, disrupt, respond to,
2 investigate, and prosecute terrorist activity.

3 (E) To monitor and counter the financing
4 of terrorism.

5 (F) To further reduce any opportunities
6 among communities in such regions for recruit-
7 ment or incitement for terrorist activities
8 through public diplomacy efforts, such as sup-
9 porting youth employment, promoting meaning-
10 ful participation of women, strengthening local
11 governance and civil society capacity, and im-
12 proving access to education.

13 (2) CONSULTATION.—In coordinating programs
14 through the TSCTP, the Secretary of State may
15 also consult, as appropriate, with the Director of
16 National Intelligence, the Secretary of the Treasury,
17 the Attorney General, and the heads of other rel-
18 evant Federal departments and agencies.

19 (3) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Not later
20 than 15 days before obligating amounts for an activ-
21 ity coordinated by the TSCTP pursuant to para-
22 graph (1), the Secretaries of State shall submit a
23 notification, in accordance with the requirements of
24 section 634A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961
25 (22 U.S.C. 2394–1), that includes the following:

1 (A) The foreign country and entity, as ap-
2 plicable, whose capabilities are to be enhanced
3 in accordance with the purposes specified in
4 paragraph (1).

5 (B) The amount, type, and purpose of sup-
6 port to be provided.

7 (C) An assessment of the capacity of the
8 foreign country or entity to absorb the training
9 or equipment to be provided.

10 (D) The estimated cost, implementation
11 timeline, and delivery schedule for assistance.

12 (E) A description of the arrangements to
13 sustain any equipment provided by the activity
14 beyond the completion date of such activity, if
15 applicable, and the estimated cost and source of
16 funds to support such sustainment.

17 (F) The amount, type, statutory authoriza-
18 tion, and purpose of any United States assist-
19 ance provided to such foreign country during
20 the three preceding fiscal years.

21 (b) COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY FOR COUNTERTER-
22 RORISM EFFORTS.—

23 (1) DEVELOPMENT.—Not later than 90 days
24 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
25 retary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of

1 Defense and the Administrator of the United States
2 Agency for International Development, shall submit
3 to the appropriate congressional committees a com-
4 prehensive, interagency strategy that—

5 (A) highlights the desired end states, stra-
6 tegic objectives, and sub-objectives for the
7 United States counterterrorism effort in the
8 Sahel, Maghreb, and adjacent regions of Africa
9 with respect to the use of all forms of United
10 States assistance to counter violent extremism;
11 and

12 (B) includes a plan by the Secretary of
13 State for the manner in which programs shall
14 be coordinated by the TSCTP pursuant to sub-
15 section (a)(1).

16 (2) SUPPORTING MATERIAL IN ANNUAL BUDG-
17 ET REQUEST.—The Secretary of State shall include,
18 in the budget materials submitted in support of the
19 budget of the President (submitted to Congress pur-
20 suant to section 1105 of title 31, United States
21 Code) for each fiscal year beginning after the date
22 of the enactment of this Act, a description of the re-
23 quirements, activities, and planned allocation of
24 amounts requested by the TSCTP.

1 (3) FORM.—The report required by paragraph
2 (1) and each description required under paragraph
3 (2) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may
4 include a classified annex.

5 (c) ASSESSMENT, MONITORING, AND EVALUATION
6 OF PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES.—

7 (1) MONITORING AND EVALUATION.—The Sec-
8 retary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of
9 Defense and the Administrator of the United States
10 Agency for International Development, shall conduct
11 rigorously assess, monitor, and evaluate programs
12 coordinated by the TSCTP pursuant to subsection
13 (a)(1) including by the following:

14 (A) Initial assessments of partner capa-
15 bility requirements, potential programmatic
16 risks, baseline information, and indicators of ef-
17 ficacy for purposes of planning, monitoring, and
18 evaluation of the programs and activities co-
19 ordinated by the TSCTP.

20 (B) Evaluations of the efficiency and effec-
21 tiveness of such programs and activities.

22 (C) Monitoring implementation of such
23 programs and activities with respect to the stat-
24 ed objectives outlined in the strategy required
25 under subsection (b)(1).

1 (D) Identification of lessons learned in car-
2 rying out such programs and activities to de-
3 velop recommendations for improving such
4 strategy and future security cooperation pro-
5 grams and activities of the TSCTP.

6 (2) BEST PRACTICES REQUIREMENTS.—The on-
7 going assessment required under paragraph (1) shall
8 be conducted in accordance with the best practices
9 described in section 383(b)(2) of title 10, United
10 States Code.

11 (3) REPORTS.—

12 (A) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—For the 5-
13 year period beginning on the date of the enact-
14 ment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall
15 submit to the appropriate congressional com-
16 mittees an annual report on the findings of the
17 ongoing assessment required by paragraph (1)
18 during the previous fiscal year. Each report
19 shall include, with respect to such previous
20 year, the following:

21 (i) A description of all activities co-
22 ordinated by the TSCTP pursuant to sub-
23 section (a)(1).

1 (ii) An evaluation of the lessons
2 learned and best practices identified in ac-
3 cordance with paragraph (2).

4 (iii) An analysis of major actions
5 taken by the government of each foreign
6 country receiving assistance coordinated by
7 the TSCTP to combat corruption, improve
8 transparency and accountability, and pro-
9 mote other forms of good governance such
10 as those described in section 133 of the
11 Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C.
12 2152c) (relating to programs to encourage
13 good governance).

14 (B) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF EFFICIENCY
15 EVALUATION.—The Secretaries of State and
16 Defense shall jointly make publicly available a
17 summary of each evaluation conducted pursu-
18 ant to paragraph (1), from which the Secre-
19 taries may redact or omit any information that
20 the Secretaries determine should not be dis-
21 closed to the public in order to protect the in-
22 terests of the United States or of any relevant
23 foreign country.

1 (C) FORM.—The report required by sub-
2 paragraph (A) shall be submitted in unclassi-
3 fied form but may include a classified annex.

4 (d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES
5 DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate con-
6 gressional committees” means—

7 (1) the Committee on Armed Services, the
8 Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on
9 Appropriations, and the Permanent Select Com-
10 mittee on Intelligence of the House of Representa-
11 tives; and

12 (2) the Committee on Armed Services, the
13 Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on
14 Appropriations, and the Select Committee on Intel-
15 ligence of the Senate.

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