

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 2973
OFFERED BY MRS. WAGNER OF MISSOURI**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Maritime Architecture
3 and Response to International Terrorism In the Middle
4 East” or the “MARITIME Act of 2023”.

**5 SEC. 2. MIDDLE EAST INTEGRATED MARITIME DOMAIN
6 AWARENESS AND INTERDICTION CAPA-
7 BILITY.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense, with
9 the concurrence of the Secretary of State, shall seek to
10 build upon the historic opportunities created by the Abra-
11 ham Accords and the incorporation of Israel into the area
12 of responsibility of the United States Central Command
13 to develop a Middle East integrated maritime domain
14 awareness and interdiction capability for the purpose of
15 protecting the people, infrastructure, and territory of such
16 countries from—

1 (1) manned and unmanned naval systems, un-
2 dersea warfare capabilities, and anti-ship missiles of
3 Iran and groups affiliated with Iran; and

4 (2) violent extremist organizations, criminal
5 networks, and piracy activities that threaten lawful
6 commerce in the waterways within the area of re-
7 sponsibility of the United States Naval Forces Cen-
8 tral Command.

9 (b) STRATEGY.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after
11 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
12 of Defense, with the concurrence of the Secretary of
13 State, shall submit to the appropriate committees of
14 Congress a strategy for the cooperation described in
15 subsection (a).

16 (2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The strategy
17 required by paragraph (1) shall include the fol-
18 lowing:

19 (A) An assessment of the threats posed to
20 ally or partner countries in the Middle East
21 by—

22 (i) manned and unmanned naval sys-
23 tems, undersea warfare capabilities, and
24 anti-ship missiles of Iran and groups affili-
25 ated with Iran; and

1 (ii) violent extremist organizations,
2 criminal networks, and piracy activities
3 that threaten lawful commerce in the wa-
4 terways within the area of responsibility of
5 the United States Naval Forces Central
6 Command.

7 (B) A description of existing multilateral
8 maritime partnerships currently led by the
9 United States Naval Forces Central Command,
10 including the Combined Maritime Forces (in-
11 cluding its associated Task Forces 150, 151,
12 152, and 153), the International Maritime Se-
13 curity Construct, and the Navy's Task Force
14 59, and a discussion of the role of such partner-
15 ships in building an integrated maritime secu-
16 rity capability.

17 (C) A description of progress made in ad-
18 vancing the integration of Israel into the exist-
19 ing multilateral maritime partnerships de-
20 scribed in subparagraph (B).

21 (D) A description of efforts among coun-
22 tries in the Middle East to coordinate intel-
23 ligence, reconnaissance, and surveillance capa-
24 bilities and indicators and warnings with re-
25 spect to the threats described in subparagraph

1 (A), and a description of any impediment to op-
2 timizing such efforts.

3 (E) A description of the current Depart-
4 ment of Defense systems that, in coordination
5 with ally and partner countries in the Middle
6 East—

7 (i) provide awareness of and defend
8 against such threats; and

9 (ii) address current capability gaps.

10 (F) An explanation of the manner in which
11 an integrated maritime domain awareness and
12 interdiction architecture would improve collec-
13 tive security in the Middle East.

14 (G) A description of existing and planned
15 efforts to engage ally and partner countries in
16 the Middle East in establishing such an archi-
17 tecture.

18 (H) An identification of the elements of
19 such an architecture that may be acquired and
20 operated by ally and partner countries in the
21 Middle East, and a list of such elements for
22 each such ally and partner.

23 (I) An identification of the elements of
24 such an architecture that may only be provided

1 and operated by members of the United States
2 Armed Forces.

3 (J) An identification of any challenge to
4 optimizing such an architecture in the Middle
5 East.

6 (K) An assessment of progress and key
7 challenges in the implementation of the strategy
8 required by paragraph (1) using the metrics
9 identified in accordance with paragraph (3).

10 (L) Recommendations for improvements in
11 the implementation of such strategy based on
12 such metrics.

13 (M) An assessment of any capabilities or
14 lessons from the Navy's Task Force 59 that
15 may be leveraged to support an integrated mar-
16itime domain awareness and interdiction capa-
17bility in the Middle East.

18 (N) Any other matter the Secretary of De-
19fense or the Secretary of State considers rel-
20evant.

21 (3) METRICS.—The Secretary of Defense shall
22 identify metrics to assess progress in the implemen-
23tation of the strategy required by paragraph (1).

1 (4) FORMAT.—The strategy required by para-
2 graph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form but
3 may include a classified annex.

4 (c) PROTECTION OF SENSITIVE INFORMATION.—Any
5 activity carried out under this section shall be conducted
6 in a manner that appropriately protects sensitive informa-
7 tion and the national security interests of the United
8 States.

9 (d) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DE-
10 FINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate commit-
11 tees of Congress” means—

12 (1) the Committee on Armed Services, the
13 Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on
14 Foreign Relations, and the Select Committee on In-
15 telligence of the Senate; and

16 (2) the Committee on Armed Services, the
17 Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on
18 Foreign Affairs, and the Permanent Select Com-
19 mittee on Intelligence of the House of Representa-
20 tives.

