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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R.

To establish an interagency program to assist countries in North and West Africa to improve immediate and long-term capabilities to counter terrorist threats, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. MCCAUL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To establish an interagency program to assist countries in North and West 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”.

6 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 It is the sense of Congress that—

1 (1) the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Part-
2 nership, launched in 2005, is an interagency pro-
3 gram to assist partner countries in the Sahel and
4 Maghreb regions of Africa on their immediate and
5 long-term capabilities to address terrorist threats
6 and prevent the spread of violent extremism;

7 (2) armed groups and violent Islamist terrorist
8 organizations, such as Al Qaeda in the Islamic
9 Maghreb, Boko Haram, the Islamic State of West
10 Africa, and other affiliated groups, have killed tens
11 of thousands of innocent civilians, displaced popu-
12 lations, destabilized local and national governments,
13 and caused mass human suffering in the affected
14 communities;

15 (3) it is in the national security interest of the
16 United States to combat the spread of radical
17 Islamist extremism and build partner countries' ca-
18 pacity to combat these threats in Africa;

19 (4) extremist movements exploit vulnerable and
20 marginalized communities suffering from poverty,
21 lack of economic opportunity (particularly among
22 youth populations), and weak governance; and

23 (5) to address critical security, political, eco-
24 nomic, and humanitarian challenges in these regions
25 of Africa, a coordinated, interagency approach is

1 needed to appropriately allocate resources, share re-
2 sponsibility, de-conflict programs, and maximize the
3 effectiveness of United States defense, diplomatic,
4 and development capabilities.

5 **SEC. 3. TRANS-SAHARA COUNTERTERRORISM PARTNER-**
6 **SHIP.**

7 (a) TRANS-SAHARA COUNTERTERRORISM PARTNER-
8 SHIP.—

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

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

21 (B) To improve the ability of foreign mili-
22 tary and law enforcement entities in such re-
23 gions to cooperate with the United States and
24 other partner countries on counterterrorism ef-
25 forts.

1 (C) To enhance the border security capac-
2 ity of partner countries in such regions, includ-
3 ing the ability to monitor, restrain, and inter-
4 dict terrorists.

5 (D) To strengthen the rule of law in such
6 countries, including access to justice, and the
7 ability of the law enforcement entities of such
8 partner countries to detect, disrupt, respond to,
9 investigate, and prosecute terrorist activity.

10 (E) To monitor and counter the financing
11 of terrorism.

12 (F) To further reduce any vulnerabilities
13 among affected populations in such regions to
14 recruitment or incitement of terrorist activities
15 through public diplomacy efforts, such as sup-
16 porting youth employment, promoting meaning-
17 ful participation of women, strengthening local
18 governance and civil society capacity, and im-
19 proving access to economic opportunities and
20 education.

21 (G) To support independent, local-lan-
22 guage media, particularly in rural areas, to
23 counter media operations and recruitment prop-
24 aganda by terrorist organizations.

1 (2) CONSULTATION.—In coordinating programs
2 through the TSCTP, the Secretary of State shall
3 also consult, as appropriate, with the Director of
4 National Intelligence, the Secretary of the Treasury,
5 the Attorney General, the Chief Executive Officer of
6 the United States Agency for Global Media (for-
7 merly known as the Broadcasting Board of Gov-
8 ernors), and the heads of other relevant Federal de-
9 partments and agencies.

10 (3) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Not later
11 than 15 days before obligating amounts for an activ-
12 ity coordinated by the TSCTP pursuant to para-
13 graph (1), the Secretary of State shall submit a no-
14 tification, in accordance with the requirements of
15 section 634A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961
16 (22 U.S.C. 2394–1), that includes the following:

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

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

23 (C) An assessment of the capacity of the
24 foreign country or entity to absorb the assist-
25 ance to be provided.

1 (D) The estimated cost and anticipated im-
2 plementation timeline for assistance.

3 (E) As applicable, a description of the ar-
4 rangements to sustain any equipment provided
5 by the activity beyond the completion date of
6 such activity, if applicable, and the estimated
7 cost and source of funds to support such
8 sustainment.

9 (F) The amount, type, statutory authoriza-
10 tion, and purpose of any United States security
11 assistance provided to such foreign country dur-
12 ing the three preceding fiscal years pursuant to
13 authorities under title 10, United States Code,
14 the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C.
15 2151 et seq.), or any other “train and equip”
16 authorities of the Department of Defense.

17 (b) COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY FOR COUNTERTER-
18 RORISM EFFORTS.—

19 (1) DEVELOPMENT.—Not later than 180 days
20 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
21 retary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of
22 Defense and the Administrator of the United States
23 Agency for International Development, shall submit
24 to the appropriate congressional committees a com-
25 prehensive, interagency strategy that—

1 (A) states the objectives of the United
2 States counterterrorism effort in North and
3 West Africa with respect to the use of all forms
4 of United States assistance to counter violent
5 extremism;

6 (B) includes a plan by the Secretary of
7 State for the manner in which programs shall
8 be coordinated by the TSCTP pursuant to sub-
9 section (a)(1), including which agency or bu-
10 reau of the Department of State, as applicable,
11 will be responsible for leading and coordinating
12 each such program; and

13 (C) outlines a plan to monitor and evaluate
14 TSCTP programs and identifies the key indica-
15 tors that will be used to measure performance
16 and progress under the strategy.

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

1 (c) MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF PROGRAMS
2 AND ACTIVITIES.—

3 (1) MONITORING AND EVALUATION.—The Sec-
4 retary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of
5 Defense and the Administrator of the United States
6 Agency for International Development, shall monitor
7 and evaluate the programs coordinated by the
8 TSCTP pursuant to subsection (a)(1) in accordance
9 with the plan outlined pursuant to subsection
10 (b)(1)(C).

11 (2) REPORT.—For the 5-year period beginning
12 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,
13 the Secretary of State shall submit to the appro-
14 priate congressional committees an annual report on
15 monitoring and evaluation efforts pursuant to para-
16 graph (1) that describes—

17 (A) the progress made in meeting the ob-
18 jectives listed in the strategy required by sub-
19 section (b)(1), including any lessons learned in
20 carrying out TSCTP programs and activities
21 and any recommendations for improving such
22 programs and activities;

23 (B) the efforts taken to coordinate, de-con-
24 flict, and streamline TSCTP programs to maxi-
25 mize resource effectiveness;

1 (C) the extent to which each partner coun-
2 try has demonstrated the ability to absorb the
3 equipment or training provided in the year pre-
4 vious under TSCTP programs, and where appli-
5 cable, the ability to maintain and appropriately
6 utilize such equipment provided;

7 (D) the extent to which each partner coun-
8 try is investing its own resources to advance the
9 goals described in subsection (a)(1) or dem-
10 onstrated a commitment and willingness to co-
11 operate with the United States to advance such
12 goals; and

13 (E) the actions taken by the government of
14 each partner country receiving assistance
15 through programs coordinated by the TSCTP
16 to combat corruption, improve transparency
17 and accountability, and promote other forms of
18 good governance.

19 (d) FORM.—The strategy required by subsection
20 (b)(1) and the report required by subsection (c)(2) shall
21 be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classi-
22 fied annex.

23 (e) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DE-
24 FINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congres-
25 sional committees” means—

1 (1) the Committee on Armed Services, the
2 Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on
3 Appropriations, and the Permanent Select Com-
4 mittee on Intelligence of the House of Representa-
5 tives; and

6 (2) the Committee on Armed Services, the
7 Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on
8 Appropriations, and the Select Committee on Intel-
9 ligence of the Senate.