

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2973

To require the Secretary of Defense to develop, in cooperation with allies and partners in the Middle East, an integrated maritime domain awareness and interdiction capability, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 27, 2023

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington (for herself, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. TRONE, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. BACON, and Mr. PANETTA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Defense to develop, in cooperation with allies and partners in the Middle East, an integrated maritime domain awareness and interdiction capability, 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 “Maritime Architecture
5 and Response to International Terrorism In the Middle
6 East Act of 2023” or the “MARITIME Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. MIDDLE EAST INTEGRATED MARITIME DOMAIN**
2 **AWARENESS AND INTERDICTION CAPA-**
3 **BILITY.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense, in con-
5 sultation with the Secretary of State, shall seek to build
6 upon the historic opportunities created by the Abraham
7 Accords and the incorporation of Israel into the area of
8 responsibility of the United States Central Command to
9 develop a Middle East integrated maritime domain aware-
10 ness and interdiction capability for the purpose of pro-
11 tecting the people, infrastructure, and territory of such
12 countries from—

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

16 (2) violent extremist organizations, criminal
17 networks, and piracy activities that threaten lawful
18 commerce in the waterways within the area of re-
19 sponsibility of the United States Naval Forces Cen-
20 tral Command.

21 (b) STRATEGY.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after
23 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
24 of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of
25 State, shall submit to the appropriate committees of

1 Congress a strategy for the cooperation described in
2 subsection (a).

3 (2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The strategy
4 required by paragraph (1) shall include the fol-
5 lowing:

6 (A) An assessment of the threats posed to
7 ally or partner countries in the Middle East
8 by—

9 (i) manned and unmanned naval sys-
10 tems, undersea warfare capabilities, and
11 anti-ship missiles of Iran and groups affili-
12 ated with Iran; and

13 (ii) violent extremist organizations,
14 criminal networks, and piracy activities
15 that threaten lawful commerce in the wa-
16 terways within the area of responsibility of
17 the United States Naval Forces Central
18 Command.

19 (B) A description of existing multilateral
20 maritime partnerships currently led by the
21 United States Naval Forces Central Command,
22 including the Combined Maritime Forces (in-
23 cluding its associated Task Forces 150, 151,
24 152, and 153), the International Maritime Se-
25 curity Construct, and the Navy’s Task Force

1 59, and a discussion of the role of such partner-
2 ships in building an integrated maritime secu-
3 rity capability.

4 (C) A description of progress made in ad-
5 vancing the integration of Israel into the exist-
6 ing multilateral maritime partnerships de-
7 scribed in subparagraph (B).

8 (D) A description of efforts among coun-
9 tries in the Middle East to coordinate intel-
10 ligence, reconnaissance, and surveillance capa-
11 bilities and indicators and warnings with re-
12 spect to the threats described in subparagraph
13 (A), and a description of any impediment to op-
14 timizing such efforts.

15 (E) A description of the current Depart-
16 ment of Defense systems that, in coordination
17 with ally and partner countries in the Middle
18 East—

19 (i) provide awareness of and defend
20 against such threats; and

21 (ii) address current capability gaps.

22 (F) An explanation of the manner in which
23 an integrated maritime domain awareness and
24 interdiction architecture would improve collec-
25 tive security in the Middle East.

1 (G) A description of existing and planned
2 efforts to engage ally and partner countries in
3 the Middle East in establishing such an archi-
4 tecture.

5 (H) An identification of the elements of
6 such an architecture that may be acquired and
7 operated by ally and partner countries in the
8 Middle East, and a list of such elements for
9 each such ally and partner.

10 (I) An identification of the elements of
11 such an architecture that may only be provided
12 and operated by members of the United States
13 Armed Forces.

14 (J) An identification of any challenge to
15 optimizing such an architecture in the Middle
16 East.

17 (K) An assessment of progress and key
18 challenges in the implementation of the strategy
19 required by paragraph (1) using the metrics
20 identified in accordance with paragraph (3).

21 (L) Recommendations for improvements in
22 the implementation of such strategy based on
23 such metrics.

24 (M) An assessment of any capabilities or
25 lessons from the Navy's Task Force 59 that

1 may be leveraged to support an integrated mar-
2 itime domain awareness and interdiction capa-
3 bility in the Middle East.

4 (N) Any other matter the Secretary of De-
5 fense considers relevant.

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

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

12 (c) FEASIBILITY STUDY.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense
14 shall conduct a study on the feasibility and advis-
15 ability of establishing a fund for an integrated mari-
16 time domain awareness and interdiction capability to
17 protect the people, infrastructure, and territory of
18 ally and partner countries in the Middle East
19 from—

20 (A) manned and unmanned naval systems,
21 undersea warfare capabilities, and anti-ship
22 missiles of Iran and groups affiliated with Iran;
23 and

24 (B) violent extremist organizations, crimi-
25 nal networks, and piracy activities that threaten

1 lawful commerce in the waterways of the Middle
2 East.

3 (2) ELEMENT.—The study required by para-
4 graph (1) shall include an assessment of funds that
5 could be contributed by ally and partner countries of
6 the United States.

7 (3) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the
8 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
9 Defense shall submit to the appropriate committees
10 of Congress a report on the results of the study con-
11 ducted under paragraph (1).

12 (d) PROTECTION OF SENSITIVE INFORMATION.—Any
13 activity carried out under this section shall be conducted
14 in a manner that appropriately protects sensitive informa-
15 tion and the national security interests of the United
16 States.

17 (e) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DE-
18 FINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate commit-
19 tees of Congress” means—

20 (1) the Committee on Armed Services, the
21 Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on
22 Foreign Relations, and the Select Committee on In-
23 telligence of the Senate; and

24 (2) the Committee on Armed Services, the
25 Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on

1 Foreign Affairs, and the Permanent Select Com-
2 mittee on Intelligence of the House of Representa-
3 tives.

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