

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 192

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.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 3, 2019

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

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## 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.

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