

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 192

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 11, 2019

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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## AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Trans-Sahara Counter-  
3 terrorism Partnership Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

5 It is the sense of Congress that—

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

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

20 (3) it is in the national security interest of the  
21 United States to combat the spread of radical  
22 Islamist extremism and build partner countries’ ca-  
23 pacity to combat these threats in Africa;

24 (4) extremist movements exploit vulnerable and  
25 marginalized communities suffering from poverty,

1 lack of economic opportunity (particularly among  
2 youth populations), and weak governance; and

3 (5) to address critical security, political, eco-  
4 nomic, and humanitarian challenges in these regions  
5 of Africa, a coordinated, interagency approach is  
6 needed to appropriately allocate resources, share re-  
7 sponsibility, de-conflict programs, and maximize the  
8 effectiveness of United States defense, diplomatic,  
9 and development capabilities.

10 **SEC. 3. TRANS-SAHARA COUNTERTERRORISM PARTNER-**  
11 **SHIP.**

12 (a) TRANS-SAHARA COUNTERTERRORISM PARTNER-  
13 SHIP.—

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

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

1           (B) To improve the ability of foreign mili-  
2           tary and law enforcement entities in such re-  
3           gions to cooperate with the United States and  
4           other partner countries on counterterrorism ef-  
5           forts.

6           (C) To enhance the border security capac-  
7           ity of partner countries in such regions, includ-  
8           ing the ability to monitor, restrain, and inter-  
9           dict terrorists.

10          (D) To strengthen the rule of law in such  
11          countries, including access to justice, and the  
12          ability of the law enforcement entities of such  
13          partner countries to detect, disrupt, respond to,  
14          investigate, and prosecute terrorist activity.

15          (E) To monitor and counter the financing  
16          of terrorism.

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

1           (G) To support independent, local-lan-  
2           guage media, particularly in rural areas, to  
3           counter media operations and recruitment prop-  
4           aganda by terrorist organizations.

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

14          (3) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Not later  
15          than 15 days before obligating amounts for an activ-  
16          ity coordinated by the TSCTP pursuant to para-  
17          graph (1), the Secretary of State shall submit a no-  
18          tification, in accordance with the requirements of  
19          section 634A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961  
20          (22 U.S.C. 2394–1), that includes the following:

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

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

3 (C) An assessment of the capacity of the  
4 foreign country or entity to absorb the assist-  
5 ance to be provided.

6 (D) The estimated cost and anticipated im-  
7 plementation timeline for assistance.

8 (E) As applicable, a description of the ar-  
9 rangements to sustain any equipment provided  
10 by the activity beyond the completion date of  
11 such activity, if applicable, and the estimated  
12 cost and source of funds to support such  
13 sustainment.

14 (F) The amount, type, statutory authoriza-  
15 tion, and purpose of any United States security  
16 assistance provided to such foreign country dur-  
17 ing the three preceding fiscal years pursuant to  
18 authorities under title 10, United States Code,  
19 the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C.  
20 2151 et seq.), or any other “train and equip”  
21 authorities of the Department of Defense.

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

24 (1) DEVELOPMENT.—Not later than 180 days  
25 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-

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

6               (A) states the objectives of the United  
7               States counterterrorism effort in North and  
8               West Africa with respect to the use of all forms  
9               of United States assistance to counter violent  
10              extremism;

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

18             (C) outlines a plan to monitor and evaluate  
19             TSCTP programs and identifies the key indica-  
20             tors that will be used to measure performance  
21             and progress under the strategy.

22             (2) SUPPORTING MATERIAL IN ANNUAL BUDG-  
23             ET REQUEST.—The Secretary of State shall include,  
24             in the budget materials submitted in support of the  
25             budget of the President (submitted to Congress pur-

1 suant to section 1105 of title 31, United States  
2 Code) for each fiscal year beginning after the date  
3 of the enactment of this Act, a description of the re-  
4 quirements, activities, and planned allocation of  
5 amounts requested by the TSCTP.

6 (c) MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF PROGRAMS  
7 AND ACTIVITIES.—

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

16 (2) REPORT.—For the 5-year period beginning  
17 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,  
18 the Secretary of State shall submit to the appro-  
19 priate congressional committees an annual report on  
20 monitoring and evaluation efforts pursuant to para-  
21 graph (1) that describes—

22 (A) the progress made in meeting the ob-  
23 jectives listed in the strategy required by sub-  
24 section (b)(1), including any lessons learned in  
25 carrying out TSCTP programs and activities



1 and any recommendations for improving such  
2 programs and activities;

3 (B) the efforts taken to coordinate, de-con-  
4 flict, and streamline TSCTP programs to maxi-  
5 mize resource effectiveness;

6 (C) the extent to which each partner coun-  
7 try has demonstrated the ability to absorb the  
8 equipment or training provided in the year pre-  
9 vious under TSCTP programs, and where appli-  
10 cable, the ability to maintain and appropriately  
11 utilize such equipment provided;

12 (D) the extent to which each partner coun-  
13 try is investing its own resources to advance the  
14 goals described in subsection (a)(1) or dem-  
15 onstrated a commitment and willingness to co-  
16 operate with the United States to advance such  
17 goals; and

18 (E) the actions taken by the government of  
19 each partner country receiving assistance  
20 through programs coordinated by the TSCTP  
21 to combat corruption, improve transparency  
22 and accountability, and promote other forms of  
23 good governance.

24 (d) FORM.—The strategy required by subsection  
25 (b)(1) and the report required by subsection (c)(2) shall

1 be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classi-  
2 fied annex.

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

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

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

Passed the House of Representatives January 10,  
2019.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,

*Clerk.*