

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 8070

OFFERED BY MR. WILSON OF SOUTH CAROLINA

At the appropriate place in title XII, add the following:

subtitle _—Matters relating to Syria

SEC. _1. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that the Department of Defense has executed robust and important defense of Al Tanf Garrison before and after the October 7 attacks and has an effective strategy for defeating ISIS.

SEC. _2. STRATEGY TO PROTECT THE AL-TANF GARRISON.

(a) STRATEGY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall develop strategy on protection United States and partner forces at Al-Tanf Garrison in Syria from the threat of Iran-backed militias, ISIS, the Russian Federation, and the Assad regime.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A description of the number of attacks by Iran-backed militias at Al-Tanf Garrison beginning on October 7, 2023, and a description on how to prevent and deter future attacks.

(B) A description of how the Department of Defense has assisted with private humanitarian assistance efforts through the Denton Humanitarian Assistance Program with respect to internally displaced persons at the Al-Rukban camp near the Al-Tanf Garrison and a plan with regard to how to continue and expand such efforts, as well as a plan for continued collaboration between Operation Inherent Resolve and nongovernmental organizations to continue to

ensure the provision of essential aid and medical assistance for Syrian civilians at the Al-Rukban camp.

(C) A description of the Assad regime's potential role in attacks on United State servicemembers by Iran-backed militias in Syria beginning on October 7, 2023, and a plan by the Department of Defense to prevent, deter, and degrade the Assad regime's ability to assist with future attacks by Iran-backed militias on Al-Tanf Garrison.

(D) A description of Russian violations of deconfliction agreements with the United States at the Al-Tanf Garrison and a plan to address such violations.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which the Secretary of Defense develops the strategy required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees, or provide such committees a briefing on, a plan for implementing the strategy.

(c) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report that contains the strategy required by subsection (a).

(2) FORM.—The report required by this subsection shall be submitted in an unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex.

SEC. 3. REPORT AND STRATEGY ON THE ASSAD REGIME'S RELATIONSHIP WITH ISIS.

(a) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the head of the Defense Intelligence Agency, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report describing the Assad regime's cooperation, assistance,

and association with the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS).

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include a description of the following:

(A) How the Assad regime has focused its military efforts at rebel groups fighting ISIS and the extent to which such efforts helped the growth of ISIS and hindered operations against ISIS.

(B) The extent to which Syrian intelligence may have worked with, assisted, facilitated, or tolerated ISIS operatives.

(C) The release of jihadists from Syrian prisons by the Assad regime may have had on the rise of ISIS.

(D) The extent to which the purchase by the Assad regime of oil, gas, wheat, and grain from ISIS through various intermediaries has added to ISIS' revenue, and the role that allowing Syrian banks to continue to function and provide financial services within ISIS-held territory had upon ISIS' revenue.

(E) The extent to which the Assad regime's cooperation, assistance, and association with ISIS has harmed Operation Inherent Resolve and other efforts by the Department of Defense to counter ISIS in Syria.

(F) The extent to which the Assad regime's destructive policies may continue to provide for the resurgence of ISIS.

(b) STRATEGY.—Not later than 180 days after the submission of the report required by subsection (b), the Secretary of Defense shall develop and submit to the appropriate congressional committees a strategy on how to counter the Assad regime's cooperation, assistance, and association with ISIS.

(c) FORM.—The report required by subsection (b) and the strategy required by subsection (c) shall be submitted in an unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex.

(d) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN REQUIRED.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which the Secretary develops the strategy required by subsection (c), the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees, or provide such committees a briefing on, a plan for implementing the strategy.

SEC. 4. STRATEGY TO COUNTER THE ASSAD REGIME'S SUPPORT AND COOPERATION WITH IRAN-BACKED MILITIAS IN SYRIA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State shall develop and submit to the appropriate congressional committees a strategy on the use of its existing authorities to disrupt and degrade threats to the national security of the United States caused by Iran-backed militias in Syria.

(b) CONTENTS.—The strategy required by subsection (b) shall outline how the Department of Defense will—

(1) leverages existing authorities to detect and monitor activities related to Iran-backed militias;

(2) evaluate existing policies, procedures, processes, and resources of the Department to counter the threat of Iran-backed militias in Syria;

(3) protect United States servicemembers from attacks from Iran-backed militias in Syria;

(4) make the countering of Iran-backed militias in Syria, including the Assad regime's support of such militias, a key policy objective in United States policy towards Syria;

(5) provide a description of the Assad regime's potential role in Iran-backed militia attacks against United States

servicemembers, specifically attacks on or after October 7, 2023;

(6) provide an assessment of the freedom of movement of Iranian proxies particularly between Abu Kamal and the deconfliction zone in eastern Syria and the operational implications of this movement;

(7) provide a description of the potential capability of Iran-backed militias to transport weapons and weapons systems from Syria into Lebanon and a plan to counter any such transfers; and

(8) provide an assessment of the impact of Iran's sectarian cleansing and demographic change project in Syria on Iran's ability to sustain military threats to the United States and its allies and maintain support to Hezbollah in southern Lebanon.

(c) FORM.—The strategy required by subsection (b) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

SEC. 5. REPORT AND STRATEGY ON RUSSIA'S SUPPORT FOR FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS IN SYRIA.

(a) REPORT AND STRATEGY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall develop and submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report and strategy to utilize existing authorities to counter Russia's support of foreign terrorist organizations and specially designated global terrorists in Syria.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report and strategy required by paragraph (1) shall include the following elements:

(A) A description of past Russian support for Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) in Syria, and any current potential support, including military coordination between Russia and the IRGC, as well as any potential transfers of materiel or military supplies between

Russia and the IRGC and the extent of coordination on efforts to evade United States sanctions.

(B) A description of past Russian military cooperation with Hezbollah in Syria, including Russia's provision of air support to Hezbollah in Syria in the period of 2013-2018, as well as any potential ongoing support as well as a description of the extent of Hezbollah's role training Russian forces and their affiliates on the use of Iranian-origin unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) in Syria.

(C) A description of any potential Russian military support for Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq (AAH), Harakat al-Nujaba (HAN) and Akram 'Abbas al-Kabi, the Fatemiyoun Division, Zaynabiyoun Brigade, and Kata'ib Sayyid al-Shuhada (KSS) and KSS leader Hashim Finyan Rahim al-Saraji.

(D) A strategy of How the Department of Defense can utilize existing authorities to detect and monitor activities related to Russia's military support of terrorists in Syria, including how the Department can evaluate existing policies, procedures, processes, and resources that affect the ability of the Department to counter the threat of Russia's support of terrorists in Syria.

(E) An affirmation by the Department that countering Russia's support of terrorists in Syria is a key policy objective in United States policy towards Syria.

(F) A description of how Russia's violations of the deconfliction agreement with the United States in Syria may have undermined efforts to combat ISIS in the region and helped destabilize the region and plans to address such violations.

(b) FORM.—The report required by subsection (b) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(c) SCOPE.—The scope of the report required by subsection (b) shall include the period beginning on January 1, 2014, and ending on the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. _6. PROHIBITION OF RECOGNITION OF THE ASSAD REGIME.

(a) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States—

(1) not to recognize or normalize relations with any government of Syria that is led by Bashar al-Assad due to the Assad regime’s ongoing crimes against the Syrian people; and

(2) to actively oppose recognition or normalization of relations by other governments with any government of Syria that is led by Bashar Al-Assad.

(b) PROHIBITION.—In accordance with subsection (a), no Federal official or employee may take any action, and no Federal funds may be made available, to recognize or otherwise imply, in any manner, United States recognition of Bashar al-Assad or any government in Syria that is led by Bashar al-Assad.

**SEC. _7. APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES
DEFINED.**

In this subtitle, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.