

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4300

To express the sense of Congress on security cooperation with Bahrain and to require a report on capabilities upgrades for the Fifth Fleet, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 24, 2022

Mr. CRUZ introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To express the sense of Congress on security cooperation with Bahrain and to require a report on capabilities upgrades for the Fifth Fleet, 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 “Bahrain Security Co-
5 operation Improvement Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON SECURITY COOPERATION**

7 **WITH BAHRAIN.**

8 It is the sense of Congress that—

1 (1) it is in the national security interests of the
2 United States to maintain a strong relationship with
3 Bahrain and to support the military efforts of Bah-
4 rain;

5 (2) Bahrain has a critical role as the host of
6 the United States Navy’s Fifth Fleet (referred to in
7 this Act as the “Fifth Fleet”) and the United States
8 Naval Forces Central Command;

9 (3) Bahrain is a major defense and security co-
10 operation partner of the United States, as recog-
11 nized in 2002 by the designation of Bahrain as a
12 major non-NATO ally of the United States;

13 (4) the number of exchanges between defense
14 and law enforcement officials of the United States
15 and Bahrain at the strategic, policy, and tactical lev-
16 els should be increased for purposes of—

17 (A) enhancing cooperation on defense plan-
18 ning;

19 (B) improving intelligence sharing to com-
20 bat terrorism; and

21 (C) improving interoperability between the
22 Ministry of Interior of Bahrain and the Fifth
23 Fleet;

24 (5) the United States should ensure Bahrain
25 has appropriate capabilities with respect to its air,

1 missile, and unmanned aerial systems defense assets
2 to support peace efforts in the area of responsibility
3 of the Fifth Fleet;

4 (6) it is important for the United States to be
5 a source of consistent and reliable defense assets for
6 Bahrain;

7 (7) the United States should deepen interoper-
8 ability with Bahrain with respect to defense capabili-
9 ties, including—

10 (A) maritime and air domain awareness;

11 (B) integrated air and missile defense sys-
12 tems; and

13 (C) counter-unmanned aircraft system
14 measures;

15 (8) to the extent practicable, the Secretary of
16 Defense should prioritize the inclusion of Bahrain in
17 military exercises so as to increase security coopera-
18 tion between, and the readiness of, Bahrain and the
19 United States; and

20 (9) it is in the best interests of the United
21 States and Bahrain to work together to oppose ter-
22 rorism and radical extremism in the Middle East.

1 **SEC. 3. REPORT ON FIFTH FLEET CAPABILITIES UP-**
2 **GRADES.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
4 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense
5 shall submit to the congressional defense committees (as
6 defined in section 101(a) of title 10, United States Code)
7 a report on—

8 (1) capabilities upgrades necessary to enable
9 the Fifth Fleet to address emerging threats in its
10 area of responsibility; and

11 (2) any costs associated with such upgrades.

12 (b) ELEMENT.—The report required by subsection
13 (a) shall include an assessment of Department of Defense
14 efforts—

15 (1) to increase the number of exchanges be-
16 tween defense and law enforcement officials of the
17 United States and Bahrain at the strategic, policy,
18 and tactical levels for purposes of—

19 (A) enhancing cooperation on defense plan-
20 ning;

21 (B) improving intelligence sharing to com-
22 bat terrorism; and

23 (C) improving interoperability between the
24 public security forces of Bahrain and the Fifth
25 Fleet;

1 (2) to ensure that Bahrain has appropriate ca-
2 pabilities with respect to its air, missile, and un-
3 manned aerial systems defense assets to support
4 peace efforts in the area of responsibility of the
5 Fifth Fleet; and

6 (3) to deepen interoperability with Bahrain with
7 respect to defense capabilities, including—

8 (A) maritime and air domain awareness;

9 (B) integrated air and missile defense sys-
10 tems; and

11 (C) counter-unmanned aircraft system
12 measures.

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