

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To require the Secretary of Defense to submit to Congress a strategy to improve cooperation between the Department of Defense and allies and partners of the United States located in the Middle East so as to improve use of partner-sharing network capabilities to facilitate joint defense efforts among the United States and such allies and partners, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Ms. ERNST (for herself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

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**A BILL**

To require the Secretary of Defense to submit to Congress a strategy to improve cooperation between the Department of Defense and allies and partners of the United States located in the Middle East so as to improve use of partner-sharing network capabilities to facilitate joint defense efforts among the United States and such allies and partners, 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 “Artificial Intelligence  
3 Allied Collaboration for Crucial Operations, Research, and  
4 Development Act of 2024” or the “AI ACCORD Act of  
5 2024”.

6 **SEC. 2. JOINT PARTNER-SHARING NETWORK CAPABILITIES**  
7 **FOR MIDDLE EAST DEFENSE INTEGRATION.**

8 (a) STRATEGY.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
10 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
11 retary of Defense shall submit to the congressional  
12 defense committees a strategy to improve coopera-  
13 tion between the Department of Defense and allies  
14 and partners of the United States located in the  
15 Middle East so as to improve use of partner-sharing  
16 network capabilities to facilitate joint defense efforts  
17 among the United States and such allies and part-  
18 ners to protect the people, infrastructure, and terri-  
19 tory of the United States and such allies and part-  
20 ners from state and non-state actors determined by  
21 the Secretary to undermine the national security in-  
22 terests of the United States.

23 (2) CONTENTS.—The strategy submitted pursu-  
24 ant to paragraph (1) shall include the following:

25 (A) A summary of ongoing efforts by  
26 United States Central Command (CENTCOM),

1 or in which United States Central Command is  
2 participating, to implement a joint partner-  
3 sharing network capability integrated with the  
4 assets of allies and partners of the United  
5 States who are located in the Middle East.

6 (B) A summary of challenges to further fa-  
7 cilitate the implementation of a joint partner-  
8 sharing network capability integrated with the  
9 assets of Middle Eastern allies and partners, in-  
10 cluding actions or decisions that need to be  
11 taken by other organizations.

12 (C) A recommendation of actions that can  
13 be taken to address the challenges summarized  
14 pursuant to subparagraph (B).

15 (D) An assessment of how the implementa-  
16 tion of a joint partner-sharing network capa-  
17 bility that would be available to integrate with  
18 allies and partners of the United States in the  
19 Middle East that—

20 (i) could demonstrate new tools, tech-  
21 niques, or methodologies for data-driven  
22 decision making;

23 (ii) accelerate sharing of relevant  
24 data, data visualization, and data analysis  
25 implemented through cryptographic data

1 access controls and enforcing existing data  
2 sharing restrictions across multiple secu-  
3 rity levels; and

4 (iii) leverage current activities in  
5 multi-cloud computing environments to re-  
6 duce the reliance on solely hardware-based  
7 networking solutions.

8 (E) A recommendation of actions that can  
9 be taken to implement a joint partner-sharing  
10 network capability integrated with allies and  
11 partners of the United States in the Middle  
12 East, including identification of policy, re-  
13 source, workforce, or other shortfalls.

14 (F) Such other matters as the Secretary  
15 considers relevant.

16 (3) METRICS.—The Secretary shall identify  
17 metrics to assess progress in the implementation of  
18 the strategy required by paragraph (1).

19 (4) FORM.—The strategy required by para-  
20 graph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form,  
21 but may include a classified annex.

22 (5) PROTECTION OF SENSITIVE INFORMA-  
23 TION.—No activity may be carried out under this  
24 section without an approved program protection plan  
25 and overarching classification guide to enforce tech-

1 nology and information protection protocols that  
2 protect sensitive information and the national secu-  
3 rity interests of the United States.

4 (b) ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMBATANT COMMAND  
5 WARFIGHTER FORUM FOR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.—

6 (1) POLICIES AND PROCEDURES REQUIRED.—

7 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-  
8 ment of this Act, the Chief Data and Artificial Intel-  
9 ligence Officer of the Department of Defense  
10 (CDAO) shall issue policies and procedures to estab-  
11 lish a forum for warfighters in the combatant com-  
12 mands on artificial intelligence to help promote co-  
13 ordination and interchange on issues relating to arti-  
14 ficial intelligence tools, methodologies, training, exer-  
15 cises, and operational research within and among  
16 the combatant commands.

17 (2) PURPOSES FOR CONSIDERATION.—In devel-  
18 oping the policies and procedures required by para-  
19 graph (1) for establishing the forum described in  
20 such paragraph, the Chief shall consider the fol-  
21 lowing as primary purposes of the forum:

22 (A) Identification of use cases for the near-  
23 term application of artificial intelligence tools,  
24 including commercially available artificial intel-

1           ligence tools, data, methodologies, or tech-  
2           niques.

3           (B) Categorization of risk for the use cases  
4           identified pursuant to subparagraph (A), and  
5           consideration of risk-management process or  
6           other procedural guidelines for enforcing cur-  
7           rent policy.

8           (C) Identification and prioritization of cur-  
9           rent artificial intelligence tools or emerging  
10          technologies applicable to the use-cases identi-  
11          fied pursuant to subparagraph (A) that also  
12          meet policy guidelines and standards set by the  
13          Department.

14          (D) Identification of shortfalls in training  
15          or billets for artificial intelligence-related exper-  
16          tise or personnel within the combatant com-  
17          mands.

18          (E) Coordination on training and experi-  
19          mentation venues, including with regional part-  
20          ners and allies.

21          (F) Identification of opportunities for en-  
22          hanced cooperation with regional partners and  
23          allies.

24          (G) Identification of opportunities for the  
25          combatant commands, working with other ele-

1           ments of the Department of Defense, such as  
2           the Defense Innovation Unit, to better procure  
3           commercial artificial intelligence capabilities, in-  
4           cluding from partner and allied industrial  
5           bases.

6           (3) REPORT.—(A) Not later than one year after  
7           the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
8           of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense  
9           committees a report on the progress made in estab-  
10          lishing the forum described in paragraph (1).

11          (B) The report submitted pursuant to subpara-  
12          graph (A) shall include the following:

13                 (i) A summary of the policies and proce-  
14                 dures issued pursuant to paragraph (1).

15                 (ii) A list of all meetings of the forum de-  
16                 scribed in paragraph (1) that have occurred  
17                 since the date of the enactment of this Act.

18                 (iii) An itinerary of the meetings listed  
19                 pursuant to clause (ii).

20                 (iv) A summary of the efforts of the forum  
21                 described in paragraph (1) to fulfill each of the  
22                 purposes considered under paragraph (2).

23                 (v) Recommendations, based on findings of  
24                 the forum described in paragraph (1), for legis-  
25                 lative action to accelerate the adoption by the

1           combatant commands of artificial intelligence  
2           capabilities.

3           (c) DEFINITION OF CONGRESSIONAL DEFENSE COM-  
4 MITTEES.—In this section, the term “congressional de-  
5 fense committees” has the meaning given such term in  
6 section 101(a) of title 10, United States Code.