

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1649

To authorize the Secretary of Defense to enter into partnerships with Israel and other allies of the United States to develop technology to detect tunnels, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 26, 2015

Mr. LAMBORN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Select Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Defense to enter into partnerships with Israel and other allies of the United States to develop technology to detect tunnels, 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 “Partnering to Detect
5 and Defeat Tunnels Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Tunnels have been used for centuries
2 around the world as a means of avoiding detection
3 or circumventing defenses.

4 (2) Tunnels can be used for criminal purposes,
5 such as smuggling drugs, weapons, or humans, or
6 for terrorist or military purposes, such as launching
7 surprise attacks or detonating explosives underneath
8 infrastructure.

9 (3) Tunnels have been a growing threat on the
10 southern border of the United States for many
11 years, and the Department of Homeland Security
12 has been working to address this threat.

13 (4) The conflict in Gaza in 2014 showed that
14 terrorists are now actively using tunnels as a means
15 of attack, and news reports indicate that tunnels are
16 being used in Syria as well.

17 (5) Terrorist organizations are quick to adopt
18 successful tactics, and it is only a matter of time be-
19 fore other terrorist organizations begin using tun-
20 nels.

21 (6) The facilities of the United States, and
22 those of the allies of the United States, could be
23 under threat very quickly if tunnel threats continue
24 to proliferate.

1 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
2 gress that—

3 (1) it is in the best interests of the United
4 States to develop technology to detect and counter
5 tunnels, and the best way to do this is to partner
6 with other affected countries; and

7 (2) Israel is facing serious threats posed by
8 tunnels and should be the first partner of the United
9 States in addressing this significant challenge.

10 **SEC. 3. DEVELOPMENT OF TUNNEL DETECTION TECH-**
11 **NOLOGY.**

12 (a) PARTNERSHIPS.—

13 (1) ISRAEL.—The Secretary of Defense, in co-
14 ordination with the Secretary of State and the Sec-
15 retary of Homeland Security, shall seek to enter into
16 an agreement with Israel to partner and coordinate
17 in developing and deploying technologies to detect
18 and counter tunnels, including by—

19 (A) carrying out research, development,
20 testing, and evaluation activities with respect to
21 tunnel detection technologies; and

22 (B) carrying out operational testing of
23 such technologies in both the United States and
24 Israel.

1 (2) OTHER ALLIES.—In addition to the agree-
2 ment described in paragraph (1), the Secretary of
3 Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State
4 and the Secretary of Homeland Security, may seek
5 to enter into similar agreements with allies of the
6 United States to develop technologies to detect and
7 counter tunnels.

8 (b) LEAD DEVELOPMENT AGENCY.—The Secretary
9 of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of Home-
10 land Security, shall designate a military department or
11 other element of the Department of Defense to carry out
12 subsection (a) as the lead agency of the Federal Govern-
13 ment for developing technology to detect and counter tun-
14 nels.

15 (c) LEAD INTELLIGENCE OFFICER.—The Director of
16 National Intelligence shall designate a senior intelligence
17 officer to manage the collection and analysis of intelligence
18 regarding the tactical use of tunnels by state and non-
19 state actors.

20 (d) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than 180 days
21 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and each year
22 thereafter through 2020, the Secretary of Defense shall
23 submit to Congress a report containing, with respect to
24 the period covered by each such report, the following:

1 (1) Instances of tunnels being used to attack
2 installations of the United States or allies of the
3 United States.

4 (2) Trends or developments in tunnel attacks
5 throughout the world.

6 (3) Key technologies used and challenges faced
7 by potential adversaries of the United States with
8 respect to using tunnels.

9 (4) The capabilities of the Department of De-
10 fense for defending fixed or forward locations from
11 tunnel attacks.

12 (5) Partnerships entered into with allies of the
13 United States under this section, and potential op-
14 portunities for increased partnerships with other al-
15 lies with respect to researching tunnel detection
16 technologies.

17 (6) The plans, including with respect to fund-
18 ing, of the Secretary for countering threats posed by
19 tunnels.

20 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addi-
21 tion to amounts otherwise authorized to be appropriated
22 for fiscal year 2016, to carry out this section there is au-
23 thorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2016—

1 (1) for research, development, test, and evalua-
2 tion, Army, for sensors and electronic survivability,
3 \$5,000,000;

4 (2) for research, development, test, and evalua-
5 tion, Defense-wide, for the physical security program
6 of the Combating Terrorism Technical Support Of-
7 fice, \$8,000,000; and

8 (3) for the Joint Improvised Explosive Device
9 Defeat Fund, \$10,000,000.

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