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**Summary of Conclusions from
Sahel-Maghreb Oversight Committee Meeting
May 1, 2015**

RELEASE IN FULL

- The Committee recognized that Counterterrorism Partnership Fund (CTPF) resources can increase security sector counterterrorism capacity-building efforts in the Sahel-Maghreb and Lake Chad regions, but called for sufficient staffing resources in Washington, AFRICOM, and at the country-team level to manage the anticipated increases in programming. The Committee also recognized the urgency of augmenting overtaxed State Department resources, mostly Foreign Military Financing (FMF), required to sustain security assistance programs funded through CTPF or the Section 2282 authority.
- The Committee welcomed State Department plans to use \$50 million to pilot CTPF-related projects and processes and to focus those resources on addressing foreign fighter flows and threats in the Sahel-Maghreb and Lake Chad regions. The Committee emphasized the importance of developing comprehensive and complementary approaches, noting that the DOD and State efforts must be closely aligned.
- The Committee concurred with USAID's recommendation that the CTPF working group covering the Sahel and Maghreb develop concepts that are consistent with the lines of effort created under the Sahel Development Initiative.
- The Committee commended the initial work of the TSCTP border security team to determine the state of border security programs in the region, analyze gaps, and compile best practices. It endorsed the team's recommendations and urged close coordination with relevant bodies in the region such as UN agencies, IOM (International Organization for Migration), the UN Special Envoy for the Sahel's office and UNODC.
- The Committee urged the TSCTP Border Security Team to work closely with USAID on a project involving border community engagement to ensure lessons learned are applied and programs are complementary and de-conflicted. The Committee also emphasized that cross-border activities involving Chad and Cameroon must be complementary and not duplicative of projects funded under the Global Strategic Contingency Fund (GSCF).

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- The Committee approved additional standard operating procedures (SOPs) to assist counterterrorism and CVE program tracking and evaluation. The SOPs formalize the collection of trainee data, activity lists and success stories. The Committee urged TSCTP program managers to work closely with F on data collection, as F may already collect some of desired data.
- The Committee took note of a discussion paper circulated prior to the meeting advocating for a more strategic approach to CVE in Northwest Africa. It encouraged support for upcoming regional CVE summits in Algeria, Benin, and West Africa, taking note of the importance of civil society participation in the events. The Committee recognized the importance of civil society or independent voices to counter extremist messaging when governments lack credibility.

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