

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
October 14-15, 2020
Virtual**

Resolution No. 27: Sustaining Counterterrorism Efforts

Origin: National Security Commission

Submitted by: National Security Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion is an organization of wartime veterans created by an act of the United States Congress in 1919; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion is committed to the security and defense of the United States and its allies; and

WHEREAS, In any war, continued public support not only for the troops, but also for their mission, is essential for victory; and

WHEREAS, The United States of America was suddenly, and without provocation, attacked by terrorists on September 11, 2001, resulting in the death of nearly 3,000 innocent people, injuring over 6,000 victims, and causing untold economic damage to the nation; and

WHEREAS, This attack was not an isolated event, but one in a long series of terrorist attacks aimed at destroying such core American values as liberty, democracy and respect for human rights; and

WHEREAS, In response to this clear act of war against the United States, Congress authorized the use of military force against those persons and organizations who planned and helped carry out the attack, their affiliates and those that harbored them, and to deter and pre-empt future acts of terrorism; and

WHEREAS, Our servicemembers have made tremendous sacrifices over the past decade in fighting the forces of tyranny and terror; and

WHEREAS, Members of the United States military and intelligence agencies, displaying great courage and commitment to the mission, are still deployed around the world in support of counterterrorism efforts, including Afghanistan, the Horn of Africa, the Philippines, and elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, While the U.S. and our allies have had great successes in the war on terrorism; global terrorist groups, and their sponsors, continue to operate in many locations and pose a grave threat to the national security of the United States; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Defense's 2018 National Defense Strategy lays out a world where great-power competition, rather than counterterrorism, will drive the department's decision-making and force structure; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on October 14-15, 2020, That The American Legion fully supports the men, women, and leadership of our armed forces as they are engaged in ongoing counterterrorism efforts; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion fully supports a joint force with a long-term strategic plan, ability to rapidly disperse new technologies, and devise new concepts of warfare that span the entire spectrum of conflict; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion fully supports a more effective, lethal, resilient, and rapidly innovative joint force, combined with a robust constellation of allies and partners, to sustain American influence, ensure favorable balances of power that will safeguard the free and open international order.