

JOINT STATEMENT OF INTENT BY MR. JEAN-YVES LE DRIAN, MINISTER OF DEFENCE
OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC, AND THE HONORABLE ASHTON CARTER, SECRETARY OF
DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

France and the United States have built, over the past two centuries, the oldest alliance between two nations on the European and American continents. Formed in the crucible of the U.S. War of Independence, the First and Second World Wars, the Korean War, and all the common struggles faced by our two countries in the past half-century, this alliance is first and foremost the offspring of women and men who share common values, as well as the will and capacity to defend them.

The French and American people have constantly embodied this alliance. The support France extended to the American people following the September 11, 2001, attacks against the United States was reciprocated by U.S. shows of solidarity with France the day after the November 13, 2015, attacks.

Today, military cooperation between France and the United States is stronger than ever. At the core of our partnership is the awareness that France and the United States face similar security challenges, and that we must confront them together.

The relationship we have built is full of examples of our close, and mutually beneficial, cooperation. Today, we are engaged side-by-side in the fight against terrorism. In the Levant, the French military is a key contributor and proven partner in the U.S.-led Coalition to counter the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), thanks to contributions by the Air Force, the Navy, including the Charles de Gaulle Carrier Group, and the Army that together play a decisive role. In operations in the Sahel region of Africa, it is France that is in the lead, providing the front line force while the United States provides French forces with logistical and intelligence support. In Europe, in solidarity with the Alliance, the United States and France have deployed military capabilities along the Eastern Flank to enhance deterrence and defense. Convinced that European Allies and partners should build credible forces, we are committed to fulfilling the NATO Wales Summit Defense Investment Pledge. Finally, our practical cooperation has deepened in a number of areas of strategic interest including operational intelligence, space, cyber, nuclear, biological, and chemical defense.

In the coming years, we anticipate having to face together a range of threats from both State and non-State actors while striving to uphold the international rules-based order. This Joint Statement of Intent seeks to capture our vision and provide a framework for future bilateral cooperation. As its authors and leaders of our militaries, we acknowledge the non-legally binding nature of this document, but believe that it is important to make this public statement together. In this regard, we have identified several key areas in which we should ensure that our cooperation is maintained or developed:

- First, we intend to share analysis and assessments on regions where our armed forces cooperate and where we share common interests, such as, and in particular, the Euro-Atlantic, Africa, the Levant, the Indian Ocean, and Asia-Pacific regions. These activities facilitate collaboration and enable us to understand better the challenges and to address

any differences of analysis up front. Our cooperation on strategic assessment is an essential element to understanding and preparing to address future challenges.

- Second, at the operational level, we intend to make enduring our mutual support in the theaters where we are engaged together, namely the Middle East and Africa. To strengthen our ability to support each other as well as to allow us to operate in demanding environments, we intend to pursue efforts aimed at furthering the interoperability of our forces, including partnership exchanges and acquisition of military capabilities.
- Third, our ability to conduct joint operations has been vastly improved by the remarkable progress made within the past year in terms of operational military intelligence exchanges. Following the Paris attacks, special instructions given to our military intelligence agencies have made access to each other's operational intelligence the default mode of exchange in the theaters where we are engaged together. The Lafayette Committee, established to monitor the application of those special instructions, should continue to meet over the coming years and seek ways to improve the quality and fluidity of these exchanges.
- Fourth, it is our intent to extend our cooperation beyond the common domains of air, land, and sea. We envision tremendous opportunities and benefits in expanding cooperation in the domains of cyber and space. As early as 2010, the United States and France seized opportunities to work closely in the cyber domain, and in 2014, we signed a cooperation framework to cement, and build upon, a strong foundation of cyber cooperation. In the space domain, the United States and France created a cooperation forum in 2009. Joint training events, such as the Schriever War Games and the Space Situational Awareness Tabletop Exercise, reciprocal visits at Kourou and Vandenberg Air Force Base, California, as well as exchanges between leaders of the French and U.S. Space Command strengthen our cooperation and build confidence in our shared activities. The 2016 arrangement for Military Space Cooperation provides an overall policy framework of cooperation in the space domain that is fit for the 21st Century. These arrangements, and arrangements like them, are necessary for our security and our future.
- Fifth, the United States and France have strong histories of cooperation in nuclear, chemical, biological, and radiological defense. We intend to deepen our level of cooperation in these areas, and we stand united against those with malicious intent.
- Specific to the nuclear domain, our responsibilities as nuclear-weapons States, as well as the increasingly challenging strategic environment, encourage us to deepen our already-regular bilateral consultations. Building upon the NATO Warsaw Summit, we intend to continue to help revitalize the Atlantic Alliance's nuclear culture.

In closing, it is not our intent to limit ourselves to the five areas above. The evolution of technology and the ever-changing characteristics of threats that face our nations demand that we work together – collaboratively and cooperatively. We know this to be true, which is why we are signing this Joint Statement. We are proud of the relationship that we have built together, we are proud of the accomplishments that we have achieved together, and we encourage others to build upon the strength of our relationship.

Minister of Defence

Secretary of Defense

French Republic

United States of America

Date:

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