

A \$4 MILLION REBEL

QUICK STATS

- ✘ **CONFERENCE:** Spending
- ✘ **TEAM:** Department of Defense
- **FUMBLE:** \$250 million to train 60 Syrian rebels
- **HOW TO RECOVER THE BALL:** Require DOD to continually evaluate programs and move more quickly to eliminate programs that do not meet expectations

Last year, Congress gave \$500 million in federal tax money to train and provide equipment for at least 5,400 Syrian rebels fighting against ISIL. Over the next year, DOD spent about half of that amount and managed to train an overwhelming force of 60 fighters. In other words DOD spent about \$4 million per rebel.⁴⁶

This resounding lack of success is likely why on October 9, 2015, the Obama Administration announced a “pause” in the program to re-evaluate how the U.S. would support those fighting against ISIL.⁴⁷ In a press release, DOD announced it would begin to provide equipment and weapons to select rebel leaders instead of training them.

RECOVERY

It is good DOD finally recognized that this training and equipping program did not work. However, it should not have taken a year and \$250 million to figure that out. DOD should have evaluated this program at every stage rather than wait a year to decide its fate. The federal government absolutely needs to support those who fight on the ground against this terrorist group. But Americans deserved to get more for their tax money. A clear Syria strategy is long overdue from this White House. Americans can see the obvious threat, and most Americans understand that sending 60 rebels into Syria at a cost of \$4 million each is not a winning strategy.

For more information, please visit:

[United States Senate Committee on Armed Services: Counter-ISIL Strategy](#)

[US Department of Defense: Statement on Syria](#)

[Politico: Price Tag for Syrian Rebels: \\$4 million each](#)

[CNN: U.S. suspending program to train and equip Syrian rebels](#)