

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMM. PRINT 114-51
OFFERED BY MR. THORNBERRY OF TEXAS

At the end of subtitle E of title XII, add the following:

1 SEC. 12xx. GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT CENTER.

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after
3 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
4 State, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense and
5 the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agen-
6 cies, shall establish a Global Engagement Center (in this
7 section referred to as the “Center”). The purposes of the
8 Center are—

9 (1) to lead and coordinate the compilation and
10 examination of information on foreign government
11 information warfare efforts monitored and inte-
12 grated by the appropriate interagency entities with
13 responsibility for such information, including infor-
14 mation provided by recipients of information access
15 fund grants awarded under subsection (e) and other
16 sources;

17 (2) to establish a framework for the integration
18 of critical data and analysis provided by the appro-
19 priate interagency entities with responsibility for

1 such information on foreign propaganda and
2 disinformation efforts into the development of na-
3 tional strategy;

4 (3) to develop, plan, and synchronize, in coordi-
5 nation with the Secretary of Defense, and the heads
6 of other relevant Federal departments and agencies,
7 whole-of-government initiatives to expose and
8 counter foreign propaganda and disinformation di-
9 rected against United States national security inter-
10 ests and proactively advance fact-based narratives
11 that support United States allies and interests;

12 (4) to demonstrate new technologies, meth-
13 odologies and concepts relevant to the missions of
14 the Center that can be transitioned to other depart-
15 ments or agencies of the United States Government,
16 foreign partners or allies, or other nongovernmental
17 entities;

18 (5) to establish cooperative or liaison relation-
19 ships with foreign partners and allies in consultation
20 with interagency entities with responsibility for such
21 activities, and other entities, such as academia, non-
22 governmental organizations, and the private sector;
23 and

24 (6) to identify shortfalls in United States capa-
25 bilities in any areas relevant to the United States

1 Government's mission, and recommend necessary en-
2 hancements or changes.

3 (b) FUNCTIONS.—The Center shall carry out the fol-
4 lowing functions:

5 (1) Integrating interagency and international
6 efforts to track and evaluate counterfactual nar-
7 ratives abroad that threaten the national security in-
8 terests of the United States and United States allies.

9 (2) Integrating, and analyzing relevant informa-
10 tion, data, analysis, and analytics from United
11 States Government agencies, allied nations, think
12 tanks, academic institutions, civil society groups,
13 and other nongovernmental organizations.

14 (3) Developing and disseminating fact-based
15 narratives and analysis to counter propaganda and
16 disinformation directed at United States allies and
17 partners.

18 (4) Identifying current and emerging trends in
19 foreign propaganda and disinformation based on the
20 information provided by the appropriate interagency
21 entities with responsibility for such information, in-
22 cluding information obtained from print, broadcast,
23 online and social media, support for third-party out-
24 lets such as think tanks, political parties, and non-
25 governmental organizations, and the use of covert or

1 clandestine special operators and agents to influence
2 targeted populations and governments in order to
3 coordinate and shape the development of tactics,
4 techniques, and procedures to expose and refute for-
5 eign misinformation and disinformation and
6 proactively promote fact-based narratives and poli-
7 cies to audiences outside the United States.

8 (5) Facilitating the use of a wide range of tech-
9 nologies and techniques by sharing expertise among
10 agencies, seeking expertise from external sources,
11 and implementing best practices.

12 (6) Identifying gaps in United States capabili-
13 ties in areas relevant to the Center's mission and
14 recommending necessary enhancements or changes.

15 (7) Identifying the countries and populations
16 most susceptible to foreign government propaganda
17 and disinformation based on information provided by
18 appropriate interagency entities.

19 (8) Administering the information access fund
20 established pursuant to subsection (e).

21 (9) Coordinating with allied and partner na-
22 tions, particularly those frequently targeted by for-
23 eign disinformation operations, and international or-
24 ganizations and entities such as the NATO Center
25 of Excellence on Strategic Communications, the Eu-

1 ropean Endowment for Democracy, and the Euro-
2 pean External Action Service Task Force on Stra-
3 tegic Communications, in order to amplify the Cen-
4 ter's efforts and avoid duplication.

5 (c) COORDINATOR.—The Secretary of State shall ap-
6 point a full-time Coordinator to lead the Center.

7 (d) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—Any
8 Federal Government employee may be detailed to the Cen-
9 ter without reimbursement, and such detail shall be with-
10 out interruption or loss of civil service status or privilege
11 for a period of not more than five years.

12 (e) INFORMATION ACCESS FUND.—

13 (1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

14 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
15 retary of State for fiscal years 2017 and 2018
16 \$20,000,000 to support the Center and provide
17 grants or contracts of financial support to civil soci-
18 ety groups, journalists, nongovernmental organiza-
19 tions, federally-funded research and development
20 centers, private companies, or academic institutions
21 for the following purposes:

22 (A) To support local independent media
23 who are best placed to refute foreign
24 disinformation and manipulation in their own
25 communities.

1 (B) To collect and store examples in print,
2 online, and social media, disinformation, misin-
3 formation, and propaganda directed at the
4 United States and its allies and partners.

5 (C) To analyze and report on tactics, tech-
6 niques, and procedures of foreign government
7 information warfare with respect to
8 disinformation, misinformation, and propa-
9 ganda.

10 (D) To support efforts by the Center to
11 counter efforts by foreign governments to use
12 disinformation, misinformation, and propa-
13 ganda to influence the policies and social and
14 political stability of the United States and
15 United States allies and partners.

16 (2) FUNDING AVAILABILITY AND LIMITA-
17 TIONS.—The Secretary of States shall provide that
18 each organization that applies to receive funds under
19 this subsection undergoes a vetting process in ac-
20 cordance with the relevant existing regulations to en-
21 sure its bona fides, capability, and experience, and
22 its compatibility with United States interests and
23 objectives.

24 (f) LIMITATION.—None of the funds authorized to be
25 appropriated by the Act to carry out this section shall be

1 used for purposes other than countering foreign propa-
2 ganda and misinformation that threatens United States
3 national security.

4 (g) TERMINATION OF CENTER.—The Center shall
5 terminate on the date that is 10 years after the date of
6 the enactment of this Act.

