

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMM. PRINT 115-70
OFFERED BY MR. CASTRO OF TEXAS

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

1 **SEC. 12__ . HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND DISASTER RE-**
2 **LIEF EXERCISES CONDUCTED BY THE DE-**
3 **PARTMENT OF DEFENSE IN THE INDO-PA-**
4 **CIFIC REGION.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

6 (1) The Indo-Pacific region is home to over 60
7 percent of the world's population and is prone to
8 natural disasters particularly due to its proximity to
9 a geological vulnerable region.

10 (2) The multilateral Pacific Partnership exer-
11 cise, first conducted in 2006 in response to the hu-
12 manitarian and disaster relief operations for the De-
13 cember 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami,
14 involved the participation of 22 partner nations to
15 improve the ability of each country to conduct hu-
16 manitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts.

17 (3) The Pacific Partnership is the largest an-
18 nual multilateral disaster preparedness mission con-
19 ducted in the Indo-Pacific region.

1 (4) The United States Agency for International
2 Development, including through its Office of Foreign
3 Disaster Assistance, leads and coordinates United
4 States humanitarian efforts in foreign countries and
5 often partners with the Department of Defense in
6 responding to disasters.

7 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
8 gress that—

9 (1) the Pacific Partnership, a civic and humani-
10 tarian mission which the United States Navy’s Pa-
11 cific Fleet, in conjunction with partner nations, non-
12 governmental organizations, and other United States
13 and international governmental agencies conducts to
14 strengthen alliances, improves United States and
15 partner capacity to deliver humanitarian assistance
16 and disaster relief and improves security cooperation
17 among the partner nations in the Indo-Pacific re-
18 gion;

19 (2) the Department of Defense should continue
20 to play a role in response to requests for support in
21 international humanitarian assistance and disaster
22 response drawing on its unique capabilities, man-
23 power, and forward-deployed resources; and

24 (3) the Secretary of Defense should assess the
25 United States force posture in the Indo-Pacific re-

1 gion for future Pacific Partnerships and work to ex-
2 pand engagements in the entirety of the Indo-Pacific
3 region if appropriate and if applicable renaming the
4 program as the “Indo-Pacific Partnership”.

5 (c) BRIEFING.—Not later than the end of the first
6 full fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of
7 this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall provide to the ap-
8 propriate congressional committees a briefing on the fol-
9 lowing:

10 (1) A description of humanitarian assistance
11 and disaster relief exercises conducted by the De-
12 partment of Defense in the Indo-Pacific region in
13 the previous year that also identifies the partner
14 countries and militaries involved in any such oper-
15 ations and exercises.

16 (2) A description of any planned humanitarian
17 assistance and disaster relief exercises for the fol-
18 lowing fiscal year in the Indo-Pacific region.

19 (3) A description of any constraints on the abil-
20 ity of the Department of Defense to conduct human-
21 itarian assistance and disaster relief exercises, in-
22 cluding in resources.

23 (4) A description of any efforts undertaken by
24 the Secretary of Defense to ease operational burdens
25 on the Armed Forces of the United States to partici-

1 pate in humanitarian assistance or disaster relief ex-
2 ercises, such as the pre-positioning of equipment, in-
3 clusion of additional partners, and inclusion of exer-
4 cises that may ordinarily be conducted independently
5 of any humanitarian assistance operation or exer-
6 cise.

7 (d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE DE-
8 FINED.—In subsection (c), the term “appropriate congres-
9 sional committees” means—

10 (1) the Committee on Armed Services and the
11 Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

12 (2) the Committee on Armed Services and the
13 Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Rep-
14 resentatives.

