

**AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 119–****8****OFFERED BY MR. CRANE OF ARIZONA**

At the end of subtitle A of title XI of division A, insert the following:

**1 SEC. 11\_\_\_\_. FEASIBILITY STUDY ON DEPARTMENT OF DE-**  
**2 FENSE CIVILIANS FORWARD DEPLOYED INTO**  
**3 COMBAT ZONES AND TOXIC EXPOSURE.**

**4 (a) STUDY REQUIRED.**—The Secretary of Defense  
**5 shall conduct a feasibility study regarding the number of**  
**6 Department of Defense civilian employees who are forward**  
**7 deployed into designated combat zones and who may have**  
**8 been exposed to toxic substances as a result of their serv-**  
**9 ice.**

**10 (b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.**—The study shall in-  
**11 clude, at a minimum, the following:**

**12 (1) The number of Department of Defense civil-**  
**13 ian employees currently forward deployed into com-**  
**14 bat zones, disaggregated by region and occupational**  
**15 specialty.**

**16 (2) Historical data, to the extent practicable, on**  
**17 the number of such civilians deployed over the past**  
**18 20 years.**

1           (3) The extent and nature of potential toxic ex-  
2       posures to Department of Defense civilians deployed  
3       into combat zones, including exposure to—

4                   (A) open-air burn pits;

5                   (B) contaminated water supplies;

6                   (C) airborne particulates; or

7                   (D) industrial or chemical hazards associ-  
8       ated with local environments; and

9                   (E) (E) other environmental or occupa-  
10      tional toxins.

11          (4) The current benefits, entitlements, and pro-  
12      tections available to such civilians in cases of toxic  
13      exposure, including—

14                   (A) health care benefits and eligibility;

15                   (B) hazard pay and deployment allow-  
16      ances;

17                   (C) workers' compensation and other occu-  
18      pational insurance coverages;

19                   (D) eligibility for Department of Labor's  
20      Office of Workers' Compensation Programs;  
21      and

22                   (E) eligibility for Department of Veterans  
23      Affairs programs (if any).

24          (5) A comparison of benefits and entitlements  
25      provided to forward-deployed Department of Defense

1 civilians with those provided to members of the  
2 Armed Forces for toxic exposure and related health  
3 conditions.

4 (6) Identification of any gaps, limitations, or in-  
5 consistencies in coverage or protections between mili-  
6 tary personnel and civilian personnel.

7 (7) The process by which Department of De-  
8 fense civilians are informed of potential toxic expo-  
9 sure risks prior to deployment, and any post-deploy-  
10 ment medical monitoring or surveillance programs  
11 available.

12 (8) Data on claims submitted by Department of  
13 Defense civilians for toxic exposure-related illnesses,  
14 including approval and denial rates, and average  
15 time to adjudicate such claims.

16 (9) The extent to which contractors performing  
17 Department of Defense missions are covered by  
18 similar or different protections compared to direct-  
19 hire civilians.

20 (10) Recommendations for potential legislative  
21 or regulatory actions to better protect Department  
22 of Defense civilians from toxic exposures while for-  
23 ward deployed, and to ensure adequate long-term  
24 health care and compensation for those affected.

1       (c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date  
2 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense  
3 shall submit to the congressional defense committees a re-  
4 port on the findings of the study required under sub-  
5 section (a).

