

AMENDMENT TO
RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 119-33
OFFERED BY MS. GOODLANDER OF NEW
HAMPSHIRE

At the end of subtitle D of title X, add the following new section:

1 **SEC. 10___. ESTABLISHMENT OF STARS AND STRIPES.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Chapter 4 of title 10, United
3 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
4 lowing new section:

5 **“§ 149a. Stars and Stripes**

6 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within
7 the Department of Defense Stars and Stripes.

8 “(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of Stars and Stripes
9 is to provide to members of the armed forces, civilian per-
10 sonnel of the Department of Defense, and family members
11 thereof, an unofficial and abstracted collection of the fol-
12 lowing materials:

13 “(1) News and opinion pieces made available to
14 Stars and Stripes from United States commercial
15 newspapers.

16 “(2) News and information relating to the De-
17 partment of Defense, the armed forces, or local

1 issues relevant to such members, personnel, and
2 family members, that is generated by the staff of
3 Stars and Stripes.

4 “(c) PUBLISHER.—(1) The Publisher is the head of
5 Stars and Stripes.

6 “(2) Except as provided in paragraph (5), the Pub-
7 lisher is subject to the authority, direction, and control
8 of the Secretary of Defense.

9 “(3) The Publisher shall be appointed by the Sec-
10 retary of Defense from among qualified individuals with
11 significant career experience in independent journalism
12 and may not—

13 “(A) be a member of the armed forces or a ci-
14 vilian employee of the Department of Defense; or

15 “(B) have served within the Defense Media Ac-
16 tivity at any time during the five-year period pre-
17 ceding the date of such appointment.

18 “(4)(A) The Secretary of Defense may only suspend
19 or remove the Publisher from the position as head of Stars
20 and Stripes under paragraph (1) on the basis of docu-
21 mented misconduct or performance failure.

22 “(B) Not later than five days after any date on which
23 the Secretary of Defense suspends or removes the Pub-
24 lisher from such position, the Secretary shall submit to
25 the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Rep-

1 representatives and the Senate a written notification of such
2 action, including—

3 “(i) a detailed justification for such suspension
4 or removal; and

5 “(ii) documentation of evidence supporting such
6 suspension or removal.

7 “(5) The Publisher shall have sole authority over the
8 following:

9 “(A) Any editorial decision making of Stars and
10 Stripes, consistent with subsection (f)(2).

11 “(B) The hiring and termination of the staff of
12 Stars and Stripes.

13 “(d) STAFF.—(1) The Publisher may appoint such
14 staff as the Publisher considers appropriate in accordance
15 with section 3101 of title 5.

16 “(2) The staff appointed under paragraph (1) shall
17 include the following positions:

18 “(A) The Ombudsman of Stars and Stripes.

19 “(B) One or more Editors of Stars and Stripes.

20 “(3) Upon request of the Publisher—

21 “(A) the Secretary of Defense may detail civil-
22 ian personnel of the Department of the Defense to
23 Stars and Stripes to assist in carrying out the activi-
24 ties of Stars and Stripes; and

1 “(B) the Secretary concerned may arrange for
2 the temporary assignment of members of the armed
3 forces to Stars and Stripes for such purpose.

4 “(e) INCLUSION OF CERTAIN MATERIALS.—(1) The
5 Publisher may enter into a contract with a United States
6 commercial media outlet for the purchase of materials
7 specified in subsection (b)(1) or for employees of such
8 media outlet to generate such materials on behalf of Stars
9 and Stripes.

10 “(2) The material referred to in paragraph (1) may
11 include news stories, features, syndicated columns, comic
12 strips, and editorial cartoons.

13 “(f) EDITORIAL PRACTICES.—(1) The editorial poli-
14 cies and practices of Stars and Stripes shall be consistent
15 with the journalistic standards governing United States
16 commercial newspapers of the highest quality.

17 “(2) No member of the armed forces or Department
18 of Defense officer or employee within the civil service (as
19 that term is defined in section 2101 of title 5), including
20 any political appointee, may interfere with the editorial de-
21 cision making of Stars and Stripes, including in connec-
22 tion with the oversight of staff detailed or temporarily as-
23 signed to Stars and Stripes pursuant to subsection (d)(3).

24 “(g) PROHIBITION ON WITHHOLDING MATERIALS
25 FROM PUBLICATION.—(1) Except as provided in para-

1 graph (2), the Publisher may not withhold from publica-
2 tion any material on the basis that such material is unfa-
3 vorable to the Department of Defense, the armed forces,
4 or the United States Government, or any other basis in-
5 consistent with a journalistic standard specified in sub-
6 section (f)(1).

7 “(2) The prohibition under paragraph (1) shall not
8 apply with respect to any material the publication of which
9 would result in the clear endangerment of the lives of
10 United States personnel.

11 “(3) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as
12 authorizing the publication of material which would result
13 in the disclosure of classified national security information
14 or other classified information.

15 “(h) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Defense shall
16 promulgate or revise such regulations as may be necessary
17 to implement this section.

18 “(i) POLITICAL APPOINTEE DEFINED.—In this sec-
19 tion, the term ‘political appointee’ means an individual
20 who is—

21 “(1) employed in a position described under
22 sections 5312 through 5316 of title 5 (relating to
23 the Executive Schedule);

24 “(2) a limited term appointee, limited emer-
25 gency appointee, or noncareer appointee in the Sen-

1 ior Executive Service, as defined under paragraphs
2 (5), (6), and (7), respectively, of section 3132(a) of
3 title 5; or

4 “(3) employed in a position of a confidential or
5 policy-determining character under schedule C of
6 subpart C of part 213 of title 5, Code of Federal
7 Regulations, or successor regulation.”.

8 (b) DEADLINE FOR INITIAL APPOINTMENT.—Not
9 later than five days after the date of the enactment of
10 this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall appoint as the
11 Publisher under section 149a(c)(3) of title 10, United
12 States Code, as added by subsection (a), the individual
13 serving as the Publisher of Stars and Stripes as of May
14 1, 2026.

