

**AMENDMENT TO RULES**  
**COMMITTEE PRINT 119–8**  
**OFFERED BY MR. HORSFORD OF NEVADA**

At the end of subtitle C of title VII, add the following new subsection:

1 **SEC. 7\_\_\_\_. STUDY ON PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF AND**  
2 **MENTAL HEALTH IMPACTS OF COMBAT RE-**  
3 **MOTELY PILOTED AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS.**

4 (a) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Defense  
5 shall conduct a comprehensive study on the psychological  
6 effects and mental health impacts of remotely piloted air-  
7 craft combat operations on members of the Armed Forces  
8 and other personnel engaged in such operations.

9 (b) ELEMENTS.—The study under subsection (a)  
10 shall include the following elements:

11 (1) An assessment of the prevalence of post-  
12 traumatic stress disorder, depression, anxiety, burn-  
13 out, moral injury, and other mental health condi-  
14 tions among members of the Armed Forces and ci-  
15 vilian personnel who—

16 (A) Pilot or operate combat remotely pi-  
17 loted aircraft systems; or

1 (B) analyze combat imagery and conduct  
2 targeting assessments for such systems.

3 (2) A comparative analysis of the mental health  
4 outcomes of such individuals relative to—

5 (A) aircrew engaged in crewed combat op-  
6 erations; and

7 (B) personnel deployed in non-flying com-  
8 bat roles.

9 (3) An evaluation of operational stressors  
10 unique to combat drone operations, including—

11 (A) shift work and sleep disruption;

12 (B) remote witnessing of lethal operations;

13 (C) emotional disengagement and isolation;

14 and

15 (D) exposure to civilian casualties or trau-  
16 matic visual content.

17 (4) An assessment of existing Department of  
18 Defense mental health support services available to  
19 remotely piloted aircraft personnel and whether such  
20 services are adequate, accessible, and appropriately  
21 tailored.

22 (5) Recommendations to improve mental health  
23 screening, treatment, and prevention for remotely pi-  
24 loted aircraft operators and support staff.

1 (c) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the study, the  
2 Secretary shall consult with—

3 (1) the Surgeons General of the Armed Forces;

4 (2) the Under Secretary of Defense for Per-  
5 sonnel and Readiness;

6 (3) the Defense Health Agency;

7 (4) behavioral health experts within the Depart-  
8 ment of Veterans Affairs; and

9 (5) appropriate scientific institutions with ex-  
10 pertise in combat psychology and remote warfare.

11 (d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 12  
12 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the  
13 Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on  
14 Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Represent-  
15 atives an unclassified report on the results of the study  
16 conducted under this section, including the recommenda-  
17 tions described in subsection (b)(5).

