AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2670
OFFERED BY MR. ISSA OF CALIFORNIA

At the appropriate place in subtitle B of title VIII, insert the following:

1 SEC. 8. ENHANCED MISSION CAPABILITY AND EXPERIMENTATION AUTHORITIES TO ACCELERATE IMPLEMENTATION OF JOINT ALL DOMAIN COMMAND AND CONTROL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Deputy Chief Technology Officer for Mission Capabilities in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering may exercise the authorities described in subsection (b) in accordance with this section to facilitate the development and implementation of joint all domain command and control by continuously identifying and prototyping technologies and operational concepts to use existing capabilities to address the most critical challenges of the Joint Force.

(b) AUTHORITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The authorities described in this subsection are—
(A) the authority to enter contracts to acquire goods and services in an amount not exceeding $50,000,000; and

(B) except as otherwise provided by this section, the authority to appoint, prescribe rates of pay for, and provide additional pay to highly qualified experts in the same manner as the Secretary of Defense under section 9903 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) Acquisition Authority.—The laws and regulations applicable to acquisitions of goods and services by the Secretary of Defense shall apply to the acquisition of goods and services by the Deputy Chief pursuant to subsection (b)(1)(A).

(3) Hiring Authorities.—

(A) Appointment Limits.—When exercising the authority described in subsection (b)(1)(B) under subsection (a), the Deputy Chief may—

(i) appoint only individuals with demonstrated expertise in the development, testing, production, and delivery or integration of modular systems and major system components (as defined in section 4401(b) of title 10, United States Code),
including autonomous vehicles, advanced
sensors and radio systems, and software
systems; and

(ii) appoint individuals to not more
than 12 positions as program managers in
the Office of the Under Secretary of De-
fense for Research and Engineering

(B) TERM EXTENSION.—Notwithstanding
subsection (c)(2) of section 9903 of title 5,
United States Code, the Deputy Chief may ex-
tend the period which an employee appointed
pursuant to subsection (b)(1)(C) of this Act
may serve by up to seven additional years.

(C) EXCEPTED SERVICE POSITIONS.—
Each position to which the Deputy Chief may
appoint an individual pursuant to subsection
(b)(1)(C) shall be in the excepted service (as
such term is defined in section 2103 of title 5,
United States Code).

(e) PRIORITIZATION.—In carrying out this section,
the Deputy Chief shall prioritize technologies and oper-
ational concepts enabled or enhanced by novel technologies
or novel uses of existing technologies—
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(1) that have been developed based on analyses of the operational challenges of combatant commands; and

(2) which the Deputy Chief may evaluate in collaboration with other elements of the Department of Defense or members of the intelligence community (as defined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003)).

(d) RESPONSIBILITIES.—In carrying out this section, the Deputy Chief shall—

(1) provide technical support for the Joint Force to identify and evaluate new capabilities, operational concepts, and systems-of-systems composition, including through advanced modeling and simulation; and

(2) have such other responsibilities as the Secretary of Defense determines appropriate.

(e) EVALUATION COORDINATION.—The Deputy Chief shall, in coordination with the Executive Director for Acquisition, Integration, and Interoperability in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, assess the feasibility of acquiring, implementing, and sustaining each technology and operational concept evaluated under this section for the purpose of determining whether the technology or operational concept
is capable of addressing a critical challenge of the Joint Force.

(f) **Briefings Required.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Deputy Chief shall provide briefings to the congressional defense committees on their plans and activities to carry out the activities described in this section.

(g) **Definitions.**—In this section:

1. **Deputy Chief.**—The term “Deputy Chief” means the Deputy Chief Technology Officer for Mission Capabilities in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering.

2. **System-of-Systems Composition.**—The term “system-of-systems composition” means a set of weapons, mission systems, software, and other technical capabilities that operate in conjunction to carry out an operational concept.