

AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT

119–8

OFFERED BY MR. ISSA OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of subtitle C of title V, add the following
new section:

1 **SEC. 5 ____ . CREDIT FOR CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE ARMED**
2 **FORCES WHO SERVED IN FEMALE CULTURAL**
3 **SUPPORT TEAMS.**

4 (a) **MILITARY SERVICE: RECORDS; CALCULATION OF**
5 **RETIRED PAY.**—Not later than one year after the date
6 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned shall
7 ensure that the performance of covered service is included
8 in—

9 (1) the military service record of each individual
10 who performed covered service; and

11 (2) the computation of retired pay for each in-
12 dividual who performed covered service.

13 (b) **CLAIMS FOR VETERANS BENEFITS ARISING**
14 **FROM COVERED SERVICE.**—

15 (1) **DETERMINATION OF SERVICE CONNEC-**
16 **TION.**—Upon the filing of a claim by an individual
17 for service-connected disability or death incurred or
18 aggravated in the course of covered service, the Sec-

1 retary of Veterans Affairs shall determine whether
2 such disability or death was service-connected.

3 (2) TREATMENT OF COVERED SERVICE.—In the
4 consideration of a claim under this subsection, the
5 Secretary shall treat covered service as engagement
6 in combat with the enemy in the course of active
7 military, naval, air, or space service.

8 (3) EFFECTIVE DATE OF AWARD.—Except as
9 provided by subparagraph (B), the effective date of
10 an award under this subsection shall be determined
11 in accordance with section 5110 of title 38, United
12 States Code.

13 (4) PROCESSING OF CLAIMS.—The Secretary of
14 Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Secretary
15 of Defense, shall improve training and guidance for
16 employees who may process a claim under this sub-
17 section.

18 (5) OUTREACH.—The Secretary shall conduct
19 outreach to inform individuals who performed cov-
20 ered service (and survivors of such individuals) that
21 they may submit supplemental claims for service-
22 connected disability or death incurred or aggravated
23 in the course of covered service. Such outreach shall
24 include the following:

1 (A) The Secretary shall publish on the
2 internet website of the Department a notice
3 that such individuals may elect to file a supple-
4 mental claim.

5 (B) The Secretary shall notify, in writing
6 or by electronic means, veterans service organi-
7 zations of the ability of such individuals to file
8 a supplemental claim.

9 (c) STUDY AND REPORT ON CERTAIN MEMBERS OF
10 THE ARMED FORCES.—

11 (1) STUDY.—The Secretary of Defense, in col-
12 laboration with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs,
13 shall conduct a study to identify the size and num-
14 ber of groups of Special Female Teams who—

15 (A) performed service as a member of the
16 Armed Forces that the Secretary of Defense
17 and Secretary of Veterans Affairs determine is
18 substantially similar to covered service; and

19 (B) have a military service record that
20 does not include such service as a member of
21 the Armed Forces.

22 (2) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the
23 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
24 Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall

1 submit to Congress a report that includes the find-
2 ings of the study under paragraph (1).

3 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) The term “covered service” means service—

5 (A) as a member of the Armed Forces;

6 (B) in a Special Female Team; and

7 (C) during the period beginning on Janu-
8 ary 1, 2001, to August 31, 2021.

9 (2) The terms “active military, naval, air, or
10 space service” and “service-connected” have the
11 meanings given such terms in section 101 of title 38,
12 United States Code.

13 (3) The term “Secretary concerned” has the
14 meaning given such term in section 101 of title 10,
15 United States Code.

