AMENDMENT TO RULES COMM. PRINT 115–23
OFFERED BY MRS. MURPHY OF FLORIDA

At the end of subtitle F of title XII, add the following new section:

SEC. 12. ESTABLISHMENT OF INDO-ASIA-PACIFIC DEFENSE COUNCIL.

(a) Statement of Policy.—

(1) In general.—It is the policy of the United States to continue to maintain a strong military posture in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region in order to reassure United States allies, deter aggression, and respond swiftly to crises.

(2) Enhanced military training and exercises.—The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall seek opportunities to enhance military training and exercises with United States allies in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region to deepen cooperation between the militaries of the United States and such allies, to expand operational capabilities, and to encourage respect for human rights and the rule of law.

(b) Joint Defense Council.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may establish a regional joint defense council to be known as the Indo-Asia-Pacific Defense Council, to be comprised of defense and security officials from the United States and allied and partner nations.

(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the council shall be to strengthen cooperation between the United States and its allies in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region to combat mutual threats. The council would work together with allied and partner nations and institutions to expand and deepen multilateral security cooperation based on shared interests.

(3) ACTIVITIES.—The council may undertake the following activities:

(A) Strengthening counterterrorism operations and building capacity to track, investigate, and prosecute individuals engaged in terrorist activities.

(B) Improving regional maritime security and capabilities to interdict illegal arms shipments.

(C) Bolstering regional cybersecurity initiatives and protecting critical infrastructure.

(D) Strengthening military training capabilities and preparedness.
(E) Facilitating defense-related transfers, subject to the requirements of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.).

(F) Facilitating efforts to enhance training, preparedness, and operations by allies to address North Korean weapons proliferation.

(c) INDO-ASIA-PACIFIC REGION DEFINED.—In this section, the term “Indo-Asia-Pacific region” means the region corresponding to the area of responsibility of the United States Pacific Command, as defined by the Department of Defense unified command plan.