

**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:

1 **SEC. 12\_\_ . ESTABLISHMENT OF INDO-ASIA-PACIFIC DE-**  
2 **FENSE COUNCIL.**

3 (a) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—It is the policy of the United  
5 States to continue to maintain a strong military posture  
6 in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region in order to reassure  
7 United States allies, deter aggression, and respond  
8 swiftly to crises.

9 (2) ENHANCED MILITARY TRAINING AND EXERCISES.—  
10 The Secretary of Defense, in consultation  
11 with the Secretary of State, shall seek opportunities  
12 to enhance military training and exercises with  
13 United States allies in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region  
14 to deepen cooperation between the militaries of the  
15 United States and such allies, to expand operational  
16 capabilities, and to encourage respect for human  
17 rights and the rule of law.

18 (b) JOINT DEFENSE COUNCIL.—

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

6           (2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the council shall  
7           be to strengthen cooperation between the United  
8           States and its allies in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region  
9           to combat mutual threats. The council would work  
10          together with allied and partner nations and institu-  
11          tions to expand and deepen multilateral security co-  
12          operation based on shared interests.

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

15                (A) Strengthening counterterrorism oper-  
16                ations and building capacity to track, inves-  
17                tigate, and prosecute individuals engaged in ter-  
18                rorist activities.

19                (B) Improving regional maritime security  
20                and capabilities to interdict illegal arms ship-  
21                ments.

22                (C) Bolstering regional cybersecurity ini-  
23                tiatives and protecting critical infrastructure.

24                (D) Strengthening military training capa-  
25                bilities and preparedness.

1                   (E) Facilitating defense-related transfers,  
2                   subject to the requirements of the Arms Export  
3                   Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.).

4                   (F) Facilitating efforts to enhance train-  
5                   ing, preparedness, and operations by allies to  
6                   address North Korean weapons proliferation.

7           (c) INDO-ASIA-PACIFIC REGION DEFINED.—In this  
8           section, the term “Indo-Asia-Pacific region” means the re-  
9           gion corresponding to the area of responsibility of the  
10          United States Pacific Command, as defined by the De-  
11          partment of Defense unified command plan.

