

AMENDMENT TO
RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 119–8
OFFERED BY MR. PANETTA OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of subtitle B of title II, insert the following new section:

1 **SEC. 2____. DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNET ACCESS TECH-**
2 **NOLOGIES BY THE DEFENSE INNOVATION**
3 **UNIT.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Defense Inno-
5 vation Unit (referred to in this section as the “Unit”) shall
6 undertake efforts to support the development of low-cost,
7 easily scalable, and rapidly deployable technologies to
8 counter internet shutdowns or limitations on network ac-
9 cess abroad, particularly those imposed by adversary coun-
10 tries, to enable populations to overcome such restrictions.

11 (b) OBJECTIVES.—In carrying out the responsibilities
12 under subsection (a), the Director of the Unit shall
13 prioritize the following objectives:

14 (1) Identifying and supporting the development
15 of technologies capable of overcoming internet black-
16 outs and network disruptions imposed by an adver-
17 sary country and facilitating internet and network
18 access, including—

1 (A) low Earth orbit satellite internet infra-
2 structure;

3 (B) mesh networking solutions;

4 (C) portable and deployable communication
5 systems; and

6 (D) virtual private networks.

7 (2) Collaborating with industry, academia, and
8 relevant stakeholders to accelerate the research, de-
9 velopment, and deployment of such technologies.

10 (3) Conducting pilot programs and field experi-
11 ments to test the effectiveness and scalability of de-
12 veloped solutions in real-world settings.

13 (4) Providing technical assistance and resources
14 to partner organizations, governments, and non-
15 governmental entities engaged in efforts to expand
16 internet access.

17 (5) Identifying and evaluating off-the-shelf
18 technologies that could be rapidly procured and de-
19 ployed to address internet access challenges in tar-
20 geted regions.

21 (c) COLLABORATION WITH DEFENSE ACQUISITION
22 UNIVERSITY.—The Director of the Unit shall collaborate
23 with the head of the Defense Acquisition University to le-
24 verage expertise in acquisition processes and practices re-

1 lated to carrying out the objectives under subsection (b)
2 with the aim of—

3 (1) integrating best practices in defense acquisi-
4 tion into the research, development, and deployment
5 processes of technologies developed by the Unit to
6 facilitate internet access;

7 (2) ensuring that technologies developed by the
8 Unit align with acquisition priorities and strategies
9 of the Department of Defense;

10 (3) providing training and educational opportu-
11 nities for Unit personnel on acquisition principles,
12 regulations, and procedures, with a focus on tech-
13 nology development for countering censorship and
14 related restrictions;

15 (4) fostering dialogue and exchange of knowl-
16 edge between acquisition professionals and innova-
17 tion specialists to enhance the effectiveness and effi-
18 ciency of defense technology acquisition related to
19 internet access technologies; and

20 (5) collaborating on the development of acquisi-
21 tion strategies that prioritize the rapid acquisition
22 and deployment of technologies aimed at countering
23 censorship and restrictions on internet access.

24 (d) REPORTING.—Not later than one year after the
25 date of the enactment of this Act, and on an annual basis

1 thereafter, the Director of the Unit shall submit to the
2 Secretary of Defense and the congressional defense com-
3 mittees a report detailing the progress, challenges, and
4 outcomes of the efforts undertaken pursuant to this sec-
5 tion.

