

AMENDMENT TO
RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 118–10
OFFERED BY MR. PANETTA OF CALIFORNIA

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

1 **SEC. 12___. INCLUSION OF SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES**
2 **IN PLANNING AND STRATEGY RELATING TO**
3 **THE ARCTIC REGION.**

4 (a) STRATEGY.—

5 (1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than one year
6 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
7 Commander of the United States Special Operations
8 Command, in consultation with the Secretary of De-
9 fense and the Commander of the United States
10 Northern Command, shall develop and submit to the
11 Committees on Armed Services of the House of Rep-
12 resentatives and the Senate a Special Operations
13 Forces Arctic Security Strategy, applicable across
14 each component of the special operations forces and
15 within each Armed Force (in this section referred to
16 as the “strategy”).

17 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—The strategy shall—

1 (A) build upon the findings of the report
2 under section 1090(a)(3) of the National De-
3 fense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022
4 (Public Law 117–81; 10 U.S.C. 113 note) and
5 the 2022 National Defense Strategy;

6 (B) facilitate a consistent understanding of
7 Arctic security priorities across the Department
8 of Defense and a common understanding of the
9 use and purpose of special operations forces for
10 Arctic activities across the Armed Forces, com-
11 batant commands, and other relevant elements
12 of the Department of Defense; and

13 (C) promote greater use and prioritization
14 of special operations forces capabilities, particu-
15 larly with respect to the special operations force
16 of the Army, in Arctic security planning and co-
17 ordination with Indigenous populations and
18 High North allies and partners.

19 (b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy shall include the fol-
20 lowing:

21 (1) A plan for the leveraging of North Amer-
22 ican Indigenous Arctic populations, and the estab-
23 lishment of working definitions and parameters for
24 cooperation with such populations in the following
25 areas:

1 (A) Intelligence, surveillance, and recon-
2 naissance gathering.

3 (B) Improved Arctic training and oper-
4 ation tactics, techniques, and procedures.

5 (C) Empowering local populations to create
6 solutions to regional issues.

7 (D) Building resilience against invasion
8 and occupation and enhancing deterrence capa-
9 bilities.

10 (E) Improving the capacity of allies and
11 partners to build capabilities in the region that
12 produce advantages against adversaries.

13 (F) Building United States credibility for
14 combat operations in the region.

15 (G) Demonstrating United States commit-
16 ment to improving living standards in the re-
17 gion.

18 (H) Any other area the of the Commander
19 of the United States Special Operations Com-
20 mand determines appropriate.

21 (2) A requirement that special operations forces
22 achieve readiness with respect to not more than two
23 Arctic environments.

24 (3) With respect to terminology and working
25 definitions of the Department—

1 (A) a requirement that—

2 (i) the use of the terms “Arctic-capable” and “Arctic-ready” may no longer be
3 used in any document or other material
4 produced by the Department of Defense
5 that outlines Arctic strategies;
6

7 (ii) the replacement terms “Arctic-trained” and “Arctic-proficient” shall be
8 used in lieu of “Arctic-capable” and “Arctic-ready”, respectively; and
9
10

11 (iii) the Department shall provide
12 clear definitions and readiness requirements for each replacement term under
13 clause (ii).
14

15 (B) a review of terminology, and the use of
16 such terminology, relating to military doctrinal
17 readiness (such as the terms “trained” and
18 “proficient”) in the Arctic context, to ensure
19 that the Armed Forces meet operational expectations and may fully partake in joint-training
20 exercises with allies and partners of the United
21 States.
22

23 (4) A description of the conditions necessary to
24 establish a standardized pathway for self-validation
25 for each Armed Force that requires units to be Arc-

1 tic capable, with such standardized pathway being
2 tailored to each Armed Force but consistent with re-
3 spect to shared terminology, an agreed upon list of
4 Arctic environments, and agreed upon standards to
5 become Arctic capable in each such environment.

6 (5) A requirement that the Commander of the
7 United States Special Operations Command, in con-
8 sultation with the Secretary of Defense and the
9 Commander of the United States Northern Com-
10 mand, include in any future years plan for the Arc-
11 tic Security Initiative required under section
12 1090(b)(2)(B) of the National Defense Authoriza-
13 tion Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 117–81;
14 10 U.S.C. 113 note) the following:

15 (A) Updates on ongoing priorities for Arc-
16 tic objectives of the special operations forces.

17 (B) Assessments of the integration of Arc-
18 tic operations of the special operations forces,
19 including the use of Indigenous approaches to
20 domain awareness.

21 (C) A description of the activities and re-
22 sources needed for the special operations forces
23 to obtain readiness in the Arctic region, includ-
24 ing manning, training, equipping, and funding
25 requirements.

1 (D) Any other matter the Commander of
2 the United States Northern Command and the
3 Secretary of Defense jointly determine appro-
4 priate.

5 (6) A requirement that, on an annual basis, the
6 Commander of the United States Special Operations
7 Command submit to the Committees on Armed
8 Services of the House of Representatives and the
9 Senate a progress report (in unclassified form, but
10 with the option of including a classified annex) on
11 the implementation and use of the strategy, includ-
12 ing—

13 (A) an assessment of the ability of the
14 strategy to address new and ongoing concerns;

15 (B) areas relating to the strategy in need
16 of improvement, including any new funding nec-
17 essary;

18 (C) use of the strategy across each Armed
19 Force; and

20 (D) an updated threat assessment with re-
21 spect to the Arctic region.

22 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the term “special
23 operations forces” means forces described under section
24 167(j) of title 10, United States Code.

