

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMM. PRINT 119–8
OFFERED BY MR. CLINE OF VIRGINIA

At the end of subtitle D of title XII, insert the following:

1 **SEC. 12 ____ . REPORT ON DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ROLE**
2 **IN SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL LEGAL OP-**
3 **ERATIONS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
5 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of De-
6 fense, in consultation with the heads of other relevant
7 Federal departments or agencies, shall submit to the ap-
8 propriate committees of Congress a report on the role of
9 the Department of Defense in supporting whole-of-govern-
10 ment efforts to conduct international legal operations and
11 to counter hostile international legal operations by foreign
12 adversaries and strategic competitors of the United States.

13 (b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection
14 (a) shall include the following:

15 (1) A definition of the term “international legal
16 operation”.

17 (2) A description of the scope of application
18 and usefulness of international legal operations in all
19 phases of military conflict.

1 (3) An assessment of the threats posed to the
2 United States and allies and partners of the United
3 States by hostile, gray-zone, or sub-conflict inter-
4 national legal operations waged by foreign adver-
5 saries and strategic competitors of the United
6 States.

7 (4) An assessment of, and a description of les-
8 sons learned from, the international legal operations
9 (including strategies or doctrines) of—

10 (A) foreign adversaries and strategic com-
11 petitors of the United States;

12 (B) member states of the North Atlantic
13 Treaty Organization;

14 (C) the civilian and military headquarters,
15 committees, staffs, commands, and agencies of
16 the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; and

17 (D) allies and partners of the United
18 States.

19 (5) A summary of Department of Defense ac-
20 tivities to support interdepartmental or interagency
21 initiatives of the United States Government applica-
22 ble to international legal operations, the costs and
23 benefits of such initiatives, and recommendations for
24 the enhancement of such initiatives.

1 (6) An assessment of each public affairs officer
2 program of the Armed Forces relating to engaging
3 in and defending against international legal oper-
4 ations, including an assessment as to whether each
5 such program is—

6 (A) being effectively used to counter adver-
7 sary legal claims;

8 (B) coordinating effectively with the De-
9 partment of State to coordinate and amplify
10 relevant United States public messaging efforts;
11 and

12 (C) coordinating with judge advocates of
13 the Armed Forces on public messaging relating
14 to the performance of their duties.

15 (7) Recommendations—

16 (A) to improve coordination between the
17 Department of Defense and other Federal agen-
18 cies and departments, allies and partners of the
19 United States, and other relevant organizations
20 and experts, on the use of legal tools to achieve
21 national strategic objectives; and

22 (B) that take into consideration how best
23 to identify and expose hostile international legal
24 operations, and areas of law in which it may be
25 advisable to develop standard practices for the

1 Department of Defense to support national se-
2 curity-sensitive litigation, particularly in the
3 maritime domain.

4 (8) Recommendations on the manner in which
5 the Secretary of Defense may best support whole-of-
6 government efforts to counter hostile international
7 legal operations and conduct international legal op-
8 erations, including through public messaging and en-
9 hanced cooperation with allies and partners of the
10 United States and relevant nongovernmental organi-
11 zations and experts.

12 (c) FORMAT.—The report required by subsection (a)
13 shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include
14 a classified annex.

15 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16 (1) ALLIES AND PARTNERS OF THE UNITED
17 STATES.—The term “allies and partners of the
18 United States” means—

19 (A) any foreign country that is a party
20 to—

21 (i) the North Atlantic Treaty, signed
22 at Washington, April 4, 1949;

23 (ii) the Security Treaty Between Aus-
24 tralia, New Zealand, and the United

1 States, signed at San Francisco, Sep-
2 tember 1, 1951;

3 (iii) the Mutual Defense Treaty Be-
4 tween the United States of America and
5 the Republic of the Philippines, signed at
6 Washington, August 30, 1951;

7 (iv) the Southeast Asia Collective De-
8 fense Treaty, signed at Manilla, September
9 8, 1954;

10 (v) the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation
11 and Security Between the United States of
12 America and Japan, signed at Washington,
13 January 19, 1960; or

14 (vi) the Mutual Defense Treaty Be-
15 tween the United States of America and
16 the Republic of Korea, signed at Wash-
17 ington, October 1, 1953;

18 (B) Switzerland;

19 (C) Israel;

20 (D) Taiwan; and

21 (E) any other foreign country that the
22 President determines is an ally or partner of
23 the United States for purposes of this section.

1 (2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
2 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-
3 gress” means—

4 (A) the Committee on Armed Services, the
5 Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee
6 on the Judiciary, and the Permanent Select
7 Committee on Intelligence of the House of Rep-
8 resentatives; and

9 (B) the Committee on Armed Services, the
10 Committee on Foreign Relations, the Com-
11 mittee on the Judiciary, and the Select Com-
12 mittee on Intelligence of the Senate.

13 (3) FOREIGN ADVERSARIES AND STRATEGIC
14 COMPETITORS OF THE UNITED STATES.—The term
15 “foreign adversaries and strategic competitors of the
16 United States” means the foreign adversaries listed
17 in section 791.4 of title 15, Code of Federal Regula-
18 tions.

19 (4) GRAY ZONE.—The term “gray zone” has
20 the meaning given the term “gray zone activity” in
21 section 825(b)(5)(A) of the Consolidated Appropria-
22 tions Act, 2022 (50 U.S.C. 3316c note).

