SEC. ___. MISSION TRAINING THROUGH DISTRIBUTED SIMULATION.

(a) AUTHORITY.—Section 346 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking the section designation and heading and inserting the following: **"§346. Mission training of United States and foreign forces through distributed simulation and networked technology";**

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by inserting "TRAINING AND" before DISTRIBUTION AUTHORIZED";

(B) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "interoperability" and inserting "interoperability and integration";

(C) in paragraph (1), by inserting "persistent advanced networked training and exercise activities, also referred to as mission training through distributed simulation, and other" before "electronically-distributed learning content"; and

(D) in paragraph (2), by striking "computer software" and inserting "hardware and software"; and

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "shall include" and inserting "may include"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(3) Advanced distributed network training events and computer-assisted exercises.".

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of subchapter V of chapter 16 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 346 and inserting the following:

"346. Mission training of United States and foreign forces through distributed simulation and networked technology.".

[Please note: The "Changes to Existing Law" section below sets out in red-line format how the legislative text would amend existing law.]

Section-by-Section Analysis

Description:

This proposal would amend section 346 of title 10, United States Code (title 10), to authorize the Secretary of Defense to utilize mission training through distributed simulation (MTDS) activities in military training with friendly foreign forces. MTDS seeks to incorporate live friendly foreign forces into a virtual training environment in lieu of simulated or contractor representation of those forces to enhance interoperability and encourage further strategic partnerships with key allies and partners.

The modification to this authority is consistent with the consolidation of security cooperation authorities into chapter 16 of title 10. These modifications also are consistent with updates to existing authorities accounting for emergent technological capabilities and requirements for high-end systems training activities with partners and allies seeking to increase interoperability and to familiarize themselves with systems procured from the United States. These changes modernize section 346 of title 10 to account for emergent requirements not captured by the original authority.

This authority is necessary because training is recognized as a defense service, and direct or incidental training will be provided by U.S. forces to military forces of friendly foreign countries during this type of activity. These training and exercise events will normally be executed during U.S. forces' combat readiness training events. MTDS, in effect, broadens the training audience available through networked activities, thus increasing the fidelity and depth of training for U.S. and friendly foreign forces. Allowing for this type of virtual integration may also reduce the cost of training and exercises by bringing dissimilar forces together in distributed events, requiring fewer travel expenses and reducing the wear and tear on actual weapon systems. Conducting this type of training through MTDS would be even more critical for training and exercise support as we, and our allies and partners, increasingly rely on advanced weapons systems like the F-35 fighter. At least 50 percent of the training for the F-35 can only be conducted in advanced networked environments.

History: U.S. Air Forces in Europe (USAFE) has temporarily executed MTDS activities under authority granted in section 350 of title 10 (Inter-European Air Forces Academy – IEAFA), as part of a "Simulation and Exercise Management Training Activity." The primary purpose of section 350 is for training of foreign nations' forces in professional military education and technical skills training activities, not persistent advanced networked training and exercises focused mainly on U.S. forces.

Section 321 of title 10 allows for training with allies and partners, but it only allows for the payment of incremental expenses for "developing" countries in most circumstances. Section 333 of title 10 also has a broad training authority, but it is tied to institutional capacity-building requirements, which are unnecessary for many of our partners that would be involved in MTDS. Section 346 of title 10 closely mirrors the intent of MTDS, both for facilitating high-end partners and allowing the payment of incremental expenses; however, to be used effectively, section 346 must be modified to account for the emergent requirements for "live" training in complex environments, increasingly utilized with the F-35.

Discussion: As MTDS activities and emerging technologies supporting synthetic and blended live, virtual, and constructive (LVC) environments continue to expand rapidly, more training and exercises will be conducted in these environments. For many weapon systems, outside of actual combat, MTDS provides the only environment to conduct training in anti-access/area-denial (A2/AD) operations. By supporting the inclusion of friendly foreign forces into the virtual training, we will be providing U.S. forces more realistic training on interoperability and will be doing it in a cost-effective manner—obviating the need either to: 1) program simulated allied or partnered forces into the scenario; or 2) conduct the training in the real-world environment, when possible. The scale, rapidity, and importance of this type of training activity with friendly foreign forces necessitate a flexible global authority, as well as specified authorization to allow for the inclusion of the types of partner activities that MTDS requires.

Budget Implications: The resources impacted are reflected in the table below and are included within the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 President's Budget request.

RESOURCE IMPACT ($MILLIONS)								
Program	**FY 2021**	**FY 2022**	**FY 2023**	**FY 2024**	**FY 2025**	**Appropriation**	**Budget Activity**	**BLI/SAG**
MTDS	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	Operation and Maintenance, Air Force	01	3400
Total	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0			

Changes to Existing Law: This proposal would amend section 346 of title 10, United States Code, as follows

~~**§346. Distribution to certain foreign personnel of education and training materials and information technology to enhance military interoperability with the armed forces**~~

<u>§346. Mission training of United States and foreign forces through distributed simulation and networked technology</u>

(a) <u>Training and</u> Distribution Authorized.-To enhance ~~interoperability~~ <u>interoperability and integration</u> between the armed forces and military forces of friendly foreign countries, the Secretary of Defense, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, may-

(1) provide to personnel referred to in subsection (b) <u>persistent advanced networked training and exercise activities, also referred to as mission training through distributed simulation, and other</u>

electronically distributed learning content for the education and training of such personnel for the development or enhancement of allied and friendly military and civilian capabilities for multinational operations, including joint exercises and coalition operations; and

(2) provide information technology, including ~~computer software~~hardware and software developed for such purpose, but only to the extent necessary to support the use of such learning content for the education and training of such personnel.

(b) Authorized Recipients.-The personnel to whom learning content and information technology may be provided under subsection (a) are military and civilian personnel of a friendly foreign government, with the permission of that government.

(c) Education and Training.-Any education and training provided under subsection (a) ~~shall include~~ may include the following:

(1) Internet-based education and training.

(2) Advanced distributed learning and similar Internet learning tools, as well as distributed training and computer-assisted exercises.

(3) Advanced distributed network training events and computer-assisted exercises.

(d) Applicability of Export Control Regimes.-The provision of learning content and information technology under this section shall be subject to the provisions of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.) and any other export control regime under law relating to the transfer of military technology to foreign countries.

(e) Guidance on Utilization of Authority.-

(1) Guidance required.-The Secretary of Defense shall develop and issue guidance on the procedures for the use of the authority in this section.

(2) Modification.-If the Secretary modifies the guidance issued under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report setting forth the modified guidance not later than 30 days after the date of such modification.