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2d Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

{ REPORT
114-537

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

—
R E P O R T

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ON

H.R. 4909

together with

ADDITIONAL VIEWS

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]



MAY 4, 2016.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the
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provide a vital link and demand signal within the congressional oversight committees, which is necessary to carry out any recommendations requiring statutory modification.

Furthermore, the committee believes that by including representation from the laboratory directors and the operational community in these panels, LQEP can be an even more effective tool for recommending changes to Department processes and regulations. For example, by including the installations and facilities management community into the facilities panel, participants can better navigate existing processes, while also identifying areas or issues where existing processes are insufficient to the needs of the laboratory community.

Low Energy Nuclear Reactions (LENR) Briefing

The committee is aware of recent positive developments in developing low-energy nuclear reactions (LENR), which produce ultra-clean, low-cost renewable energy that have strong national security implications. For example, according to the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), if LENR works it will be a “disruptive technology that could revolutionize energy production and storage.” The committee is also aware of the Defense Advanced Research Project Agency’s (DARPA) findings that other countries including China and India are moving forward with LENR programs of their own and that Japan has actually created its own investment fund to promote such technology. DIA has also assessed that Japan and Italy are leaders in the field and that Russia, China, Israel, and India are now devoting significant resources to LENR development. To better understand the national security implications of these developments, the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing on the military utility of recent U.S. industrial base LENR advancements to the House Committee on Armed Services by September 22, 2016. This briefing should examine the current state of research in the United States, how that compares to work being done internationally, and an assessment of the type of military applications where this technology could potentially be useful.

Minority-serving institutions and minority-owned businesses

The committee recognizes the near-term, mid-term, and long-term impact that science and technology collaboration has on our warfighting capabilities and overall defense posture. Industry, academia, other non-governmental organizations, and Defense Department research, development, and prototyping entities, such as the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, all play a critical role in advancing national security. The committee is aware of the Department’s efforts to harness the talent and innovation taking place in minority-owned businesses, veteran-owned businesses, small businesses, and minority-serving institutions such as Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and Hispanic-Serving Institutions. The committee encourages the Department to continue to collaborate with minority-serving institutions and minority-owned businesses. Additionally, the committee urges the Department to increase opportunities for partnerships in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education programs, research and development efforts, and other areas across the Department’s science and technology enterprise.