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{ REPORT
116-333

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020

CONFERENCE REPORT

TO ACCOMPANY

S. 1790



DECEMBER 9, 2019.—Ordered to be printed

(f) *APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.*—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

- (1) the congressional defense committees; and
- (2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

SEC. 1674. INDEPENDENT STUDY ON RISKS OF NUCLEAR TERRORISM AND NUCLEAR WAR.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a study on—

- (1) whether a risk assessment framework is applicable to determining the potential risks of nuclear terrorism and nuclear war; and
- (2) the implications for national security of assumptions in nuclear policy and doctrine.

(b) *MATTERS INCLUDED.*—The study under subsection (a) shall—

- (1) identify risks described in paragraph (1) of that subsection;
- (2) assess prior literature on such risks;
- (3) assess the role that quantitative and nonquantitative analytical methods can play in assessing such risks, including the limitations of such analysis;
- (4) identify and examine the assumptions about nuclear risks that underlie the national security strategy of the United States; and
- (5) describe the consequences of the methods and assumptions that have been, are, or could be used in developing the nuclear security strategy of the United States.

(c) *RECOMMENDATIONS.*—Based on findings under subsection (b), the study may provide recommendations with respect to improving the use of a risk assessment framework described in subsection (a)(1).

(d) *SUBMISSION.*—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees the study under subsection (a), without change.

(e) *FORM.*—The study shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

SEC. 1675. REPORT ON MILITARY-TO-MILITARY DIALOGUE TO REDUCE RISKS OF MISCALCULATION LEADING TO NUCLEAR WAR.

Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, shall submit to the congressional defense committees, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report containing the following:

- (1) A description of—
 - (A) current discussions between the United States Armed Forces and military counterparts from governments of foreign countries to reduce the risks of miscalculation,