

achieving academic and personal excellence of junior and senior high school students. The committee encourages the Secretary to exercise this authority when appropriate and consider such organizations for eligibility under this section.

Notification of Use of Authority To Expedite Background Investigations

Elsewhere in this title, the committee recommends a provision that would amend section 1564 of title 10, United States Code, to allow the Secretary of Defense to use expedited procedures for completing background investigations for the granting of security clearances for military personnel who have been retired or separated for a physical disability pursuant to chapter 61 of title 10, United States Code. As the committee notes, this will facilitate the transition from a military to a federal civilian career for these individuals. The committee directs the Secretary of Defense to report by letter to the congressional defense and intelligence committees, by February 1, 2011, and annually thereafter through 2015, the number of background investigations performed under this authority.

Operation and Support Costs for Non-Standard Items of Equipment

The committee is aware that operation and support (O&S) costs can constitute up to 70 percent of the lifecycle cost to the government for a weapon system. Because O&S costs are by far the largest percentage of cost in a system's lifespan from research and development to disposal, the committee is concerned that the military departments may not be planning sufficiently for the O&S costs that will be incurred when non-standard items, such as those fielded under rapid fielding initiatives or in response to Joint Urgent Operational Needs Statements, migrate to programs of record.

First among these are the Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle and its smaller variant, the Military All-Terrain Vehicle. The committee understands that O&S costs for these vehicles alone are expected to average at least \$2.0 billion per year. Other systems include equipment fielded for operations in the Republic of Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan such as jammers, radios, armor kits, Aerostats, mine rollers, unmanned aerial systems, MC-12 Project Liberty aircraft, and counter rocket, artillery, sniper, and mortar systems, among hundreds of others.

The committee recommends the Department of Defense and the military departments take action to ensure that these systems are in compliance with section 805 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84) which requires development of a comprehensive lifecycle management plan and product support strategy for each major weapon system.

Private Security Guards Functions To Be Performed by Civilian Employees

The committee notes that the Department of Defense is reducing its reliance on the use of private-sector security guards, pursuant to section 332 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107-314). Additional restrictions on the use of private security guards were further enacted as amendments to

Section 332 in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (109–364) and the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110–181). The committee notes that nothing in the law requires the Department to use military personnel in these positions, especially during these times of increased operational tempo. The committee, therefore, directs the Department to review its guidance with regard to the conversion of the private sector security guard positions and include prioritization of the use of civilian employees to fill those positions. The committee further directs the Department to provide a written letter of compliance by October 1, 2010 to the Senate Armed Services Committee and the House Armed Services Committee with details of that review.

Sale of Arsenal Products Outside the Department of Defense

The Department of Defense submitted a legislative proposal that would amend section 2563 of title 10, United States Code, to enable the arsenals to sell their products and services outside the Department of Defense. The Department noted in its comments accompanying the requested provision that, “Those facilities that have made effective use of section 2563 authority and built substantial partnerships have reduced the cost of products; obtained private sector investment in government facilities; and enhanced readiness by improving quality and timeliness of industrial facilities.”

The committee notes that the partnerships fostered by section 2563, of title 10, United States Code, because they are related to the core capabilities of the arsenals and other industrial facilities and therefore enhance military readiness, are characteristic of those which the committee had desired to see developed through the Arsenal Support Program Initiative (ASPI). The committee is open to reconsidering the Department’s request to amend section 2563 of title 10, United States Code, after the Secretary of the Army provides the report required elsewhere in this Act regarding ASPI improvement.

Security Clearance Reform

The Joint Security and Suitability Reform Team (JSSRT) issued a report in February 2010, outlining its strategic framework for moving forward with reforming the security clearance process. JSSRT was formed to transform and modernize the security clearance process across the federal government, and includes personnel from the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Office of Personnel Management. The intent of the transformation effort is to promote reciprocity, eliminate the continuing backlog for processing requests, and reduce unnecessary investigation requests. The framework outlined in the February 2010 JSSRT report highlights potential performance measures, a communications strategy, roles and responsibilities, and areas to develop metrics to measure the quality of security clearance investigations and adjudications.

The committee notes that significant progress has been made on a number of initiatives as a result of increased resources, improvements in policy, and changes to antiquated information technology