The committee directs the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretaries of the Army, Navy, and Air Force, to provide a briefing to the House Committee on Armed Services by February 1, 2020, on Department-wide efforts to identify, develop, and procure capabilities related to the detection and avoidance of uncharted wires and obstacles, as well as efforts to mitigate excessive vibration in rotorcraft. The briefing should include to the maximum extent practicable an evaluation of current commercially available systems for obstacle detection and analysis of any tools, processes, software, or methodologies currently being evaluated towards mitigating vibration levels.

Moving Target Defense

The budget request contained $81.8 million in PE 603563N for Ship Concept Advanced Design.

The committee supports the Department’s efforts to explore alternatives to traditional cyber defense architectures and approaches to mitigate cyber vulnerabilities. The committee encourages the Secretary of Defense to continue to explore and invest in cyber technology that provides multi-tiered defensive capabilities, such as moving target defense.

The committee recommends an increase of $5.0 million, in PE 603563N, for Moving Target Defense technology.

National Academies Science, Technology, and Security Roundtable

The budget request contained $16.9 million in PE 65798D8Z for Defense Technology Analysis.

Intellectual property theft and counterintelligence threats pose significant challenges to maintaining a United States technological edge. To that end, the committee mandated the Department of Defense establish an initiative to support protection of national security academic researchers from undue influence and other security threats in section 1286 of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Public Law 115–232). The committee is aware that implementation of this initiative, specifically gathering information on persons performing Department of Defense research at universities and participants of foreign talent programs, has presented policy challenges relating to privacy and civil liberties, and sharing of data between federal agencies. The committee is also aware that sharing of threat information by the Federal Government to academia has not increased through this initiative and believes that efforts under this initiative would be more effectively executed with the inclusion of appropriate domestic law enforcement agencies and entities, such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Therefore, the committee supports the Secretary of Defense convening a National Science, Technology, and Security Roundtable through the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine in order to facilitate dialogue and formulate solutions related to protecting U.S. critical technology and national security information while simultaneously preserving civil liberties and an open science and technology research environment. The committee believes that key stakeholders from the interagency and scientific and academic communities, as well as foreign partner and allies should be part of this roundtable.