

Five thousand nine hundred forty (5,940) GBU-12 guidance kits.

Five thousand nine hundred forty (5,940) Mk-82/BLU-111 bombs.

Five hundred (500) GBU-31V1 guidance kits.

Five hundred (500) Mk-84/BLU-117 bombs.

Five hundred (500) GBU-31V3 guidance kits.

Five hundred (500) BLU-109 bombs.

Fourteen thousand six hundred forty (14,640) FMU-152 fuzes.

Non-MDE: Also included is munitions support. The estimated value of this possible sale is \$785 million.

(iv) Military Department: USAF (AAD, A02).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: SAA-\$113,853,132-AUG 00, YAB-\$156,304,329-AUG 02, YAC-\$874,241,603-MAR 08, AAC-\$13,467,991-JUN 11, AAD-\$11,827,867-JAN 15, AAE-\$130,000,000-OCT 15, AAF-\$310,000,000-JAN 16

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: July 15, 2016.

* As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

United Arab Emirates—Munitions, Sustainment, and Support

The Government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) requests approval to procure seven thousand seven hundred (7,700) GBU-10 guidance kits with seven thousand seven hundred (7,700) Mk-84/BLU-117 bombs, five thousand nine hundred forty (5,940) GBU-12 guidance kits with five thousand nine hundred forty (5,940) Mk-82/BLU-111 bombs, five hundred (500) GBU-31V1 guidance kits with five hundred (500) Mk-84/BLU-117 bombs, five hundred (500) GBU-31V3 guidance kits with five hundred (500) BLU-109 bombs, and fourteen thousand six hundred forty (14,640) FMU-152 fuzes. This sale also includes nonMDE munitions items. The total estimated value of MDE is \$740 million. The overall total estimated value is \$785 million.

This proposed sale contributes to the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping the UAE remain an active member of the OPERATION INHERENT RESOLVE (OIR) coalition working to defeat the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). These munitions will sustain the UAE's efforts and support a key partner that remains an important force for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East.

The proposed sale provides the UAE additional precision guided munitions to meet current and future threats. The UAE continues to provide host-nation support of vital U.S. forces stationed at Al Dhafra Air Base and plays a vital role in supporting U.S. regional interests. The UAE was a valued partner and active participant in OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF), OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM (OEF), OPERATION UNIFIED PROTECTOR (OUP), and now is a valued partner in OIR coalition operations.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The UAE will have no difficulties absorbing these munitions into its inventory.

The munitions will be sourced through procurement and the contractor determined during contract negotiations. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

There are no additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives anticipated to be stationed in the UAE as a result of this potential sale.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

DEFENSE SECURITY

COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. BOB CORKER,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 16-47, concerning the Department of the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Japan for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$821 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

JENNIFER ZAKRISKI,

(For J. W. Rixey, Vice Admiral, USN,
Director).

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-47

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Japan.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* \$685 million.

Other \$136 million.

Total \$821 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Up to two hundred forty-six (246) Standard Missiles (SM-2), Block IIIB Vertical Launching Tactical All-Up Rounds, RIM-66M-09.

Non-MDE: This request also includes the following Non-MDE: MK 13 MOD 0 Vertical Launching System Canisters, operator manuals, U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (ATA and ASZ).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: JA-P-ARH-MAR 11, \$32,149,836; JA-P-AQO-FEB 08, \$36,133,478; JA-P-AQE-AUG 06, \$25,932,921; JA-P-AQF-AUG 06, \$32,030,680; JA-P-ANW-SEP05, \$46,147,937; JA-P-ANX-SEP05, \$30,207,196; JA-P-APS-SEP 05, \$24,923,134; JA-P-APT-NOV 04, \$25,041,269; JA-P-APU 09NOV 04, \$18,297,591; JA-P-APV-NOV 04, \$13,328,470; JA-P-APG-JUL 03, \$26,545,311; JA-P-APP-JUL 03, \$15,581,478.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc. Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Annex attached.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: July 15, 2016.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Japan—SM-2 Block IIIB Standard Missiles

The Government of Japan has requested a possible sale of up to two hundred forty-six (246) Standard Missile (SM-2), Block IIIB Vertical Launching Tactical All-Up Rounds, RIM-66M-09. This request also includes MK 13 MOD 0 Vertical Launching System Canisters, operator manuals and technical documentation, U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services. The total estimated value of Major Defense Equipment (MDE) is \$685 million. The total overall estimated value is \$821 million.

Japan is one of the major political and economic powers in East Asia and the Western

Pacific, a key democratic partner of the United States in ensuring regional peace and stability, a close coalition ally in regional contingency operations, and a close cooperative and international exchange agreement partner. It is vital to U.S. national interests that Japan develops and maintains a strong and ready self-defense capability. This transaction is consistent with U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives and the 1960 Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security.

These SM-2 Block IIIB missiles will be used for anti-air warfare at sea. Japan currently fields four Kongo-class and two Atago-class destroyers, all of which are equipped with the Aegis Combat system and SM-2 Block IIIA/IIIB missiles. Japan is also building two new Aegis-equipped destroyers based on a modified Atago-class hull. The SM-2 Block IIIB missiles proposed in this sale will be used on these two future destroyers as well as supplementing Japan's missile inventory. Combined with the Aegis combat system, the SM-2 Block IIIB provides significantly enhanced area defense capabilities over critical East Asian and Western Pacific air- and sea-lines of communication. Japan has two Intermediate-Level Maintenance Facilities capable of maintaining the SM-2 Block IIIB and will have no difficulty absorbing these new missiles into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractors will be Raytheon Missile Systems Company, Tucson, Arizona; Raytheon Company, Camden, Arkansas; and BAE of Minneapolis and Aberdeen, South Dakota. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this sale will not require the assignment of any U.S. or contractor representatives to Japan.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

REMEMBERING ROBERT MORGAN

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, former U.S. Senator Robert Morgan of North Carolina passed away on July 16, 2016, after a lifetime of public service. Senator Morgan served as a State senator, State attorney general, U.S. Senator, and director of the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation. He was a man of integrity who was well respected by our citizens. Senator Morgan was devoted to doing all he could to make his community, his State, and his Nation a better place for everyone. He will certainly be missed by his family and all who knew him.

At the request of Carroll Legget, the former chief of staff to former U.S. Senator Robert Morgan, I ask unanimous consent that an obituary from the News & Observer published from July 18 to July 20, 2016, and the entirety of two editorials from the July 18, 2016, edition of the New York Times and from the July 20, 2016, edition of the Washington Post be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the News&Observer, July 18 to July 20, 2016.]

Robert Burren Morgan, former Attorney General of North Carolina, United States

Senator and a prominent figure in North Carolina politics for a half century, died Saturday, July 16, at his home in Buies Creek, North Carolina. Morgan, 90, was born on October 5, 1925, near Lillington in Harnett County. He was the son of James Harvey Morgan and Alice Butts Morgan.

Morgan attended Lillington public schools and earned a degree from East Carolina University. He graduated from the Wake Forest University School of Law. While still a student at Wake Forest, he filed as a candidate for the office of Clerk of Court of Harnett County and was elected, serving from 1950–1954. This launched Morgan's political career. He was a Democrat and a populist and throughout his life he championed the causes of working people and gave voice to their concerns and aspirations.

Morgan established a successful law practice in Lillington and became known as a skilled trial attorney specializing in personal injury, criminal defense, real property law and anti-trust. In 1955, he was elected to the North Carolina Senate and rose to its highest office, President Pro Tempore. He served until 1968 when he was elected Attorney General of North Carolina. Four years later he was reelected.

As Attorney General, Morgan established one of the nation's first consumer protection offices and was a tenacious advocate for North Carolina residents before the State Utilities Commission that sets rates paid for electric power. He was responsible for the passage of the "Little FTC Act" that made unfair and deceptive trade practices unlawful in North Carolina. He reorganized the Attorney General's office and hired outstanding young law graduates and practicing attorneys, two of whom later became Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court. He also hired the first African-American lawyer to serve in the Attorney General's office.

Morgan believed strongly that law enforcement officers should receive professional training and persuaded the North Carolina General Assembly to establish a law enforcement training academy and to adopt standards for officers. He revamped the State Bureau of Investigation, which was then in the Justice Department, and after his service in the United States Senate served as Director of the SBI for several years. His landmark achievements as Attorney General of North Carolina and the leadership he provided for the National Association of Attorneys General was recognized by his peers who presented him the Wyman Memorial Award, naming him the Outstanding Attorney General in the United States.

Morgan ran for and was elected to the United States Senate seat previously held by Senator Sam J. Ervin. Morgan was a close friend of former Senator and Vice President Hubert Humphrey who came to North Carolina and keynoted his campaign kickoff event in Buies Creek.

He was a master of the legislative process, and the experience he obtained in the North Carolina State Senate served him well in the United States Senate. He held prestigious committee assignments that included Banking, Armed Services, Public Works and Select Intelligence. His expertise in the area of anti-trust was immediately recognized by his colleagues, and he was tapped by the leadership to lead the floor debate along with former Massachusetts Senator Ted Kennedy that resulted in the passage of landmark federal anti-trust legislation that had languished in the US Senate for years.

While a member of the U.S. Senate, Morgan was appointed by Senate Majority Leader Robert Byrd to the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, chaired by the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme

Court. He served faithfully and with distinction and subsequently was appointed to the National Portrait Gallery Commission. He remained a Regent Emeritus of the Smithsonian and continued to be active therein until his health began to fail.

Morgan was a fierce advocate for his alma mater, East Carolina University, and served as chairman of its board of trustees. He led the battle for university status for East Carolina and the effort to establish its medical school. East Carolina recognized his outstanding leadership and devotion by conferring upon him an honorary degree; presenting him with the Jarvis Medal, the University's highest service award; naming him Outstanding Alumnus; and presenting him with its Alumni Service Award.

Morgan returned to the practice of law in 1991, opening a law office in Raleigh and Lillington with his two daughters. There he lovingly shared with them, not only his knowledge, but also his commitment to the justice that the law should provide. Trying cases with his daughters was one of the most meaningful gifts that he gave them. He continued to practice law into his 80s.

From 2000 to 2003, Morgan served as founding president of the North Carolina Center for Voter Education, a Raleigh-based nonprofit and nonpartisan organization that seeks to increase civic engagement in North Carolina. He persuaded his friend Senator John McCain of Arizona and later candidate for President, to come to Raleigh and make the organization's kickoff speech. Morgan had a life-long interest in issues related to persons with disabilities and also was an advocate for environmental causes.

He had a distinguished military career. He enlisted in the United States Navy and graduated from Midshipman's School shortly before the end of WWII, serving from 1944–1946. He was recalled during the Korean Conflict serving from 1952–1955. He remained in the Navy Reserve through 1971, advancing to the rank of Lieutenant Commander. He served in the United States Air Force Reserve from 1971–1973, retiring as Lieutenant Colonel.

Robert Morgan was a lifelong Baptist and served on the Board of Deacons of Memorial Baptist Church in Buies Creek and as Chair of the North Carolina Baptist Retirement Homes Foundation.

Robert Morgan is survived by his wife, the former Katie Earle Owen of Roseboro and three children: Margaret Holmes and husband Edward of Chapel Hill and grandchildren Grace and Robert; Mary Morgan of Raleigh and granddaughter Elizabeth Morgan Reeves; and Rupert Tart and wife Valerie of Angier and granddaughters Emma Jayne Crews, and Heather Tart Schaffer and her husband Davey. Surviving nieces and nephews are Mary Lou Matthews and husband Billy Ray, Nancy Morgan Brady, and Larry Morgan and wife, Nancy. He had two sisters and a brother who predeceased him: Lucille Morgan Byrd, Esther Morgan, and Melvin Morgan. He was also predeceased by his daughter, Alice Jean Morgan.

[From the New York Times, July 18, 2016.]

ROBERT B. MORGAN, SENATOR UNDONE BY HIS PANAMA CANAL VOTES, DIES AT 90

Robert B. Morgan, a former United States senator from North Carolina whose votes for treaties to turn the Panama Canal over to Panama in 1978 cost him his seat after only one term, died on Saturday at his home in Buies Creek, N.C. He was 90.

His death was confirmed by Carroll Leggett, his former chief of staff.

Mr. Morgan was a moderate Democrat whose Senate voting record was ranked higher by the American Conservative Union than by the liberal Americans for Democratic Ac-

tion. But his votes on the Panama Canal were his undoing. As he sought re-election in 1980, his Republican challenger, John P. East, attacked him on the issue throughout the campaign, largely through television commercials.

Mr. East's campaign was run by allies of Senator Jesse Helms, the state's senior Republican and an intense foe of giving up the canal, and the attacks were sometimes personal. In one ad, Mr. Helms questioned Mr. Morgan's Christian faith.

Mr. East's victory, by only 10,401 votes out of more than 900,000 cast, was one of at least five Senate elections that turned on the issue of the Panama Canal and helped give President Ronald Reagan the first Republican majority in the Senate since 1955 as he entered office, having turned back Jimmy Carter's bid for re-election. The Republican votes in the Senate were a critical element in Mr. Reagan's legislative successes.

While many senators required wooing by President Carter before they would back the treaties, Mr. Morgan did not. He had been to the Canal Zone in 1976 and believed a change in control was essential lest the canal be possibly sabotaged or attacked. When Mr. Carter called him in August 1977 to ask him not to oppose the treaties until they could be explained to the public, Mr. Morgan surprised the president by telling him that he was already in favor of them.

One treaty gave the canal to Panama through a series of steps concluding in 1999. The other asserted that the canal would remain neutral in perpetuity and authorized the United States to intervene if that neutrality was threatened—a provision to calm fears of a takeover by China or some other hostile power.

By the time they came to votes in March and April 1978, Mr. Morgan had no doubt that the treaties would be unpopular in his state. He said he had received 60,000 pieces of mail about the canal, only 3,000 backing the treaties. But he did not expect the issue to defeat him.

The treaties passed, 68 to 32, only one vote more than the two-thirds required for the Senate to approve treaties.

In an interview for this obituary in 2010, Mr. Morgan said he was sure his decision to back the treaties was the correct one. "I think if I had not done it, there wouldn't be a Panama Canal," he said.

Robert Burren Morgan was born on Oct. 5, 1925, in Lillington, N.C., where he lived all his life. He was drafted into the wartime Navy in 1944 during his sophomore year at East Carolina Teachers College in Greenville, N.C., now East Carolina University. He was recalled to duty in the Korean War and saw combat as an officer on the aircraft carrier Valley Forge.

On leaving the Navy, he practiced law and served in the State Senate for 14 years before being elected state attorney general, a post he held from 1969 to 1974.

As attorney general, he took a strong role in furthering consumer protections, creating a law enforcement training academy and expanding the State Bureau of Investigations. After he left the United States Senate, he headed the investigations bureau from 1985 to 1992.

He also led the North Carolina Center for Voter Education, which campaigned for public financing in the election of appellate judges. When the proposal became law in 2002, Mr. Morgan said that "judges will no longer be forced to raise money like politicians" and praised the legislature for acting "to make sure that money and politics have no place in a court of law."

Before the Panama Canal issue, the most controversial aspect of Mr. Morgan's career was his role as campaign manager for I. Beverly Lake, who ran for governor of North

Carolina in 1960 as the most segregationist candidate in a field of candidates who all opposed school integration—as anyone who wanted to be elected did then, when very few blacks voted.

“At that time,” Mr. Morgan said in 2010, “nobody was integrating.”

He said he had taken the position of campaign manager because Mr. Lake, a professor, had been a beloved mentor in law school.

Mr. Morgan is survived by his wife, the former Katie Earle Owen, whom he married in 1960; two daughters, Margaret Morgan Holmes and Mary Morgan; a foster son, Rupert C. Tart Jr.; and five grandchildren.

Some of the personal attacks of the 1980 campaign rankled him, especially the role of Mr. Helms, whom Mr. Morgan had not campaigned against in 1978 during Mr. Helms's own reelection run. Mr. Helms said in a television commercial that the election of Mr. East, a Methodist, was necessary so that the state would be represented by “a real Christian.”

In the spring of 1978, Mr. Morgan, an active Baptist, had urged his coreligionists to remain true to their commitment to separation of church and state and not to invoke religion “on matters on which reasonable men may differ.”

[From the Washington Post, July 20, 2016.]

ROBERT MORGAN, SENATOR WHO CAST CRUCIAL VOTES FOR PANAMA CANAL TREATIES, DIES AT 90

Robert B. Morgan, a North Carolina Democrat who was a freshman U.S. senator when he cast crucial votes in favor of treaties that transferred control of the Panama Canal to the Panamanian government, a decision that brought a swift end to his Senate career but which he stood by all his life, died July 16 at his home in Buies Creek, N.C. He was 90.

The cause was complications from Alzheimer's disease, said his former Senate chief of staff, Carroll Leggett.

Mr. Morgan practiced law and ascended the ranks of North Carolina politics before his election to the U.S. Senate in 1974. He served in the North Carolina state Senate, including a stint as president pro tempore, from 1955 to 1969 and later was state attorney general, developing a reputation as a hard-charging activist for consumer rights.

In the U.S. Senate, he assumed the seat vacated by retiring Sen. Sam J. Ervin Jr. (D), who was rocketed to national attention as chairman of the Senate committee that investigated the Watergate scandal during the Nixon administration.

Mr. Morgan accumulated a voting record that “defies ideological labels,” according to the Almanac of American Politics. He was liberal on some issues but conservative on others, and he gained his greatest prominence on the matter of the Panama Canal.

The canal and surrounding area, a critical waterway that connects the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, had been controlled by the United States since 1903, an arrangement that by the 1970s had caused increasing friction with the Panamanians.

President Jimmy Carter, elected in 1976, became persuaded that authority over the canal should reside with the Panamanian government. Opponents of his position regarded any treaty to that effect as a “give-away.”

Mr. Morgan was initially among those opponents. He changed his position after visiting Panama as a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee and meeting with the CIA contingent there and with Panamanian leaders.

“Our relationship with Panama on the future of the canal is a festering sore and af-

fects our relations not only with Latin America but with the rest of the world,” the News and Observer of Raleigh, N.C., quoted Mr. Morgan as saying in a 1977 speech. “Our global position as world leader and a moral standard bearer is seriously weakened by maintaining this vestige of colonialism.”

Two treaties were hammered out, one establishing the right of the U.S. military to defend the canal's neutrality and the other giving control of the canal to Panama by 1999.

Together, Mr. Morgan argued in comments reported by the Charlotte Observer, the treaties would “allow us to maintain our vital interests in that country while allowing the Panamanians the dignity and benefit of living on their own land a fact which we would surely insist upon in our part of the United States. It is just plain right to do so.”

The treaties were signed in 1977 but faced withering opposition led in part by North Carolina's senior senator, Jesse Helms (R). In 1978, the Senate ratified the treaties by a margin of 68 to 32—just one vote more than the minimum required.

In 1980, Mr. Morgan was challenged by a relatively unknown law professor, Republican John P. East, who attracted the support of Helms's political machine. In his campaign, East told voters that Mr. Morgan had “voted to give your Panama Canal away.”

In one of many television ads targeting the Democrat, Helms asserted that “what we need is a real American in the Senate. A real Christian in the U.S. Senate.”

“Nothing was said about me not being a real American or a real Christian,” Mr. Morgan told People magazine after his defeat, “but it was certainly obvious what Helms meant.”

Mr. Morgan lost the race by roughly 10,000 votes.

Robert Burren Morgan, a son of farmers, was born Oct. 5, 1925, in Lillington, N.C.

He served in the Navy before receiving a bachelor's degree from what is now East Carolina University in Greenville, N.C., in 1947 and a law degree from Wake Forest University in North Carolina in 1950.

He returned to the Navy to serve in the Korean War and remained in the Navy Reserve until 1971, attaining the rank of lieutenant commander. He later served in the Air Force Reserve, retiring as a lieutenant colonel.

In 1960, Mr. Morgan managed the unsuccessful gubernatorial campaign of I. Beverly Lake, a staunch segregationist, who lost his bid for the Democratic nomination to Terry Sanford, a more progressive politician who was elected governor that year. Lake had been Mr. Morgan's professor at Wake Forest.

After his Senate tenure, Mr. Morgan ran the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation and the North Carolina Center for Voter Education, an organization that worked on campaign finance issues.

Mr. Morgan's daughter Alice Jean Morgan died in 1967. Survivors include his wife of 55 years, the former Katie Earle Owen of Buies Creek; two daughters, Mary Morgan of Raleigh, N.C., and Margaret Morgan Holmes of Chapel Hill, N.C.; a foster son, Rupert Tart of Angier, N.C.; and five grandchildren.

“I made a lot of decisions, and some cost me politically, cost me dearly,” Mr. Morgan told the Fayetteville (N.C.) Observer in 2012, looking back in particular on his votes on the Panama Canal treaties. “But they were decisions I made with a clear conscience.”

CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL CITATIONS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in

the RECORD speeches that I had previously given in Montana for four Congressional Medal citations.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

CONGRESSIONAL MEDALS CITATION, ALLEN C. STORM, JULY 15, 2016, KALISPELL, MT

Today I wish to honor Alen C. Storm, a resident of Kalispell, Montana, and decorated veteran of the Iraq war.

Alen, on behalf of myself, my fellow Montanans, and the United States of America, I would like to extend our deepest thanks for your service.

Alen was born on January 8, 1987, in Walla Walla, Washington, to Robert Storm and Valadia (Val-ah-dee-ah) Hunt.

He grew up as the youngest of seven children in Hermiston, Oregon, with three older brothers and three older sisters.

His father was a logger, truck driver, and Army vet, just like Alen's grandfather before him.

Alen also looked up to his oldest brother, Michael, who was about 20 years Alen's senior. Michael was the first of the siblings to carry on the Storm's legacy of service. As a 25-year army veteran, Michael served in Iraq, Afghanistan and Desert Storm.

But the family's desire to protect and defend didn't end there. Alen has yet another brother, Trenton, who actually served in Iraq at the same time that Alen did, as well as a sister, Kathy, who is a 22-year Navy veteran.

So this was the legacy Alen faced when he began weighing his options after graduation. He had been a track star in high school and was considering college, but his desire to protect and serve proved strong. He eventually decided to follow in his family's footsteps, enlisting in the Army just four months out from graduation, on September 21, 2005.

So he packed his bags and headed straight to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, for 18 weeks of basic training. He immediately distinguished himself as a superior trainee, clocking one of the fastest times the base had ever seen in the standard two-mile run during PT.

As a result of his stellar performance, he was recommended for airborne school at Fort Benning in Georgia. Here he would train to be a paratrooper, jumping out of planes and into enemy territory.

But as fate would have it, Alen ended up at Fort Carson, Colorado, where he specialized in Field Artillery, a position affectionately referred to by his comrades as “the eyes of death.” This is because Field Artillery is one of the most dangerous and technical duty stations around, deploying ahead of ground forces to scope out enemy territory and relay their locales.

Alen honed these skills for the next eight months—that is until he found out he was being deployed to Iraq.

Alen set off from Fort Carson on October 13, 2006. He eventually touched down in Southern Baghdad, where he would be stationed for the next 14 months.

Alen spent the first two and half months of his deployment working out of the base, helping monitor mortar fire from headquarters. It wasn't until Christmas Day that his group endured its first casualty. Alen was tapped to replace the fallen soldier in the field, becoming the newest member of Baker Company.

He was forced to learn quickly on the line, experiencing his first firefight on day one in the field. He was shot at and hunted down more times than he could count. But it was one fateful day that earned him his Purple Heart.