

total to twenty-six (26) GLTAs, twelve (12) LSPRs, and fifty-four (54) UVMWS Sensors AN/AAR-54.

The sale also includes the following non-MDE items: CIURs, SCAs, HHCs, UDM Cards, initial spares and repair parts, consumables, support equipment, technical data, engineering change proposals, minor modifications, publications, Field Service Representatives' (FSRs), repair and return, depot maintenance, training and training equipment, contractor technical and logistics personnel services, U.S. Government and contractor representative support, Group A and B installation support, flight test and certification, selective availability anti-spoofing module (SAASM) Global Positioning System, and other related elements of logistics support. The estimated cost is \$141 million.

The ROK is procuring the LAIRCM system to defend and protect its future aerial refueling and troop transport capabilities. This helps the ROK Air Force become more capable of sustaining and projecting air power across large distances and transporting its forces and fighter aircraft for both operational and training missions with less reliance on foreign partners, such as the United States. The ROK will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

This proposed sale contributes to the foreign policy and national security of the United States. The ROK is one of the major political and economic powers in East Asia and the Western Pacific and a key partner of the United States in ensuring peace and stability in that region. It is vital to U.S. national interests to assist our Korean ally in developing and maintain a strong and ready self-defense capability. This sale increases the ROK's capability to participate in Pacific regional security operations and improves its national security posture as a key U.S. ally.

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

This sale includes provisions for one (1) FSR to live in Korea for up to two years. Implementation of this proposed sale requires multiple temporary trips to Korea involving U.S. Government or contractor representatives over a period of up to six (6) years for program execution, delivery, technical support, and training.

The principal contractor is Northrop Grumman Corporation, Rolling Meadows, IL. At this time, there are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

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

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-43

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

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The AN/AAQ-24(V) Large Aircraft Infrared Countermeasures (LAIRCM) is a self-contained, directed energy countermeasures system designed to protect aircraft from infrared-guided surface-to-air missiles. The system features digital technology and micro-miniature solid-state electronics. The system operates in all conditions, detecting incoming missiles and jamming infrared-seeker equipped missiles with aimed bursts of laser energy. The LAIRCM system consists of multiple Ultra-Violet Missile Warning System (UVMWS) Sensors AN/AAR-54, Guardian Laser Turret Assembly (GLTA), LAIRCM System Processor Replacement (LSPR), Control Indicator Unit Replacement (CIUR), and a classified High Capacity Card (HCC), and User Data Memory (UDM) card. The HCC is loaded into the CIUR prior to

flight. When the classified HCC is not in use, it is removed from the CIUR and placed in onboard secure storage. LAIRCM Line Replaceable Unit (LRU) hardware is classified SECRET when the HCC is inserted into the CIUR. LAIRCM system software, including Operational Flight Program is classified SECRET. Technical data and documentation to be provided are UNCLASSIFIED.

a. The set of UVMWS Sensor units (AN/AAR-54) are mounted on the aircraft exterior to provide omni-directional protection. The UVMWS detects the rocket plume of missiles and sends appropriate data signals to the LSPR for processing. The LSPR analyzes the data from each UVMWS Sensor and automatically deploys the appropriate countermeasure via the GLTA. The CIUR displays the incoming threat.

b. The AN/AAR-54 UVMWS Sensor warns of threat missile approach by detecting radiation associated with the rocket motor. The AN/AAR-54 is a small, lightweight, passive, electro-optic, threat warning device used to detect surface-to-air missiles fired at helicopters and low-flying fixed-wing aircraft and automatically provide countermeasures, as well as audio and visual warning messages to the aircrew. The basic system consists of multiple UVMWS Sensor units, three (3) GLTAs, a LSPR, and a CIUR. The set of UVMWS units (each A-330 MRTT has six (6)) are mounted on the aircraft exterior to provide omni-directional protection. Hardware is UNCLASSIFIED. Software is SECRET. Technical data and documentation to be provided are UNCLASSIFIED.

2. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures or equivalent systems which might reduce system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

3. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy justification. Moreover, the benefits to be derived from this sale, as outlined in the Policy Justification, outweigh the potential damage that could result if the sensitive technology were revealed to unauthorized persons.

4. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal are authorized for release and export to the Government of the Republic of Korea.

#### RECOGNIZING DOUG PETERSON

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate Doug Peterson today as he retires as President of the Minnesota Farmers Union. I join the thousands of farmers, ranchers, small businesses, and residents of rural Minnesota in thanking Doug for his leadership over the years and for being such a tireless advocate for Minnesota farmers.

Doug has made agriculture, advocacy, and public service his life's work. Prior to his election as State president of the Minnesota Farmers Union in 2002, Doug served in the Minnesota House of Representatives for 12 years, representing a district comprised of Big Stone, Chippewa, Lac Qui Parle, and Swift Counties in western Minnesota.

Minnesota has taken an incredibly proactive and innovative approach to energy use and sustainability. In fact, we are considered a national leader for

boosting bioenergy. Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis once called States the "laboratories of democracy," and when it comes to Minnesota being a laboratory for renewable fuels, we have Doug Peterson to thank.

While he was in the Minnesota House of Representatives, he authored the legislation that established a State-wide ethanol fuels requirement. Because of Doug's work at the State level in steering us toward energy independence, we have seen Federal renewable energy policy being modeled after the groundwork he laid in Minnesota.

In addition to writing landmark legislation and advocating on behalf of greater Minnesota, what some people may not know about Doug is that he is also an accomplished artist and former art teacher. My office in Washington even has one of Doug's paintings on loan and prominently featured. The painting is a depiction of several freshly caught fish, tessellated in shades of orange, purple, and blue. Doug called the artwork "Dead Fish," and I always joke with his members that the painting is much more attractive than the name suggests.

During my time in the Senate, I have had the great opportunity to work on two farm bills with Doug leading the Minnesota Farmers Union: the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 and the Agricultural Act of 2014. I have seen the dedication he brings to leading the discussion about how to keep agricultural producers competitive, and I will miss his guidance and friendship.

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, today, on behalf of all Minnesotans, I rise to thank my good friend—and a real jewel in the crown of Minnesota agriculture—Doug Peterson, as he retires as president of the Minnesota Farmers Union after 14 years of leading that important organization.

To say family farming is important to Minnesota is an understatement. One in five jobs in our State is connected to agriculture, and as Doug often told me, when Minnesota farmers and ranchers succeed, prosperity follows.

In all, Doug spent four decades as an influential voice on farm policy, as a family farmer, a State legislator, and, since 2002, as head of the Minnesota Farmers Union. It is fair to say that a great many national, State, and local leaders have looked to Doug not only for advice and counsel, but also to publicly lead the fight on behalf of our family farmers, ranchers, and rural communities. And I have to tell you, after going through the last farm bill debate, he is one hell of a fighter, and our State and our farmers have reaped the benefits of his work many times over.

For me, as a Senator, Doug was an important mentor. He helped teach me what it takes to put crops in the ground and to get that same crop to market. He also invited me to visit farms across the State to see firsthand

the time, expense, and hard work required to raise a bushel of corn or soybeans, a ton of sugar beets, or to produce a gallon of milk. Those lessons have been important to me as I have fought for Minnesota producers in the Senate.

Doug has always known how important our farmers and ranchers are to our Nation's food security and, thus, our national security. And he worked hard to ensure that people in Minnesota and across the country knew how critical our producers are to feeding a world with a growing population.

As our Nation increasingly comes to grips with the causes and seriousness of climate change, it is important to point out that Doug was on the leading edge of Minnesota's clean energy transition for several decades. As a State legislator, he was instrumental in making Minnesota a national leader in ethanol production. As a champion for renewable energy, his priority was not only to reduce our reliance on foreign oil and to cut our use of fossil fuels, but also to create badly needed jobs and economic development in rural communities across Minnesota.

Doug has always been a tireless fighter for family farmers, and he pushed hard against the excessive concentration of foreign and corporate power in U.S. agriculture because those forces were pushing food prices up for American consumers. He knew that our Nation's network of family farms have always delivered a safe, abundant, and affordable food supply to the American people, while receiving just 18 cents of every dollar spent on food in this country. That is a pretty good deal by any measure and one that more Americans should appreciate.

So, to Doug, I say a heartfelt thank you for your years of important work, your friendship, and for teaching us all about how important Minnesota farming is to our State, to our Nation, and to the world. Your service has made a positive difference to a generation of Minnesota producers, and the work you have done will continue to serve our State well, long into the future.

I wish you and your wife, Elly, your two sons, and your entire family the best of luck in the future, and I hope you continue to thrive in your well-earned retirement.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. I thank my colleague for his statement and agree.

Doug Peterson has served the Minnesota Farmers Union for 14 years, the Minnesota State House of Representatives for 12 years, and the Minnesota public education system for 20 years. Whether it has been through writing and advocating legislation, painting on a canvas, or educating students, for nearly 40 years Doug Peterson has been leaving his mark. That is why I am proud to honor him today on his retirement from the Minnesota Farmers Union.

#### TRAIL OF TEARS NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, in honor of the National Park Service's 100th birthday year, I would like to recognize the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail, which covers nine States and thousands of miles of land and water routes.

The Trail of Tears is rooted in a painful, unfortunate time for our Nation. Following the passage of the Indian Removal Act of 1830, five tribes were forced from their homes and into what is now modern-day Oklahoma. These five major Southeast tribes consisted of Cherokee, Choctaw, Muscogee, Chickasaw, and Seminole Indians. The trail gets its name from the painful trips these individuals took across the country as disease, desertion, and death characterized many of their journeys.

Arkansas is a State full of rich history and heritage. While it is sometimes painful to recall, the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail is a critical part of that history. The National Park Service gave this trail this distinction in an effort to preserve the story of the forced migration of these Native Americans. We must learn from the mistakes of our past so we do not repeat them in the future.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO TRAVIS WOOD

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Travis Wood, an Arkansan who is a member of the 2016 World Series Champion Chicago Cubs.

Travis was born in Little Rock, AR. He comes from an athletic family and demonstrated his potential on the baseball diamond early. He gained national notice as a member of Bryant's 15-year-old All-Stars team when he pitched a no-hitter and struck out 17 batters at the Babe Ruth World Series.

Travis played baseball at Bryant High School, where he was a three-time All-State selection and helped lead the Bryant Hornets to the State championship game in his junior season. He went on to win more accolades, including Saline County "Male Athlete of the Year" and the Arkansas Gatorade "Player of the Year" in addition to being named to the Louisville Slugger High School All-American team and the Louisville Slugger "Player of the Year" in Arkansas.

After high school, Travis began his professional baseball career when he was drafted 60th overall by the Cincinnati Reds. He made his major league debut for the Reds against the Cubs at Wrigley Field on July 1, 2010.

Wood was traded to the Cubs in 2011 and was named to the National League All-Star Team in 2013. This season, Travis was an integral part of the Cubs' bullpen, going 4-0 with a 2.95 ERA in 77 appearances.

While he's known for his impressive pitching repertoire, Travis has also had

success in the batter's box throughout his career. That was on full display in game 2 of this year's National League Division Series, when he hit a 393-foot solo homerun against the Giants and helped propel the Cubs to a 2-0 lead in the series.

Travis has continued to impress throughout his professional career, and Arkansas is extremely proud of him. We are so excited for Travis and his teammates, who were able to come back from a 3-1 series deficit to win the World Series, the first time the Chicago Cubs have done so in 108 years.

Travis Wood is a great ambassador for the Natural State, and I am pleased to recognize his achievements. Congratulations, Travis and the entire Chicago Cubs organization, on a historic World Series championship.●

#### RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF POST-SECONDARY ENROLLMENT OPTIONS

• Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize the 30th anniversary of post-secondary enrollment options for high school students and the former Governor of Minnesota, Rudy Perpich, who founded this program.

Mr. Perpich was the longest serving Governor of Minnesota and a proud member of the Democratic farm and labor party in our great State. Since 1986, Minnesota's high school juniors and seniors have had the opportunity to participate in courses at the college level for dual credit and at no cost to the student or their family. The program has even grown now to allow sophomores to participate. This has made the transition between high school and college so much easier and affordable for our students. I have been honored to continue this effort in the Senate as we reformed the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Schools across the country can now invest in accelerated learning programs, including dual enrollment programs, like post-secondary enrollment options, as part of their efforts to provide students with a well-rounded education.

In 2014, more than 9,000 Minnesota students took advantage of post-secondary enrollment option courses. With the growing cost of college, it is more important than ever that we continue to champion opportunities for students to save. Today I would like to honor Governor Rudy Perpich for investing in the education of our children and working to make higher education more accessible and affordable for all students.●

##### TRIBUTE TO JULIA RATTI

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Councilwoman Julia Ratti of Sparks on her retirement. After serving as a member of the Sparks City Council for 8 years, Councilwoman Ratti retired on November 14, 2016. It gives me great pleasure to