

The F/A-18E/F Super Hornet aircraft will supplement and eventually replace the Kuwait Air Force's aging fighter aircraft. Kuwait will have no difficulty absorbing this aircraft into its armed forces.

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

The prime contractors will be The Boeing Company, St. Louis, Missouri; Northrop Grumman in Los Angeles, California; Raytheon Company in El Segundo, California; and General Electric in Lynn, Massachusetts. Offsets agreements associated with this proposed sale are expected; however, specific agreements are undetermined and will be defined during negotiations between the purchaser and contractor. Kuwait requires contractors to satisfy an offset obligation equal to 35 percent of the main contract purchase price for any sale of defense articles in excess of three million Kuwait Dinar, (approximately \$10 million USD).

Implementation of this proposed sale will require the assignment of contractor representatives to Kuwait on an intermittent basis over the life of the case to support delivery of the F/A-18E/F Super Hornet aircraft and provide support and equipment familiarization.

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

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-21

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 F/A-18E/F Super Hornet is a single and two-seat, twin-engine, multi-mission fighter/attack aircraft that can operate from either aircraft carriers or land bases. The F/A-18 fills a variety of roles: air superiority, fighter escort, suppression of enemy air defenses, reconnaissance, forward air control, close and deep air support, and day and night strike missions. The F/A-18E/F Weapons System is classified SECRET.

2. The AN/APO-79 Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) Radar System is classified SECRET. The radar provides the F/A-18 aircraft with all-weather, multi-mission capability for performing air-to-air and air-to-ground targeting and attack. Air-to-air modes provide the capability for all-aspect target detection, long-range search and track, automatic target acquisition, and tracking of multiple targets. Air-to-surface attack modes provide high-resolution ground mapping navigation, weapon delivery, and sensor cueing. The system component hardware (Antenna, Transmitter, Radar Data Processor, and Power Supply) is UNCLASSIFIED. The Receiver-Exciter hardware is CONFIDENTIAL. The radar Operational Flight Program (OFP) is classified SECRET. Documentation provided with the AN/APO-79 radar set is classified SECRET.

3. The AN/ALR-67(V)3 Electric Warfare Countermeasures Receiving Set is classified CONFIDENTIAL. The AN/ALR-67(V)3 provides the F/A-18F aircrew with radar threat warnings by detecting and evaluating friendly and hostile radar frequency threat emitters and providing identification and status information about the emitters to on-board Electronic Warfare (EW) equipment and the aircrew. The OFP and User Data Files (UDF) used in the AN/ALR-67(V)3 are classified SECRET. Those software programs contain threat parametric data used to identify and establish priority of detected radar emitters.

4. The AN/ALE-47 Countermeasures Dispensing System is classified SECRET. The AN/ALE-47 is a threat-adaptive dispensing

system that dispenses chaff, flares, and expendable jammers for self-protection against airborne and ground-based Radio Frequency and Infrared threats. The AN/ALE-47 Programmer is classified CONFIDENTIAL. The OPP and Mission Data Files used in the AN/ALE-47 are classified SECRET. Those software programs contain algorithms used to calculate the best defense against specific threats.

5. The AN/ALQ-214 is an advanced airborne Integrated Defensive Electronic Countermeasures (IDECM) programmable modular automated system capable of intercepting, identifying, processing received radar signals (pulsed and continuous) and applying an optimum countermeasures technique in the direction of the radar signal, thereby improving individual aircraft probability of survival from a variety of surface-to-air and air-to-air RF threats. The ALQ-214 was designed to operate in a high-density Electromagnetic Hostile Environment with the ability to identify and counter a wide variety of multiple threats, including those with Doppler characteristics. Hardware within the AN/ALQ-214 is classified CONFIDENTIAL.

6. The Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) Combined Interrogator/Transponder (CIT) with the Conformal Antenna System (CAS) is classified SECRET. The CDT is a complete MARK-XIIA identification system compatible with (IFF) Modes 1, 2, 3/A, C4 and 5 (secure).

7. The Joint Helmet Mounted Cueing System (JHMCS) is a modified HGU-55/P helmet that incorporates a visor-projected Heads-Up Display (HUD) to cue weapons and aircraft sensors to air and ground targets. In close combat, a pilot must currently align the aircraft to shoot at a target. JHMCS allows the pilot to simply look at a target to shoot. Hardware is UNCLASSIFIED; technical data and documents are classified up to SECRET.

8. The AN/AAQ-33 SNIPER Pod is a multi-sensor, electro-optical targeting pod incorporating infrared, low-light television camera, laser range-finder/target designator, and laser spot tracker. It is used to provide navigation and targeting for military aircraft in adverse weather and using precision-guided weapons such as laser-guided bombs. It offers much greater target resolution and imagery accuracy than previous systems. The AN/AAQ-33 is UNCLASSIFIED.

9. The Joint Mission Planning System (JMPS) is SECRET. JMPS will provide mission planning capability for support of military aviation operations. The JMPS will be tailored to the specific releasable configuration for the F/A-18 Super Hornet.

10. The AN/AVS-9 NVG is a 3rd generation aviation NVG offering higher resolution, high gain, and photo response to near infrared. Hardware is UNCLASSIFIED, and technical data and documentation to be provided are UNCLASSIFIED.

11. The AN/ALE-55 towed decoy improves aircraft survivability by providing an enhanced, coordinated onboard/off-board countermeasure response to enemy threats. When threat libraries are installed, the AN/ALE-55 is classified SECRET.

12. Link-16 is a secure data and voice communication network. The system provides enhanced situational communication awareness, positive identification of participants within the network, secure fighter-to-fighter connectivity, and secure voice capability. It can be classified up to CONFIDENTIAL.

13. The LAU-127E/A Guided Missile Launchers is designed to enable F/A-18 aircraft to carry and launch missiles. It provides the electrical and mechanical interface between the missile and launch aircraft as well as the two-way data transfer between missile and cockpit controls and displays to

support preflight orientation and control circuits to prepare and launch the missile. The LAU-127E/A is UNCLASSIFIED.

14. ANAV Global Positioning System (GPS) is a 24-channel Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM) based pulse-per-second GPS receiver built for next generation GPS technology.

15. Command Launch Computer (CLC) is an electronics subsystem installed on the airframe to interface with the AGM-88 NBIC HARM Missile. The CLC and associated software package are compatible with all AGM-88 A/B/C missiles. The CLC receives target data from the missile and onboard avionics, processes the data for display to the crew to the appropriate display, determines target priority, and collects aircraft data for pre-launch hand-off to the AGM-88 HARM missile.

16. The AN/ASQ-228 Advanced Targeting Forward-Looking Infrared (ATFLIR) is a multi-sensor, electro-optical targeting pod incorporating thermographic camera, low-light television camera, target laser range-finder/laser designator, and laser spot tracker developed and manufactured by Raytheon. It is used to provide navigation and targeting for military aircraft in adverse weather and using precision-guided munitions such as laser-guided bombs.

17. A determination has been made that the Government of Kuwait, can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the classified and sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government.

18. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

19. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Kuwait.

NOMINATION OBJECTION

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I wish to express my frustration with the inaction of the Federal Communication Commission due to political reasons. The FCC's Chairman, Tom Wheeler, was forced to cancel a vote during their open meeting due to the inaction of one acting commissioner. That vote would have implemented a program to help rural Americans receive wireless broadband internet. I see no reason for the Commission to delay a vote, on a noncontroversial policy that would infuse universal service funding to the most high-cost rural communities across the country.

I regularly hear from Oregonians in rural counties that it is clear high costs are preventing private sector broadband investment in parts of rural Oregon. The FCC must fulfill its responsibility to provide a lifeline to rural communities and a connection to the global economy. Wireless cell service and broadband internet spur economic opportunity, improve public safety, and increase educational outcomes for rural Americans. Any delay causes these rural communities to wait even longer for help.

For these reasons, I am putting a hold on any confirmation vote for Jessica Rosenworcel to be a commissioner at the Federal Communications Commission.

TRANSGENDER AWARENESS WEEK AND TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I am proud to be a steadfast ally of the LGBT community. This week is Transgender Awareness Week, during which we seek to raise the visibility of transgender and gender nonconforming people and to bring awareness to the issues this community faces, from prejudice and discrimination to acts of violence that have claimed too many lives.

Eighteen years ago, Rita Hester, an African-American transgender woman was murdered in Boston, MA. Rita's death ignited fear in the transgender community. Her murder also sparked the founding of the Transgender Day of Remembrance. On November 20, we remember Rita and the all too many transgender individuals who have lost their lives to hate-based violence.

Sadly, the fear that the transgender community feels has not subsided in the last 18 years. For the transgender community, and even more so for transgender women of color, the fear of violence is still all too real. In 2015, at least 21 transgender individuals in the United States were victims of fatal violence. This year, we have already reached that same number of transgender deaths attributable to violence, reflecting more such deaths than in any other year in which advocates have kept records. This is both sad-den and maddening.

Too many of these victims' stories go untold, but through the Transgender Day of Remembrance, many of these individuals silenced by violence get a small voice. This day is a reminder that no person's life is worth less than another's because of who they are or whom they love. We must continue to do all we can to stop the marginalization of the transgender community, to stop the discrimination, and to stop the violence.

In 2009, President Obama signed the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act. It was the first Federal law to provide civil rights protections for transgender people, and it was a step in the right direction. But it has not been enough to stop the ongoing discrimination and violence against the transgender community.

We still have work to do and need as many voices as possible convey that message. This week in particular, but every week as well, we must remember all the transgender individuals who have lost their lives to violence at home and abroad and continue to work towards a more inclusive society, free of violence and discrimination.

HONORING MICHAEL G. SAURO

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator JAMES LANKFORD and myself, it is my honor to pay tribute to the life and sacrifice of Department of Army civilian employee Michael G.

Sauro who died 1 day after his 40th birthday on October 19, 2016, of wounds received from encountering hostile enemy fire near Kabul, Afghanistan.

The son of Michael and Christine Sauro, Mike was born on October 18, 1976 in Chambersburg, PA. He graduated from Savanna High School in Savanna, IL, and went on to graduate with his bachelor's degree from Illinois State University in Normal, IL.

"Whether it be sports, or his friends, or his family, he always went at it 100 percent," recalled a fellow Savanna High School graduate, "He was very committed to the U.S. and service members, making sure they had what they needed to do their job." He was passionate about life and was always willing to step in and help. His infectious smile will be remembered by everyone that knew and loved Mike.

Mike began his Federal civilian service in December of 1999 and spent his career working for the Defense Ammunition Center, McAlester Army Ammunition Plant in McAlester, OK, and at its satellite locations at Fort Riley, KS, and Schofield Barracks, HI.

While at McAlester Army Ammunition Plant, he led the effort and was instrumental in revisions of the hazardous materials course. He worked to deliver the most robust training course available at over 50 locations in and outside the continental United States. Mike was the liaison between McAlester Army Ammunition Plant and the satellite training locations helping to ensure that the mission was accomplished. McAlester Army Ammunition Plant coworkers fondly remember him for his "sunny disposition as well as his genuine kindness."

Mission always came first for Mike. Regardless of the complexity of the task, he quickly comprehended requirements of the task and aggressively accomplished them in a professional, timely manner. He deployed three times—the first time in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the second in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, and the third to support the mission to train, advise and assist Afghan forces. Mike's dedicated service and expertise made a difference around the world and saved lives. He is a testament to the values of the Defense Ammunition Center, the U.S. Army Combined Services Command, the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, and the U.S. Army.

Mike is survived by his parents Michael and Christine Sauro, his brother and sister-in-law Ben and Sarah Sauro, his sister and his brother-in-law Brienne and Lance Matthews, and their children, Dakota and William.

Today we remember Michael G. Sauro, an American hero who gave his all for his country. Our Nation lost a great American, son, grandson, brother, uncle, and friend. Mike's service and sacrifice will never be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO CHRIS AHMUTY

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Chris Ahmuty as he retires from the American Civil Liberties Union of Wisconsin after 24 years of advocacy and leadership. Since 1992, Chris has dedicated his professional and personal life to creating a stronger and more equal Wisconsin.

Chris was born in New York City and spent his childhood and adolescent years in Derby, NY. Growing up, Chris's grandfather, Frederic P. Lee, played a significant role in shaping his future. Based in Washington, Frederic was an active contributor to the political reform movement in Montgomery County, MD, throughout the 1940s and 1950s. Frederic's commitment to public service and family values had a tremendous impact on Chris, eventually leading him into a career in advocacy.

Chris's career with the ACLU did not begin with a full time job, but rather a volunteer position. After moving to Milwaukee to attend graduate school, Chris held a variety of jobs, including a position at the Milwaukee County Historical Society. However, following in his grandfather's political footsteps, he began to spend his free time volunteering for the ACLU. Soon after, in 1982, he became the executive assistant to the ACLU Wisconsin executive director, Eunice Edgar.

Founded in 1920, the American Civil Liberties Union continues its mission to preserve individual rights and liberties. Since becoming executive director of the Wisconsin chapter in 1992, Chris has personally embodied this mission both in his work and in the community.

Over the course of his tenure, the Wisconsin chapter has grown from 4 full-time employees to 12, including 2 full-time staff attorneys. According to those who work most closely with him, Chris's leadership style is rooted in his familial values and strong belief in the importance of civil liberties. He recognizes that change will not occur over a single day or week, but over a long period of time with the help of perseverance, patience, and a strong will. Chris is a staunch advocate who has fought to end racial segregation in schools, uphold a woman's right to choose, and preserve every individual's First Amendment rights. Under his leadership, ACLU Wisconsin also fought hard to challenge the State's voter ID laws, which threaten to disenfranchise or discourage Wisconsin voters. Chris has spent his career giving a voice to those who might otherwise not be heard.

Chris's commitment to the people of Wisconsin goes beyond the impact he has had at the ACLU. He has served on advisory committees for the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance and on the Legal and Policy Committee of the Wisconsin Relay of Electronic Data, helping develop privacy standards for Wisconsin healthcare. Lastly, Chris has served on the board of the Milwaukee Turners for over 10 years as a way of honoring his German heritage and