

bill. The 21st Century Cures bill is all about health. The Miners Protection Act is a lot about the health and well-being of our miners.

That is why, despite the many good things and benefits in the 21st Century Cures Act, such as funding for the opioid epidemic that hit my State of West Virginia and many of our States very hard, advanced medicine, and Cancer Moonshot, I had to oppose us moving forward on the Cures Act tonight without an amendment process. That is how important this issue is to our miners.

Before Friday we will move forward on a bill to fund our government. We must take action in that bill—which I consider mostly our last chance, the continuing resolution—to protect these important benefits for our miners. If we don't, we will be failing to act for the benefit of thousands of American workers.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### DACA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, 15 years ago Senator DICK DURBIN introduced the DREAM Act in the U.S. Senate. This legislation provided a path to citizenship for young people brought to the U.S. as children.

These young people call themselves DREAMers. And they are as American as you or me. They belong to this country culturally and linguistically and are American in all but paperwork. For many of them, this is the only country they have ever known.

In 2010, the DREAM Act passed the House and came to the Senate for a vote. Sadly, Republicans killed the bill—eliminating the hopes and dreams of hundreds of thousands of DREAMers. Because Republicans refused to act, it was up to President Obama.

In 2011, I joined 21 other Senators in asking President Obama to grant deferred action to immigrant youth who would have qualified under the DREAM Act and who are not an enforcement priority. And in 2012, President Obama's administration did just that. They announced that young people who were brought to the United States as children could apply for Deferred Ac-

tion for Childhood Arrivals, also known as DACA.

This brought nearly 800,000 young people out of the shadows. These young men and women are our newest college students, teachers, engineers, and small business owners. They contribute to our communities and make America better.

In Nevada alone, DACA has helped over 12,000 DREAMers—DREAMers like Brenda Romero. Brenda was just 2 years old when she crossed the border in southern California with her mother to reunite with members of their family.

Growing up in Las Vegas, Brenda was like any other American kid. She excelled in school, participated in student government and played the cello in the orchestra. But soon enough, she realized what it truly meant to be undocumented. Her friends could get their driver's licenses; Brenda could not. Her peers could get legally paying jobs; Brenda could not. Her classmates could speak with recruiters from the Armed Services about career opportunities; Brenda could not. Brenda described the months after graduating high school as one of the lowest points in her life.

But that all changed with DACA. She was finally able to get a job and enrolled in the College of Southern Nevada as soon as she saved enough money. Brenda became student body president her second year at the College of Southern Nevada, working to help other students who faced struggles similar to hers. During her time as student body president, Brenda helped award \$10,000 to her fellow classmates in scholarship funds.

Brenda graduated from CSN with an associate's degree in art and is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in human services at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She wants to be a higher education counselor, and she is already well on her way. She is already making her mark on the UNLV campus. As part of the Undocu-network Club, Brenda is helping to bring counseling and services to students in need and promoting visibility for undocumented students to the school administration.

Brenda's story is impressive, but it is not unique. Every Senator has a story to tell like Brenda's. There are young men and women just like her in all 50 states.

In addition to the moral reasons for supporting DACA, there are strong economic reasons. DACA recipients will add \$433 billion to the economy over 10 years. After DACA, more than two-thirds of recipients were able to secure a job and their wages rose by 42 percent. Six percent of recipients started their own businesses, a rate that is nearly double the rate among the entire U.S. population. Fifty-four percent of recipients bought cars, and 12 percent bought houses, all of which means significant new tax revenue for States and localities. DACA recipients will

add \$433 billion to the economy over 10 years. It is not surprising that the majority of Americans—almost 60 percent—oppose repeal of DACA.

As with Brenda, DACA has opened doors of opportunity for hundreds of thousands of young people.

We hoped that it would be a stop-gap measure until we passed immigration reform. The Senate overwhelmingly passed a bipartisan bill but the House refused to bring it to a vote. With the outcome of the election, it isn't likely that comprehensive immigration reform will happen over the next 4 years. That is why it is so important for the next administration to continue this vital program. For Brenda and hundreds of thousands like her, losing DACA status means being adrift in the only country she calls home.

I urge the next administration: Don't put almost 800,000 young people back in the shadows where they are afraid. Don't force hundreds of thousands of DREAMers to lose their jobs. And don't squander the huge economic benefits to this country.

If Republicans want to do something, then they should pass the DREAM Act.

#### ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

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. 16-76, concerning the Department of the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance for the Government of Peru for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$668 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,  
J.W. RIXEY, Vice Admiral, USN,  
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-76

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 Peru.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment\* \$434 million.

Other \$234 million.

Total \$668 million.

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

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

One hundred and seventy-eight (178) Reconditioned Stryker Infantry Carrier Vehicles.

One hundred and seventy-eight (178) M2 Flex .50 Cal Machine Guns.

One hundred and seventy-eight (178) Remote Weapon Stations (RWS).

Non-MDE includes: Driver's vision enhancers; Global Positioning System (GPS) navigational capability; sets of special tools testing equipment; associated M2 Flex spare parts and tripods; M6 Smoke Grenade launchers and associated spares; VIC-3 systems; Operators New Equipment Training (OPNET) and Field Level Maintenance Training (FLMNET); publications; training manuals; Contractor Field Service Representative support; contractor and concurrent spare parts; project office technical support; U.S. Government technical assistance; packaging, crating, and handling; de-processing services for shipment; and associated transportation.

(iv) Military Department: Army.

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(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: December 2, 2016.

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

#### POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Government of Peru—Reconditioned Stryker Infantry Carrier Vehicles

The Government of Peru has requested a possible sale of one hundred and seventy-eight (178) Reconditioned Stryker Infantry Carrier Vehicles; one hundred and seventy-eight (178) M2 Flex .50 Cal Machine Guns; and one hundred and seventy-eight (178) Remote Weapon Stations (RWS). Also included are driver's vision enhancers; Global Positioning System (GPS) navigation capability; sets of special tools testing equipment; associated M2 Flex spare parts and tripods; M6 Smoke Grenade launchers and associated spares; VIC-3 systems; Operators New Equipment Training (OPNET) and Field Level Maintenance Training (FLMNET); publications; training manuals; Contractor Field Service Representative support; contractor and concurrent spare parts; project office technical support; U.S. Government technical assistance; packaging, crating, and handling; de-processing services for shipment; and associated transportation. Total estimated program cost is \$668 million.

This proposed sale will contribute to the foreign policy objectives of the United States by helping to improve the security of an important partner which has been and continues to be an important force for political stability, peace, and economic progress in South America. It is in the U.S. national security interest for Peru to field capable forces and multi-role equipment for border security, disaster response, and to confront de-stabilizing internal threats, such as the terrorist group Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path).

Peru intends to use these defense articles and services to modernize its armed forces. This will contribute to the Peruvian military's goal of updating its capabilities while further enhancing interoperability between Peru, the United States, and other allies and partners. This acquisition would support the first major step in Peru's acquisition strategy to build a multi-dimensional brigade by 2030. Peru will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

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

The prime contractor for this program is General Dynamics Land Systems. There are no known offset agreements in connect with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require the temporary assignment of U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Peru for up to three years.

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

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-76

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 following Major Defense Equipment items do not contain any sensitive technologies or classified material: 178 M1126 Stryker Infantry Carrier Vehicles with M2 Flex .50 Cal machine guns and Remote Weapon Stations. The M1126 Stryker is an infantry carrier vehicle transporting nine soldiers, their mission equipment and a crew of two consisting of a driver and vehicle commander. It is equipped with armor protection, M2 machine guns and M6 smoke grenade launchers for self-protection. The Stryker is an eight-wheeled vehicle powered by a 350hp diesel engine. It incorporates a central tire inflation system, run-flat tires, and a vehicle height management system. The Stryker is capable of supporting a communications suite, a Global Positioning System (GPS), and a high frequency and near-term digital radio systems. The Stryker is deployable by C-130 aircraft and combat capable upon arrival. The Stryker is capable of self-deployment by highway and self-recovery. It has a low noise level that reduces crew fatigue and enhances survivability. It moves about the battlefield quickly and is optimized for close, complex, or urban terrain. The Stryker program leverages non-developmental items with common subsystems and components to quickly acquire and field these systems.

2. The AN/VAS-5 Driver's Vision Enhancer (DVE) is a compact thermal camera providing armored vehicle drivers with day or night time visual awareness in clear or reduced vision (fog, smoke, dust) situations. The system provides the driver a 180 degree viewing angle using a high resolution infrared sensor and image stabilization to reduce the effect of shock and vibration. The viewer and monitor are ruggedized for operation in tactical environments. The system is UNCLASSIFIED but considered sensitive technology. If a technically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the AN/VAS-5, the information could be used to identify ways to countering the system or improve the adversary's ability to avoid detection by the system in low-visibility environments. This is a low-level concern because the thermal imaging technology used in the AN/VAS-5 is considered mature and available in other industrial nation's comparable performance thresholds.

3. A determination has been made that the recipient country can provide the same de-

gree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

4. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to Peru.

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. 16-54, concerning the Department of the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Australia for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$115 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,

J.W. RIXEY, Vice Admiral, USN,  
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-54

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 Australia.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE)\* \$ 0.00 million.

Basic Case (GUW) \$79.07 million.

Amendment Funding \$35.93 million.

Total \$115.00 million.

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

Non-MDE: FMS case AT-P-GUW, originally offered below congressional notification threshold at \$79.07 million, was for acquisition of two Range Systems to conduct Electronic Warfare (EW), Electronic Surveillance, and Airborne Electronic Attack for Royal Australian Air Force aircrew training on its twelve (12) Australian EA-18G aircraft. An amendment to AT-P-GUW is required to add \$35.93 million in funding, to provide for unfunded requirements to meet the scope of the basic case and provide for the sale of additional classified technical data and software, system integration and testing, tools and test equipment, support equipment, spare and repair parts, publications, operations manuals, and technical documents, personnel training, U.S. Government and contractor technical assistance, and other related elements of engineering, logistics, and program management. This amendment will push the original case value above notification threshold and thus requires notification of the entire case.

Military Department: Navy (AT-P-GUW-A1).

Prior Related Cases, if any:

FMS case AT-P-LEN: \$992M September 13, 2012 (Airborne Electronic Attack Kits).

FMS case AT-P-SCI \$1.3B July 4, 2013 (twelve EA-18G aircrafts).

FMS case AT-P-GUW \$79M February 12, 2015 (Electronic Warfare Range System).

(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: December 2, 2016.

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

#### POLICY JUSTIFICATION

##### Government of Australia—AEA-18G Electronic Warfare Range System

The Government of Australia has requested additional funding to a previously implemented case for two Electronic Warfare Range Systems to conduct Electronic Warfare and Electronic Surveillance training within the borders of Australia. The original FMS case, valued at \$79.07 million, includes non-MDE costs for all support elements required to provide for system integration testing, tools and test equipment, support equipment, spare and repair parts, publications, operations manuals, technical documents, personnel training, U.S. Government and contractor technical assistance, and other related elements of logistics and program support. The addition of \$35.93 million in non-MDE funding to the basic case will provide for unfunded requirements to meet the scope of the basic case and provide for the sale of additional classified technical data and software, system integration and testing, tools and test equipment, support equipment, spare and repair parts, publications, operations manuals, and technical documents, personnel training, U.S. Government and contractor technical assistance, and other related elements of engineering, logistics, and program management. This amendment will push the original case value above notification threshold and thus requires notification of the entire case. The total overall estimated value is \$115 million.

This sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a major contributor to political stability, security, and economic development in the Western Pacific. Australia is an important Major non-NATO Ally and partner that contributes significantly to peacekeeping and humanitarian operations around the world. It is vital to the U.S. national interest to assist our ally in developing and maintaining a strong and ready self-defense capability. By enabling Australian Defense Force (ADF) ranges, the U.S. Government will ensure consistency in training across platforms and theaters, whether the exercises are conducted in the United States or in Australia, where U.S. aircrews will be able to participate in training exercises alongside their Australian counterparts. The proposed sale will allow continued efforts to improve Australia's capability in current and future coalition operations. Australia will use the range to enhance Electronic Warfare capabilities as a deterrent to regional threats and to strengthen its homeland defense. Australia will have no difficulty absorbing these items into its armed forces.

The proposed sale will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The prime contractors will be Leidos (hardware) and General Dynamics Mission Systems (software). The U.S. Government is not aware of any known offsets associated with this sale.

Implementation of this sale will require ten (10) temporary U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Australia for assistance in integration and range operational and maintenance training.

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

#### TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-54

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. Provides two (2) in-country Electronic Warfare (EW) ranges for EA-18G aircrew training to detect, identify, locate, and suppress hostile emitters. Range technology transfers programmable equipment able to emulate generic Integrated Air Defense Systems, threat and other emitters, along with authentic threat emitters purchased from vendors in Former Soviet Block states. The range hardware is Unclassified either stand-alone or integrated. The range software is unclassified with the exception of one (1) Secret Digital Integrated Air Defense System (DIADS) software suite. The amendment facilitates transfer of classified information such as software, classified threat and fly-out models, user event captured data, range operations manuals, and security classification guidance. The classified information enhances the usefulness of the range technology being transferred and provides guidance on safeguarding sensitive information.

2. When EW range hardware and software work together against a particular aircraft platform, the visual and recorded information becomes classified Secret. The range capability is unclassified until the networks touch a Secret network (e.g., Link 16) or perform against real world training missions. The customer may capture intelligence regarding the authentic threat emitters that is classified Confidential or Secret, as well as other training artifacts and debrief products capturing weapons capability and tactics.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce EA-18G weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

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

#### 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. 16-65, concerning the Department of the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance for the Government of Finland for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$156 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,

JAMES WORM, *Acting Deputy Director*,  
(for J.W. Rixey, Vice Admiral, USN,  
Director).

Enclosures.

#### TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-65

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 Finland.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:  
Major Defense Equipment \* \$ 57 million.  
Other \$ 99 million.  
Total \$156 million.

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

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):  
Ninety (90) Multifunctional Information Distribution System Joint Tactical Radio System (MIDS-JTRS) Variant(s).

Non-MDE includes: Follow-on equipment and support for Finland's F/A-18 Mid-Life

Upgrade (MLU) program includes software test and integration center upgrades, flight testing, spare and repair parts, support and test equipment, transportation, publications and technical documentation, personnel training and training equipment, U.S. Government and contractor technical and logistics support services, and other related elements of logistics support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy.

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any:

FMS case FI-P-SAA \$2.4 billion—9 Jun 1992.

FMS case FI-P-SAB \$675 million—7 Feb 1994.

FMS case FI-P-GAD \$25 million—13 Jul 2001.

FMS case FI-P-LBB \$63 million—4 Aug 2001.

FMS case FI-P-LBC \$127 million—1 Jan 2004.

FMS case FI-P-LBD \$252 million—25 Jul 2007.

FMS case FI-P-LBH \$307 million—3 Apr 2009.

FMS case FI-P-GAU \$170 million—27 Jun 2013.

(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: December 2, 2016.

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

#### POLICY JUSTIFICATION

##### Government of Finland—F-18 Mid-Life Upgrade Program

The Government of Finland has requested a possible sale of follow-on equipment and support for Finland's F/A-18 Mid-Life Upgrade (MLU) program, consisting of: Ninety (90) Multifunctional Information Distribution System Joint Tactical Radio System (MIDS-JTRS) variant(s). The proposed program support also includes software test and integration center upgrades, flight testing, spare and repair parts, support and test equipment, transportation, publications and technical documentation, personnel training and training equipment, U.S. Government and contractor technical and logistics support services, and other related elements of logistics support. Total estimated program cost is \$156 million.

This proposed sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve the security of a friendly country which has been and continues to be an important force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

The Finnish Air Force (FAF) intend to purchase this MLU program equipment and services to extend the useful life of its F/A-18 fighter aircraft and enhance their survivability and communications connectivity. The FAF needs this upgrade to keep pace with technology advances in sensors, weaponry, and communications. Finland has extensive experience operating the F/A-18 aircraft and will have no difficulty incorporating the upgraded capabilities into its 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 in Waltham, Massachusetts; Lockheed Martin in Bethesda, Maryland; The Boeing Company in St. Louis, Missouri; BAE North America in Arlington, Virginia; General Electric in Fairfield, Connecticut; General Dynamics in West Falls Church, Virginia; Northrop Grumman in Falls Church, Virginia; Rockwell Collins in Cedar Rapids,

Iowa; ViaSat in Carlsbad, California; and Data Link Solutions in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require multiple trips to Finland involving U.S. Government and contractor representatives for technical reviews, support, and training.

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

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-65

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 Multifunctional Information Distribution System Joint Tactical Radio System (MIDS-JTRS) is not classified but is considered a COMSEC Controlled Item (CCI). There are no training devices, associated documentation, or services to be provided with the sale of these MIDS-JTRS units. No sensitive information is provided or associated with this sale.

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

#### TRIBUTE TO GENERAL RAHEEL SHARIF

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the accomplishments of General Raheel Sharif and to express my gratitude to him upon his retirement as Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff. General Sharif has been a vital partner for the United States in the battle against terrorism. Since taking office in November 2013, General Sharif has continued to target terrorists operating within the borders of Pakistan. He has carried the fight to the northwest frontier provinces of Pakistan, as well as promised to eliminate safe havens for terrorists from the country completely. In taking these actions, General Sharif has demonstrated that fighting against extremist groups is firmly in the national security interests of Pakistan.

General Sharif comes from a military family, with a long tradition of patriotism and service to country. Among his many brave military family members, his older brother Major Rana Shabbir Sharif, who was killed in action, is regarded as the most decorated officer of the Pakistan Army, having received the three most coveted awards of the Army, and is fondly addressed as the army's "Superman." This is a legacy difficult to live up to, but General Sharif has done so, honoring his brother and family's service, and continuing to serve and protect his country and its institutions.

Since taking on the role of Chief of Army Staff, General Sharif has been at the forefront of fighting the Taliban and other terrorist groups inside Pakistan. In 2014, he initiated the launch of Operation Zarb-e-Azb in North Waziristan, a tribal area along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border where militants had operated with impunity for

decades. This operation didn't eliminate every terrorist, nor has it denied safe haven to many who continue to operate from Pakistan. But it has led to security improvements in the country, and this area is now safer than ever before. And importantly, the Pakistani Army is continuing to secure the gains it has achieved by building roads, border posts, schools, and healthcare facilities across North Waziristan to promote economic development and give citizens a more prosperous and peaceful future.

In the south, General Sharif also took on the task of clearing Karachi, one of Pakistan's largest cities, of an array of terrorist organizations, criminal groups, and even political corruption. The results were equally impressive, leading to a dramatic decline in militant attacks and ending the kind of targeted killings, kidnappings for ransom, and extortion that had become a feature of life in the city.

Much of the credit for the success of these operations is due to General Sharif and the service and sacrifice of tens of thousands of Pakistani soldiers who followed his lead. What was remarkable about General Sharif was not only the commitment he demonstrated to rooting out terrorism, but also his efforts to improve economic development, political life, and civic services for citizens throughout the country. He recognized that failure to focus on the root causes of radicalization, including economic and political corruption, had exacerbated the growth of extremism in Pakistan, and he showed foresight in seeking to remedy both cause and effect.

This is the kind of leadership that is imperative for the continued improvement of relations between the United States and Pakistan, which is important for the stability of the entire region, and for the national security of both Pakistan and the United States.

But despite the progress I witnessed firsthand when I visited Pakistan this past summer, the U.S.-Pakistan relationship has become strained. Among other things, limitations on U.S. assistance to Pakistan and congressional opposition to approve funding for the sale of defense articles have added to tensions between our two governments. But even with these difficulties, U.S. and Pakistani leaders cannot allow ambivalence and suspicion to fester in our relationship. Our common interests in counterterrorism, nuclear security, and regional stability are too important and too urgent. Both sides share responsibility to improve U.S.-Pakistan relations, and the United States must continue to make clear its enduring commitment to Pakistan's stability and economic growth.

As we look to the future, there remains much to be done. While Pakistan has made progress in its fight against terrorism, the Haqqani Network continues to operate within its border, increasing cross-border attacks are carried out by armed militants on neigh-

boring countries, and political corruption has stilted economic growth. Pakistan must demonstrate that the commitment to fighting terrorism and improving conditions in the country is not dependent on a single individual. In that spirit, I look forward to working with General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's selection to be the next Chief of Army Staff. By taking on all terrorist groups operating in its country, Pakistan will find that the United States remains willing and able to assist in this fight and develop an enduring strategic partnership.

I congratulate Pakistan on carrying out a second consecutive transition of power in the military, and I wish General Sharif well as he enters a well-earned retirement. He has vowed to serve Pakistan even after his retirement, and I would expect nothing less.

#### SECRETARY KERRY'S REMARKS AT COP22

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, last year the world came together in Paris to support a truly historic agreement on climate change. And 2015 was also historic for another reason: It was the hottest year in an observational record that stretches back to the 1880s. In fact, 15 of the 16 hottest years on the planet have occurred since 2000. Recently, July and August 2016 tied the global record for the hottest month, and 2016 is on track to be the warmest year yet. The evidence on climate change is overwhelming. Scientists have understood the fundamental physics for over a century. And the world agrees that we must take action to curb dangerous carbon pollution and reduce the effects of climate change. A majority of the United States agrees that we must take action.

The swiftness with which the Paris Climate Accord came into force demonstrates the global commitment to addressing the serious concerns of climate change. It is also a testament to the leadership of President Barack Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry. This year, the world again came together at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Marrakesh, Morocco, to begin forging the path towards a lower-emissions world and clean energy future. And while there is much work to be done, we are heading in the right direction. We have seen the price of solar energy reach record lows and the rate of new solar installation reach record highs. We have seen States, regions, and countries reduce their carbon pollution while growing their economies. These positive steps will not only curb carbon pollution, but also create good, well-paying clean energy jobs.

Climate change is a challenge for the entire world. Through the Paris Climate Accord, the international community has decided to face this challenge head on, and the United States must continue to be the global leader.