

installation support material, special purpose test equipment, initial logistics outfitting, spares and other ancillary equipment to support the installation and integration of AEGIS Combat System equipment in the Hunter and Hobart class ship platforms; development of technical documentation to support both programs; provision of logistics and other support services to support the Hobart and Hunter Class ships; procurement, staging, delivery and installation support for AEGIS Combat System equipment for the Hobart and Hunter Class ships; provision of training support for curriculum development, training tool development, front-end analysis, and crew training for the Hobart and Hunter Class ships; U.S. Government and contractor representative engineering, logistics, and technical support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support for the Hobart and Hunter Class ships. The total estimated cost is \$1.50 billion.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States. Australia is one of our most important allies in the Western Pacific. The strategic location of this political and economic power contributes significantly to ensuring peace and economic stability in the region.

The proposed sale will enhance Australia's Surface Combatant capability by modernizing their existing three AEGIS capable Hobart Class Destroyers with the latest technology and capability, and delivering the first three (of nine) AEGIS capable Hunter Class Future Frigates. This sale enhances Australia's self-defense capability, while significantly improving interoperability with U.S. Navy AEGIS combatants in the region. By deploying a surface combatant fleet that will incorporate Cooperative Engagement Capability (CEC), Australia will significantly improve network-centric warfare capability for US forces operating in the region. Australia 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.

There are a significant number of companies under contract with the U.S. Navy that will provide components and systems as well as engineering services during the execution of this effort, with a significant portion of the effort to be performed by Lockheed Martin, Rotary and Mission Systems, Moorestown, NJ. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require travel of U.S. Government and/or contractor representatives to Australia on a temporary basis for program support and management oversight. No extended (long-term) visits to Australia will be required as part of this effort.

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

TRANSMITTAL NO. 19-66

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. This sale involves the procurement of long lead material and services to support the Australian Surface Combatant Program. The AEGIS Combat System (ACS) to be procured to support the modernization of the Hobart Class Destroyers is a multi-mission combat system providing Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD) and a growth path to Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) capability, derived from USN AEGIS Weapon System

Baseline 9 capability. In addition to shipboard AEGIS equipment, this proposed sale will provide software, documentation (including combat system capabilities and limitations), training devices and services, and other technical support to ensure the proper installation, testing and operation of the provided equipment.

2. AEGIS Weapon System simulation software, documentation, training and study material will be provided a classification levels up to and including SECRET. Delivery of sensitive technological information, up to and including SECRET, will be limited to the minimum level of information required to progress activities associated with the integration of indigenous combat system systems into the AEGIS Combat System. This consists primarily of AEGIS Combat System requirements and integration information to support early combat system development activities, in the form of documentation, simulation software, and technical specifications. This information is sensitive as it provides limited insight into AEGIS Combat System capabilities and requirements—as tailored to the Australian AEGIS Combat System configurations.

3. The Cooperative Engagement Capability (CEC) is a system that fuses tracking data from shipboard sensors and distributes radar measurement data to other platforms with CEC capability. This data is filtered and combined to create a common tactical picture, based on available sensor data from all platforms netted through the CEC system. The hardware is unclassified with the exception of a Communications Security (COMSEC) card which is classified SECRET. The software and documentation are classified SECRET. All manuals and technical documentation disclosure will be limited to those necessary for operational use and organizational maintenance.

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

5. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the enclosed Policy Justification. A determination has been made that Australia can provide the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government.

6. All defense articles and services listed on this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Australia.

REVEREND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, on January 20, we celebrate the 91st anniversary of the birth of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In the short 39 years that he spent on Earth, Dr. King inspired more change, touched more lives, and lifted up more voices than most of us could hope to in many lifetimes. With his message of compassion, he shepherded a civil rights movement defined by love and peacefulness, despite the violence and hatred raging all around. He bravely preached the equal value of every human soul, and he was killed for it. That day, we lost a champion for justice who can never be replaced.

Nearly 52 years after Dr. King's murder, it is important to pause and reflect on the profound impact that his dream of peace and equality has had on our Nation's character. Dr. King's legacy includes expanded voting rights, more inclusive housing policies, and the legal prohibition of discrimination on the basis of race. Not only that, but his advocacy for economic justice illuminated the ways that race and class intersect in America, inspiring future generations to demand freedom from all vectors of oppression.

But today is also an opportunity to reflect on what is still needed to make Dr. King's dream a reality. Our criminal justice system still operates as a tool with which to surveil and subjugate minority communities.

People of color, especially African Americans, are still disenfranchised at substantially higher rates and have to navigate sophisticated voter deception and intimidation practices in order to exercise their right to vote. And White supremacists are still marching in the streets while the occupant of our country's highest office proclaims that there are "good people on both sides."

It turns out that the forces of injustice that Dr. King fought to eradicate are strong and adaptable. Often, when we think we have defeated them, they have in fact taken a new, unfamiliar form, or simply hidden below the surface, waiting for an opportunity to emerge. Sadly, there are too many in power right now who offer platforms and shelter to these forces. They threaten to drag our country back to a darker time.

We can't let that happen. I appreciate how daunting that imperative is—goodness knows that I ask myself all the time how I, just one man, can possibly effect the change that I hope to see in the world. But it helps to remember that Martin Luther King was also just one man, one ordinary man called to an extraordinary mission.

So all we need to do is model ourselves in Dr. King's image. Easy, right? Maybe not. But a good way to start is to recall his lesson that "life's most persistent question is: what are you doing for others?" Dr. King taught us that justice doesn't have to be sweeping and grand—it can be quiet; it can take root in small moments. The world that he envisioned can be planted with good deeds between neighbors, helping hands offered to friends, and displays of empathy for complete strangers.

When we do these things, we recognize each other's humanity, we bond ourselves to one another, and then we come to see that none of us is striving alone for a better world. That togetherness, that solidarity, will always win out over hatred and fear.

Another thing we can do is support the systems and institutions that have the power to uphold equality. This is where I make my plug for the census. The upcoming decennial census will be used to determine congressional representation and the fair distribution of

Federal resources for things like schools, hospitals, and housing. It has the potential to ensure that all Americans get the services and political representation to which they are entitled, or it could further skew the playing field in favor of the already privileged. It all depends on whether minority communities are fully counted.

Historically, they have not been. That is why I am asking each and every American to please, please participate in the census this year. Dr. King taught us that every human being is equal, that all of us deserve to live with dignity and respect. He shined a light on the forgotten and the oppressed and demanded better for them. Help to honor his memory by making sure that no one goes uncounted. Carry on his legacy by demanding a government that serves and protects each of its citizens equally. In this way, we can continue building the world that Dr. King envisioned.

(At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

NATIONAL DEFENSE STRATEGY AND AFRICA

• Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, as chairman of the Armed Services Committee, my top priority is ensuring the effective implementation of the National Defense Strategy. I rise today to speak about the importance of Africa as a key front in our global efforts under the NDS to compete with China and Russia, defend U.S. national security, and combat radical terrorist groups like al-Qaida and ISIS. The NDS says competition with China and Russia is “the central challenge to U.S. prosperity and security.” This is where DOD is rightly focusing its attention. But China’s and Russia’s growing influence isn’t restricted to Europe and the Indo-Pacific. Recent actions by China and Russia clearly demonstrate that both countries view Africa as a critical battlefield to fulfill their global ambitions and challenge U.S. interests.

Over the past 20 years, I have conducted 164 African country visits. I can tell you it is no coincidence that China established its first overseas military base in Djibouti—strategically located on one of the most important maritime transit routes in the world. I visited Djibouti last February and saw firsthand China’s military base and their encroachment on the Port of Djibouti. Elsewhere, China is using cash and debt to trap countries and force them to put their infrastructure and potentially their very sovereignty on sale. For example, 90 percent of African exports depend on ports and China is funding, building, or operating at least 46 port projects in sub-Saharan Africa. In addition to giving China a potential stranglehold on African prosperity, it also provides China access to critical maritime routes and chokepoints.

At the same time, Russia is using its armed forces, mercenaries, and the sale

of Russian arms to buy influence, exploit Africa’s natural resources, and to prop up leaders sympathetic to Russian interests and hostile to those of the West. And while the NDS states that competition with China and Russia should be DOD’s top priority, it makes clear that we cannot afford to lose sight of the continuing threat posed by radical terrorist groups like al-Qaida and ISIS.

Africa has been and must remain a key theater for our counterterrorism efforts. Today, more than a dozen terrorist groups with ties to al-Qaida and ISIS, like Al-Shabab, are operating across the continent. Many of these groups have ambition to attack Americans and our partners, as we saw last week when Al-Shabab militants in Kenya killed a U.S. servicemember and two DOD contractors. Without pressure the threat these groups pose to the United States will grow unchecked. And this isn’t a recent development—I have seen this come up time and time again on my visits to the continent. It is why I pushed the DOD for years to stand up an Africa command. People forget that we didn’t always have a dedicated military presence in Africa, despite its strategic importance. It was managed through three separate combatant commands. I worked with DOD and then-President Bush to change that, and in 2008 we officially stood up United States Africa Command AFRICOM.

Despite the breadth of security challenges we face on the African continent every day, AFRICOM has consistently suffered resource shortfalls. On any given day, there are about 7,000 DOD personnel serving in Africa. Africa is home to 1.3 billion people and is larger geographically than China, India, the United States, and most of Europe—combined. In light of these significant resource and geographical challenges, the men and women of AFRICOM perform critical missions every day to check Chinese and Russian influence, combat terrorism, and strengthen the capabilities of our partners. AFRICOM provides an enormous value to the Nation for an extremely modest level of investment—the very definition of “economy of force.” Despite this, I understand that DOD is reviewing our military presence in Africa and is considering significant cuts.

Given what is at stake for both U.S. national security and effective implementation of NDS, we must have a meaningful, albeit limited, U.S. presence in Africa. Any drawdown of our troops would be shortsighted, could cripple AFRICOM’s ability to execute its mission and, as a result, would harm national security. Rather than talking about drawing down troops in Africa, we should finally assign forces to AFRICOM on an enduring basis—including an SFAB—in order to provide the command with predictable resourcing so it can be most effective in defending U.S. national security.

I urge the Secretary of Defense to keep this in mind as he makes deci-

sions on the future of our presence and role in Africa.●

REMEMBERING CHRIS ALLEN

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Chris Allen, who worked as my senior economic policy adviser. It is fitting that I do so on the Senate floor because Chris Allen would be the first one to tell you he loved his job.

This statement was delivered so frequently and with such sincerity that one was compelled to look inward and remind one’s self of what a privilege it is to work in the U.S. Senate on behalf of the American people.

Chris Allen was a student of history and a lover of politics. Ladies and gentlemen, Chris Allen loved tax policy. If that doesn’t tell you what a special person he was, I don’t know what does.

Chris’s attitude about his job extended to his coworkers. He loved his coworkers. When he was on my staff, Chris was always willing to help junior staff, senior staff, or interns. It didn’t matter—he had time for you. He rolled up his sleeves and pitched in. He gave you advice. He truly cared.

When it came time for my 2014 campaign, Chris spent his vacation days with me in Kansas—knocking on doors, walking in parades, and being a force of positive energy no matter what we faced. Normally these are grueling tasks but not for Chris. He had fun. He loved it.

As a matter of fact, posted on the wall of our little Hart kitchen, we have a selfie on election night of my crew at the victory party. The picture is entitled “This is what victory looks like.” And right smack-dab in the middle is one smiling Chris Allen. Now, when I am heating up my coffee, I look at Chris in the picture, and I can feel his joy as he is surrounded by our family of staffers.

Elections weren’t his only love. Chris Allen loved a cold beer. He loved a natty jacket. He loved loud pants. Sometimes he loved wearing them together. He loved his lacrosse. He loved his Baltimore neighborhood. He loved all things English and French. He loved researching his ancestry.

Chris Allen loved his parents, his in-laws, his brothers, his nieces and nephews, but nothing compared to his love for Lynda, Lucie, and Sophie. He was not just a proud dad who boasted of his daughters’ accomplishments big and small; he was better. He was a father who took delight in the things his daughters said and did, big and small. They were cherished. May they understand today and always that we loved Chris, and he loved them.

I always looked forward to my briefings with Chris. For one, he got my jokes. He understood my references to radio and television shows and personalities that my other staff would have to research and look up. But he was also understanding of the history of the issues, even those not in his portfolio.