

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be discharged from further consideration and that at 3 p.m. on Monday, January 23, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider PN1, Brendan Owens to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense; that the time until 5:30 p.m. be equally divided in the usual form on the nomination and the Senate then vote on confirmation of the nomination; and that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. 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,
Washington, DC.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 3 6(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 22-70, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$180 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSH,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 22-70

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: Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO).

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* \$0 million.

Other \$180 million.

Total \$180 million.

Funding Source: National Funds

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

Major Defense Equipment (MOE):

None.

Non-MDE:

Includes Volcano (vehicle-launched) anti-tank munition-laying systems; M977 A4 HEMTT 10-Ton cargo trucks; M87A1 Anti-Tank (AT) munitions; M88 canister training munitions (practice dummy ammunition rounds); M89 training munitions (test ammunition rounds); organic U.S. Army Depot build of Volcano system permanently mounted on M977A4 HEMTT truck; logistics support packages to include spare parts, spare secondary assemblies, tool kits and test equipment; technical manuals; organic depot production, integration and testing; Operator and Maintenance Training; logistics and fielding support; USG technical assistance CONUS and OCONUS to include engineering services, program management, site surveys, facility, logistics and maintenance evaluations; quality assurance and de-processing team; field service representative(s); Repair and Return services; any transportation charges to execute the program; and related elements of logistical and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (TW-B-ZDV).

(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 Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: December 28, 2022.

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States—Volcano System

The Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) has requested to buy Volcano (vehicle-launched) anti-tank munition-laying systems; M977A4 HEMTT 10-Ton cargo trucks; M87A1 Anti-Tank (AT) munitions; M88 canister training munitions (practice dummy ammunition rounds); M89 training munitions (test ammunition rounds); organic U.S. Army Depot build of Volcano system permanently mounted on M977A4 HEMTT truck; logistics support packages to include spare parts, spare secondary assemblies, tool kits and test equipment; technical manuals; organic depot production, integration and testing; Operator and Maintenance Training; logistics and fielding support; USG technical assistance CONUS and OCONUS to include engineering services, program management, site surveys, facility, logistics and maintenance evaluations; quality assurance and de-processing team; field service representative(s); Repair and Return services; any transportation charges to execute the program; and related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated total cost is \$180 million.

This proposed sale is consistent with U.S. law and policy as expressed in Public Law 96-8.

This proposed sale serves U.S. national, economic, and security interests by supporting the recipient's continuing efforts to modernize its armed forces and to maintain a credible defensive capability. The proposed sale will help improve the security of the recipient and assist in maintaining political stability, military balance, and economic progress in the region.

The proposed sale will improve the recipient's capability to meet current and future threats by providing a credible force capable of deterring adversaries and participating in regional operations. The recipient 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 principal contractor

(s) will be Northrup Grumman, West Falls Church, VA for production of munition canister mines; and Oshkosh Corporation, Oshkosh, WI for production of the M977A4 HEMTT vehicles. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require assignment of one (1) technical representative in country for an estimated two (2) years of support; and U.S. Government representatives and contractor personnel to travel OCONUS for a duration of up to five years to support equipment fielding/training and program management.

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

TRANSMITTAL NO. 22-70

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

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The M139 Volcano System: a mass scatterable mine delivery system that delivers mines by helicopter or ground vehicle. It enables tactical commanders to emplace antitank/antipersonnel (AT/AP) or pure AT minefields with a minimum of personnel. A soldier-selectable, self-destruct mechanism destroys the mine at the end of its active lifecycle—4 hours to 15 days—depending on the time selected. Using a ground vehicle, a 1,000-meter minefield can be laid in 4 to 12 minutes based on terrain and vehicle speed. A helicopter can complete the mission in 20 seconds. Advantages of this system include faster response, increased lethality, greater efficiency, and enhanced safety.

a. The Volcano ground system is capable of holding up to 160 canisters and can be launched from both sides of the vehicle. Each canister contains six (6) mines.

b. With the Presidential Landmine Policy in place, AP mines cannot be exported. An AT only canister (M87A1) was developed to meet the policy decision. Therefore, the mine ratio went from five (5) AT mines/one (1) AP mine TO: six (6) AT mines /0 AP mines.

c. Volcano has no sensitive technological information or restricted information contained in the equipment, major components, subsystems, software, technical data (performance, maintenance, R&M, etc.) documentation, training devices and services to be conveyed with the proposed sale. There are no classified Volcano components (major components or subsystems), software, technical data, documentation, training devices or services to be conveyed with the proposed sale.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is UNCLASSIFIED.

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

4. A determination has been made that the recipient can provide substantially the same degree 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.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the recipient.

CHANGE IN PARTY IDENTIFICATION

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. President, I ask that the following letter be printed in the RECORD.

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

JANUARY 3, 2023.

DEAR LEADERS SCHUMER AND MCCONNELL: I write to inform you of my change in party identification. In December, I changed my registration in Arizona to independent.

From the date of this letter forward, I ask that my party identification be recorded as Independent in Senate votes, Senate records, and other Senate communications.

Per our discussion, I will receive my seniority and committee assignments through the Senate Democratic Conference for the purposes of organizing the Senate in the 118th Congress.

I will not participate in either political party caucus; I will not participate in internal caucus organizing or in messaging or platform creation.

My focus, as always, remains working with Republicans, Democrats, and Independents in the Senate to strengthen our country and to improve the lives of Arizonans and Americans.

Sincerely,

KYRSTEN SINEMA,
United States Senator.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Roberts, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT, 117TH CONGRESS

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2021, the Secretary of the Senate, on December 23,

2022, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 51. Concurrent resolution providing for a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 2617.

S. Con. Res. 52. Concurrent resolution providing for a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 4373.

The message also announced that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the text of the bill (H.R. 1082) to prohibit unauthorized sale of ridehailing signage and study the incidence of fatal and non-fatal assaults in TNC and for-hire vehicles in order to enhance safety and save lives, and that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the title of the aforementioned bill.

The message further announced that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4373) making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2021, the Secretary of the Senate, on December 23, 2022, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. DELAURO) had signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 4373. An act making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2023, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2021, the enrolled bill was signed on December 23, 2022, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2021, the Secretary of the Senate, on December 27, 2022, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2617) to amend section 1115 of title 31, United States Code, to amend the description of how performance goals are achieved, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2021, the Secretary of the Senate, on December 27, 2022, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. DELAURO) had signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 1082. An act to study the incidence of fatal and non-fatal assaults in TNC and for-hire vehicles in order to enhance safety and save lives.

H.R. 1917. An act to modify eligibility requirements for certain hazard mitigation assistance programs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7939. An act to make permanent certain educational assistance benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in the case of changes to courses of education by reason of emergency situations, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2021, the enrolled bills were signed on December 27, 2022, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. TESTER).

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2021, the Secretary of the Senate, on December 28, 2022, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 450. An act to award posthumously the Congressional Gold Medal to Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley.

S. 989. An act to establish a Native American language resource center in furtherance of the policy set forth in the Native American Languages Act.

S. 1294. An act to authorize the imposition of sanctions with respect to foreign persons that have engaged in significant theft of trade secrets of United States persons, and for other purposes.

S. 1402. An act to amend the Native American Languages Act to ensure the survival and continuing vitality of Native American languages, and for other purposes.

S. 1541. An act to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require the Federal Communications Commission to ensure just and reasonable charges for telephone and advanced communications services in correctional and detention facilities.

S. 1942. An act to standardize the designation of National Heritage Areas, and for other purposes.

S. 2333. An act to amend chapter 2205 of title 36, United States Code, to ensure equal treatment of athletes, and for other purposes.

S. 2834. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to preserve access to rehabilitation innovation centers under the Medicare program.

S. 3168. An act to amend the White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Rights Quantification Act of 2010 to modify the enforceability date for certain provisions, and for other purposes.

S. 3308. An act to authorize the Colorado River Indian Tribes to enter into lease or exchange agreements and storage agreements relating to water of the Colorado River allocated to the Colorado River Indian Tribes, and for other purposes.

S. 3405. An act to require the Federal Communications Commission to issue a rule providing that certain low power television stations may be accorded primary status as Class A television licensees, and for other purposes.

S. 3519. An act to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Butterfield Overland National Historic Trail, and for other purposes.

S. 3773. An act to authorize leases of up to 99 years for land held in trust for the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation.

S. 3946. An act to reauthorize the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2017, and for other purposes.