

The principal contractor will be Northrup Grumman, Huntsville, AL. The purchaser has requested offsets. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor(s).

Implementation of this proposed sale will require approximately forty (40) U.S. Government and/or forty-five (45) contractor representatives to travel to Poland for an extended period for equipment deprocessing and fielding, system checkout, training, and technical and logistics support.

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

Transmittal No. 23-64

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 Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD) Battle Command System (IBCS) is the centerpiece of the U.S. Army's modernization strategy for air and missile defense capability. The system's resilient, open, modular, scalable architecture is foundational to deploying a truly integrated network of all available assets in the battlespace, regardless of source, service, or domain. IBCS enables the efficient and affordable integration of current and future systems, including assets deployed over IP-enabled networks, counter-unmanned aerial systems (UAS), 4th and 5th-generation aircraft, space-based sensors, and more. It senses, identifies, tracks, and defeats evolving air and missile threats, enabling revolutionary "multi-domain, any sensor, best effecter" operations.

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

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 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 Government of Poland 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 Government of Poland.

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 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 23-67, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Poland for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$389 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. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-67

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 Poland.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment * \$0 million.
Other \$389 million.
Total \$389 million.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: Foreign Military Sales (FMS) case PL-D-QBC was below the congressional notification threshold at \$82 million (\$0 in MDE), and included non-MDE items and services in support of F-16 aircraft sustainment. The Government of Poland has requested the case be amended to include additional non-MDE items and services as indicated below. This amendment will push the current case above the total case value notification threshold and thus requires notification of the entire case.

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.

Non-MDE: Included are Electronic Warfare database reprogramming support; classified and unclassified software delivery and support; classified and unclassified publications and technical documentation; spare parts, consumables, accessories, and repair and return support; computer program identification numbers; engine Component Improvement Program support; minor modifications; maintenance and maintenance support; studies and surveys; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (PL-D-QBC).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: PL-D-QAW, PL-D-QAR, PL-D-QAO.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(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: September 13, 2023.

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Poland—F-16 Sustainment

The Government of Poland has requested to buy additional non-MDE articles and serv-

ices, as indicated below, that will be added to a previously implemented case whose value was under the congressional notification threshold. The original FMS case, valued at \$82 million, included articles and services in support of F-16 aircraft sustainment. This notification is for the combined non-MDE F-16 sustainment articles and services, which includes Electronic Warfare database reprogramming support; classified and unclassified software delivery and support; classified and unclassified publications and technical documentation; spare parts, consumables, accessories, and repair and return support; computer program identification numbers; engine Component Improvement Program support; minor modifications; maintenance and maintenance support; studies and surveys; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$389 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a North Atlantic Treaty Organization Ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

The proposed sale will improve Poland's capability to meet current and future threats by increasing the reliability of their F-16 fleet. Poland has purchased sustainment support for the F-16s in its inventory for many years, and will have no difficulty absorbing these articles and services 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 will be Lockheed Martin, Fort Worth, TX. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Poland.

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

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-67

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 Electronic Warfare Integrated Reprogramming Database (EWIRDB) is used by U.S. Government engineers in the reprogramming and creation of shareable Mission Data Files for the exported EW systems.

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

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 weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that Poland 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 Poland.

TRIBUTE TO GRACE POTTER

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Grace Potter, a talented singer-songwriter who was born and raised in Fayston, VT. She is a Grammy-nominated artist and has been described by Spin Magazine as "one of the greatest living voices in rock today." As her career as a musician has reached remarkable heights, she has continued to be a beacon of hope for her community back home in Vermont.

Music and the arts bring people together and foster healing through difficult times. Ms. Potter has always used her musical talent to build community, which is what Vermonters do best. She has consistently uplifted young musicians and worked to create opportunities for the arts to flourish in Vermont. These efforts are critical to strengthening both local economies and the social fabric of our great State.

Ms. Potter has also spent her career bringing attention to causes that she is passionate about, including promoting fair trade labeling and supporting local farmers. At the height of the pandemic, Ms. Potter hosted a virtual benefit concert with proceeds going to Shift Meals, an organization which delivers locally grown food to food-insecure households throughout the State.

After Hurricane Irene devastated Vermont communities in 2011, Ms. Potter performed benefit concerts to support flood relief efforts. Catastrophic flooding again hit Vermont this past July and August, destroying downtowns, damaging businesses, and forcing Vermonters to evacuate their homes. Thanks to Vermont's indomitable spirit, communities have come together to rebuild from the flooding. Ms. Potter has been a critical part of this rebuilding, again hosting multiple benefit concerts to bring aid to those most impacted by the floods.

Ms. Potter is a source of inspiration for so many, and she stands in solidarity with those in need of assistance during an incredibly challenging time. As Vermonters continue to recover from this summer's floods, we are grateful for Ms. Potter's dedication to the place we call home.

Thank you, Grace Potter, for your contribution to flood relief efforts in Vermont and for your embodiment of Vermont values.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DAVID SMITH

• Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and celebrate the career and legacy of Mr. David Smith.

In the realm of visionary leadership in the independent grocery industry, few names shine as brightly as David Smith's. David has had a long and successful career in the food industry, beginning as an independent store owner and then rising the ranks to work in various assignments at the wholesale

level in leadership positions, and serving as an officer on the National Grocers Association board of directors executive committee.

David's ascent to the helm of Associated Wholesale Grocers marked a pivotal moment in the company's strategic direction. Guided by an unwavering commitment to excellence, he steered AWG to new horizons of growth and prosperity. His strategic acumen and forward-thinking approach not only expanded the company's reach but also fostered an environment of collaboration and empowerment.

A true luminary, David's leadership extended beyond the boardroom. His emphasis on cultivating strong partnerships transformed suppliers into allies, fostering a sense of unity within the industry. David's ability to foresee trends and adapt to evolving market dynamics was nothing short of remarkable.

David's legacy extends far beyond business success. His philanthropic endeavors exemplify his compassionate heart and commitment to giving back to the community. His leadership in charitable initiatives served as a beacon of hope, illuminating the path toward positive change and societal betterment.

As we reflect on his remarkable journey, we pay homage to a servant leader who redefined mentorship, innovation, and corporate responsibility. His legacy serves as a testament to the transformative power of visionary thinking and unwavering determination. In commemorating David Smith, we pay tribute to his shining example of what is possible when passion, purpose, and leadership converge.

I now ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the legacy and career of Mr. David Smith, as well as congratulate him on his upcoming retirement.●

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHASE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

• Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, the Chase County Courthouse is a striking monument situated in Cottonwood Falls and visible across much of the surrounding prairie. Built in 1873, the courthouse's limestone exterior, walnut staircase, and distinctive red roof have made it a landmark on the plains. Designed in French Renaissance style by John G. Haskell of Leavenworth, the courthouse is the oldest Kansas courthouse still in use.

This year marks the courthouse's 150th anniversary of service to the community. In 1856, several families moved to the south side of Cottonwood River, and soon after, the Chase County boundaries were drawn. The pioneers who established Cottonwood Falls decided to build a local courthouse and workers began construction on the courthouse. The community chose a courthouse that would stand 113-feet tall, containing a three-story spiral staircase made from trees near the Cottonwood River. The limestone

used to construct the courthouse came from Chase County and is known as Cottonwood limestone. This same limestone was used in the Kansas State Capitol, Kansas State University, and can be found in the U.S. Capitol forming the base for the statue of Amelia Earhart. In 1917, the courthouse was entered in the National Registry of Historic Places and the Kansas Historical Site Register and serves as a tribute to the pioneers who made the Flint Hill their home and the builders who constructed the courthouse.

I have visited downtown Cottonwood Falls many times and have seen the community grow over the years. Rural county courthouses play an important role in preserving these communities. The courthouse is a place where justice is administered, wedding vows are made, election votes are tallied, wills are signed, and disputes are resolved.

On the 150th anniversary of the Chase County Courthouse, I am honored to recognize and commemorate this courthouse which is the pride of Cottonwood Falls and a monument on the plains.●

TRIBUTE TO ASTA SPURGIS

• Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, in Alaska, we have no shortage of scenic wilderness to explore. From the unrivaled beauty of a bluebird day in the Prince William Sound, to the peaks of the Denali National Park and Preserve, to the winding tributaries of the glacier-fed Tanana river, my bias may be showing, but Alaska is the Nation's undisputed leader in outdoor recreational opportunities, both in sum and splendor.

But one of Alaska's most treasured locales is not just an exemplary jewel case of our outdoors, but a labor of love from the outstanding volunteers and employees who have put their heart and soul into making it a world-class nature center. The Eagle River Nature Center is the crowning centerpiece of the Chugach State Park, located in Southcentral Alaska within the municipality of Anchorage. And the driving force behind the Eagle River Nature Center has been its cofounder and executive director, Asta Spurgis. Sadly, for the many Alaskans and out-of-state visitors who frequent the Eagle River Nature Center, Asta is leaving her post.

From 1993 through 1995, the park's budget was dropping off, and the center could no longer afford to operate year-round, forcing them to have limited hours only in the summer. In stepped the Friends of Eagle River Nature Center, Inc., a nonprofit formed in 1996 that revived the park by forging new trails, offering maintenance for public use facilities, and stepping up in the day-to-day operations of the park that helped it become a destination for guests across the world. At the head of that effort was Asta Spurgis, whose passion and dedication for ensuring