

United States of America to the Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Antigua and Barbuda, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Nyhus nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for 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.

TRIBUTE TO LAURA LYTLE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on another matter, today, with a heart full of gratitude, I join my colleagues in paying tribute to Laura Lytle, who is retiring today as the Daily Press Media Gallery Director.

Laura is precisely my kind of Senate staffer: It was through her good work that the press has been able for all these years to access the Senate and keep the American public informed about our work.

Laura joined the Sergeant at Arms in May of 1994 as an intern in the Press Gallery, taking on special projects to help the fine-tuned machinery of the Gallery to function properly. Over the years, she worked her way up the ladder and became the director of the Daily Press Media Gallery in June of 2013.

It was Laura who was responsible for credentialing reporters for daily newspapers, wire services, and online publications and has helped facilitate press interactions with Members.

Without Laura, that crucial bridge between this Chamber and the public that the press creates would not be possible. She has been the facilitator and gatekeeper, and we are all so thankful for her service.

Laura, we wish you the very best on the next step in our journey. We will miss you, and please know you always have a home here in the Senate.

TRIBUTE TO MATT MYERS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, serving as a U.S. Senator is a singular opportunity to improve the lives of the American people and make a difference. When you think about the areas where we have made real, tangible progress in preventing suffering, disease, and death, the area of tobacco prevention and control stands out for its dramatic success in saving lives.

This has required a comprehensive campaign to shift public thinking, promote public health practices, empower the medical and scientific communities, shed light on the despicable tactics of Big Tobacco, and change the laws at the Federal, State, and local levels. That is a daunting task.

But not for Matt Myers—it has been his life's calling, and for more than four decades, he has made it his mission to save lives and hold the tobacco industry accountable. Matt recently stepped down as the president of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, which he helped to found in 1996. He has had an outsized impact by playing an indispensable role in just about every tobacco-related policy debate, and he is leaving a lasting legacy of success measured in lives spared.

As a leader, advocate, and lawyer, Matt helped transform our country's perception of the tobacco industry: by placing children, one of the main targets of the tobacco industry's predatory tactics, front and center. And he has produced remarkable results. While Matt has worked on this issue, the percentage of high school students who smoke cigarettes has declined from 28 percent in 2000 to 2 percent today.

He began at the Federal Trade Commission in 1980, where he worked on regulatory and litigation efforts related to tobacco tax increases, warning labels on cigarette packs, banning advertisements on television and radio, and many other topics. He worked extensively on the historic master settlement agreement to hold the tobacco industry responsible for its lies, deceit, and marketing over the years, which took millions of lives far too soon, including my own father's.

Matt worked alongside me as we pushed to finally empower and authorize the Food and Drug Administration to regulate the manufacturing, marketing, and sale of tobacco products. Since then, we have collaborated to further raise the prices of tobacco products out of the reach of children, increase the age to purchase tobacco products, and close loopholes that e-cigarette manufacturers have exploited. Matt also has recognized that we can make a difference through other avenues as well. We worked together to kick chewing tobacco out of Major League Baseball and out of Hollywood movies.

On virtually any issue that Matt has engaged on, he has prevailed—no matter how long it took—and our children, our public spaces, and the Nation's health are better for it. But that is not to say it has been easy—far from it. One can characterize Matt's approach as a dogged, comprehensive pursuit of what is right, no matter the challenge or the strength of the adversary. And with the riches and shamelessness of Big Tobacco, Matt has taken on the giants, and more often than not, he has come out on top.

It has been an honor to work alongside Matt on so many of these efforts.

When a new problem arises, and I am considering what course of action to take, I often find myself asking, "What does Matt Myers think?" I know many others have counted on Matt's counsel and wisdom. He has been recognized for his leadership by the Harvard School of Public Health, the Surgeon General of the United States, Smokefree America, and the American Cancer Society. He has been selected to advise the United Nations and World Health Organization on global health conventions, spreading his lasting legacy overseas to address disparities worldwide.

While I will miss Matt's trusted advice, tenacity, and creativity, I know the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids and the broader public health community will carry on the effort to safeguard our successes, continue to protect children from the harms of vaping, clear the market of menthol and flavored cigars, and promote smoking cessation.

I thank Matt for his service to the country and wish him the best of luck in his new, well-deserved chapter in life. I know that will include more time with his wife Louise, sons Micah and Daniel, and grandchildren Elliot, Eva, David, and Sofia. Congratulations, again.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CARDIN. 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. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,
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. 23-76, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Republic of Korea for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$52.1 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. HURSCHE,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-76

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: Republic of Korea (ROK).

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment * \$40.1 million.

Other \$12.0 million.

Total \$52.1 million.

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

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Forty-two (42) AIM-9X Sidewinder Block II+ Tactical Missiles.

Ten (10) AIM-9X Sidewinder Captive Air Training Missiles (CATM).

Five (5) AIM-9X Block II+ Sidewinder Tactical Guidance Units (GU).

Three (3) AIM-9X Sidewinder CATM Guidance Units (GU).

Non-MDE: Also included are missile containers; spare and repair parts; support and test equipment; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor representatives' technical assistance, engineering, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (KS-P-ANP).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: KS-P-ALE.

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

(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: November 15, 2023.

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Republic of Korea (ROK)—AIM-9X Block II and Block II+ (Plus) Sidewinder Missiles

The Government of the Republic of Korea has requested to buy forty-two (42) AIM-9X Sidewinder Block II+ Tactical Missiles; ten (10) AIM-9X Sidewinder Captive Air Training Missiles (CATM); five (5) AIM-9X Block II+ Sidewinder Tactical Guidance Units (GU); and three (3) AIM-9X Sidewinder CATM Guidance Units (GU). Also included are missile containers; spare and repair parts; support and test equipment; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor representatives' technical assistance and engineering and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total program cost is \$52.1 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a major ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in the Indo-Pacific region.

The proposed sale will improve the Republic of Korea's capability to meet current and future threats while further enhancing interoperability with the United States and other allies. Korea will have no difficulty absorbing these articles 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 Raytheon Missiles and Defense (RMD), Tucson, AZ. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of the proposed sale will require U.S. Government and contractor personnel to visit the ROK on a temporary basis

in conjunction with program technical oversight and support requirements, including program and technical reviews, as well as to provide training and maintenance support in country.

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

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-76

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 AIM-9X Block II and Block II+ (Plus) SIDEWINDER Missile represents a substantial increase in missile acquisition and kinematics performance over the AIM-9M and replaces the AIM-9X Block I Missile configuration. The missile includes a high off-boresight seeker, enhanced countermeasure rejection capability, low drag/high angle of attack airframe and the ability to integrate the Helmet Mounted Cueing System. The most current AIM-9X Block II/II+ Operational Flight Software developed for all international partner countries, which is authorized for export by USG export policy, provides fifth-generation Infra-Red Missile capabilities such as Lock-On-After-Launch, Weapons Data Link, Surface Attack, and Surface Launch. No software source code or algorithms will be released.

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 Republic of Korea (ROK) 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 ROK.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CARDIN. 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. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,
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. 23-78, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Republic of Korea for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$650 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. 23-78

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: Republic of Korea (ROK).

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment * \$385 million.

Other \$265 million.

Total \$650 million.

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

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Up to thirty-eight (38) Standard Missile 6 (SM-6) Block I Missiles

Non-MDE: Also included are MK 21 Vertical Launch System (VLS) canisters; obsolescence Engineering, Integration, and Test (EI&T) materiel and support; handling equipment; spares; training and training equipment and aids; technical publications and data; U.S. Government and contractor engineering and technical assistance, including related studies and analysis support; product support; materiel and support for demonstration and interoperability live fire events; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (KS-P-ANP).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: KS-P-AMO; KS-P-AMR; KS-P-ALM.

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

(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: November 14, 2023.

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Republic of Korea (ROK)—Standard Missile 6 Block I (SM-6 Blk I)

The Government of the Republic of Korea has requested to buy up to thirty-eight (38) Standard Missile 6 (SM-6) Block I missiles. Also included are MK 21 Vertical Launch System (VLS) canisters; obsolescence Engineering, Integration, and Test (EI&T) materiel and support; handling equipment; spares; training and training equipment and aids; technical publications and data; U.S. Government and contractor engineering and technical assistance, including related studies and analysis support; product support; materiel and support for demonstration and interoperability live fire events; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total program cost is \$650 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a major ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in the Indo-Pacific region.