

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

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: December 5, 2023.

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,
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. 23-52, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of the United Arab Emirates for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$85 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. 23-52

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 the United Arab Emirates.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* \$45 million.

Other \$40 million.

Total \$85 million.

Funding Source: National Funds.

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

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Eighteen (18) AN/TPQ-50 Radar Systems—Man Portable Version

Non-MDE: Also included are 107mm High Explosive (HE) rockets (for CONUS testing only); Computer Digital Military Laptop Radar Control Display units; 5kW Advanced Medium Mobile Power Source (AMMPS) Trailer-Mounted, Diesel Engine Driven Power Unit PU-2001; spares; mission equipment; communication and navigation equipment; support equipment; repair parts; special tools and test equipment; technical data and publications; site survey; U.S. Government and contractor technical and logistics

personnel services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (AE-B-ZVL).

(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 4, 2023.

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

United Arab Emirates—AN/TPQ-50 Radar

The Government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has requested to buy eighteen (18) AN/TPQ-50 Radar Systems—man portable version. Also included are 107mm High Explosive (HE) rockets (for CONUS testing only); Computer Digital Military Laptop Radar Control Display units; 5kW Advanced Medium Mobile Power Source (AMMPS) Trailer-Mounted, Diesel Engine Driven Power Unit PU-2001; spares; mission equipment; communication and navigation equipment; support equipment; repair parts; special tools and test equipment; technical data and publications; site survey; U.S. Government and contractor technical and logistics personnel services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$85 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of an important regional partner. The UAE is a vital U.S. partner for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East.

The proposed sale will support efforts to protect critical infrastructure and high value civilian assets, as well as military installations and forces from rocket, artillery, and mortar (RAM) and unmanned aerial system threats. It will also further enhance the United States—UAE relationship, both politically and militarily, while also increasing the UAE's effectiveness in executing military and civil defense operations that promote U.S. national interests. The UAE will use the TPQ-50 radars to recognize incoming threats from hostile nations or agents of adversary nations. The United Arab Emirates will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment 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 SRC Inc, Syracuse, NY. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the permanent assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to the UAE. Temporary periods of travel for two-week durations for both U.S. Government and contractor personnel will be necessary to conduct Operator/Main-tainer training, as well as System Integration & Check Out (SICO)/Quality Assurance and Testing (QUAT) activities.

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

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-52

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 AN/TPQ-50 Radar System—man portable version—provides continuous 360-degree surveillance and 3-9D rocket, artillery, and mortar (RAM) locations using a L band non-rotating antenna with fixed elevation

beams and which is electronically steered in azimuth only. Its full azimuth coverage allows it to simultaneously detect and track multiple rounds fired from separate locations within a 700 square kilometer surveillance area. The AN/TPQ 50 radar provides Point of Origin (POO) and Point of Impact (POI) locations for hostile RAM fire and tracking of air breathing targets (ABTs) in air surveillance (AS) and multi-mission radar (MMR) modes.

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 United Arab Emirates 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 United Arab Emirates.

WORLD AIDS DAY 2023

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, this past Friday, December 1, we marked the 35th anniversary of World AIDS Day. World AIDS Day serves as a reminder of the global struggle to end AIDS, an opportunity to honor those we have lost while supporting those who are living with or at risk of the HIV virus, and as a unifying call to continue working toward a day when HIV is no longer stigmatized or a public health threat.

Thirty-five years ago this year, World AIDS Day was established, marking the first international day for global health. Since then, World AIDS Day has adopted targeted themes to raise awareness and encourage international cooperation. This year's theme in the United States, "Remember and Commit," focuses on paying tribute to those we have lost to HIV/AIDS, emphasizing our collective responsibility to act. Through remembrance, we draw strength and determination to redouble our efforts in fighting this global crisis and support those living with HIV both here and abroad. The 2023 campaign reminds us that each one of us can make a difference while promoting the importance of compassion, empathy, and solidarity in the face of adversity. And it reminds us that as citizens of the world, the United States must continue to provide a helping hand to countries less fortunate than ours in bringing an end to the AIDS pandemic.

Since the first cases of AIDS were reported in the U.S. in June 1981, more than 700,000 people in the U.S. have died from HIV-related illnesses. In 2021, over 36,000 people were diagnosed with HIV in the U.S., and more than 1.1 million people in our country are currently living with this virus, with

many more at risk of HIV infection. In 2021, there were 32,100 estimated new HIV infections in the U.S. My home State of Maryland is not immune; during 2022, 751 Marylanders over 13 years old were newly diagnosed with HIV, and over 31,000 Marylanders were living with the disease.

Recent data show that minority populations continue to remain disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS. In 2021, Black Americans accounted for 40 percent of HIV diagnoses, while Hispanic/Latino Americans accounted for 29 percent of HIV diagnoses. We must work harder to address persistent health inequities and end the disparities in access to prevention, care, and treatment.

World AIDS Day reminds us that HIV is not just a medical issue. It is a human rights issue. Criminalization, discrimination, and social stigmas continue to impact the most vulnerable populations across the globe. In sub-Saharan Africa, where the United States proudly invests the majority of our global HIV spending, violence and discrimination against women and girls continues to fuel the epidemic. Children who are orphaned or otherwise affected by HIV face a range of challenges from child labor, to the worst forms of exploitation.

Fortunately, thanks to scientific advances, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration—FDA—has now approved more than 30 medicines to treat HIV infection, including the new class of antiretroviral drugs, which have transformed HIV from a death sentence to a chronic but manageable disease. They help extend and stabilize the lives of those living with HIV while also dramatically reducing the risk of HIV transmission. This makes it all the more imperative that all people who need HIV treatment have access to it.

We are fortunate to have premier scientific research institutes within my home State of Maryland working together to combat this deadly virus, including the National Institutes of Health—NIH—the Walter Reed Army Institute of Infectious Disease Research, the Institute of Human Virology at the University of Maryland, and Johns Hopkins University. Not only have these organizations substantially led scientific advancements with respect to HIV/AIDS, they have also played an important role in reducing the number of new cases among Marylanders and affording those living with HIV the opportunity to continue living full lives.

As a result, Maryland has reached significant milestones in reducing HIV case numbers; my State went from ranking seventh among all the U.S. States and territories to 12th in 2 years. Baltimore City, Montgomery County, and Prince George's County have been participants in the Department of Health and Human Services—HHS—Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S. Program, which is working to reduce new HIV transmissions by 75 per-

cent by 2025 and by 90 percent by 2030. This multi-year program will infuse 48 counties; Washington, DC; San Juan, PR; and seven States that have a substantial rural HIV burden with the additional expertise, technology, and resources they need to reduce transmission. Public health initiatives the Maryland Department of Health has implemented—including safer-sex education programs, free HIV self-tests, condom distribution, and access to prophylactic medication—have been instrumental in reducing new infections. Additionally, city and county needle exchange programs have broadened efforts to reduce the circulation of used syringes, provide testing for infectious diseases such as HIV, and extend resources for the treatment of substance use disorders.

Thanks to the Affordable Care Act—ACA—Americans diagnosed with HIV or at risk of transmission have more meaningful access to healthcare coverage and health insurance. Today, Americans cannot be dropped or denied coverage because of preexisting health conditions such as asthma, cancer, HIV, or COVID-19. The ACA also gives States the option to expand Medicaid, the largest payer for those who need HIV treatment in the country, and so far, 41 States have expanded Medicaid coverage. I look forward to seeing the remaining States join this list.

The ACA has also established new standards and essential benefits that certain health plans must cover. Benefits such as prescription drug services, hospital inpatient care, lab tests, HIV screening, preexposure prophylaxis or PrEP, and other preventive services aim to preserve the health of those with HIV while mitigating further transmission. Under the ACA, most health insurance plans must provide preventive services, including HIV testing for those aged 15 to 65, as well as PrEP for HIV-negative adults at high risk of HIV infection. I am proud to have served as a cosponsor of the PrEP Access and Coverage Act, which would expand access to PrEP and work to reduce the existing disparities in access. Legislation like this is especially important in light of recent threats to PrEP access, such as a Texas judge's ruling in *Braidwood Management v. Becerra*, a decision which has the potential to result in thousands of unnecessary HIV infections.

I commend the Biden-Harris administration for publishing the National HIV/AIDS Strategy for the United States (2022–2025) to provide a roadmap to accelerate efforts to end the HIV epidemic in our country by 2030. These are bold targets facilitated by the White House's Office of National AIDS Policy, ONAP. The Strategy builds on our country's progress and lessons learned from the prior national strategies and seeks to leverage new tools and opportunities to address the challenges that remain. I share President Biden's determination to address the disproportionate impact of the epi-

demic on marginalized populations like the LGBTQI+ community and racial and ethnic minorities.

We must remember, however, that HIV remains a grave public health challenge around the world. In 2022, 39 million people lived with HIV globally. Last year, roughly 630,000 people died from AIDS-related illnesses. Only 57 percent of children aged 14 and younger had access to treatment in 2022, compared to 77 percent of those aged 15 and over. We must redouble our efforts to close this gap and guarantee lifesaving HIV treatment to all who need it and to prevent more HIV infections. And it can be done.

This year, President Biden commemorated the 20th anniversary of the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief—PEPFAR—honoring the 25 million lives that have been saved worldwide in the fight to end HIV/AIDS as a public health crisis. Since its inception in 2003, the PEPFAR program has changed the trajectory of the HIV epidemic around the globe, representing an extraordinary commitment to global health, aiming to prevent, diagnose, and treat HIV infections. Over nearly 20 years, five million babies have been born AIDS free, 7 million orphans have been supported, and 20 million people are on lifesaving treatment medications. PEPFAR has also demonstrated the value of strong health systems in managing and anticipating other pandemics. Much of the staff, infrastructure, and technology that was developed through PEPFAR proved instrumental in the COVID-19 response in countries that would otherwise not have the capacity to deliver treatment and vaccines. But we have not crossed the finish line yet. The next 5 years are critical to meet the goal of ending the global HIV/AIDS epidemic by 2030. The U.S. must continue to show global health leadership and facilitate cooperation with our foreign partners and allies.

We must continue to invest in the communities and local leaders that know their own health needs best. All people, regardless of age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, geographic location, or socioeconomic circumstance, should have access to prevention, treatment, and care. International partners, academic partners, faith-based organizations, and civil society are counting on us to continue our support for their long-held efforts to ending AIDS. This is why I call on my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to once again step forward in faith and courage and join together to secure PEPFAR's reauthorization.

Most importantly, I want to recognize those living with HIV/AIDS across the globe. Your demand for dignity and access to healthcare has shown us what is possible when the world works together to fight a public health scourge, and in accordance with that spirit, we will prevail in doing so. We must recommit ourselves to continuing this

fight because success is within our reach.

TRIBUTE TO SUE ELLEN BALL

Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Mrs. Sue Ellen Ball of Houston, MO, for her retirement from the Senate after 20 years of dedicated service.

Sue Ellen is best known for her tireless advocacy for the veterans in Missouri needing assistance to access their hard-earned benefits. She championed their needs and put in the extra effort to offer any assistance, dedicating her own time on evenings and weekends to the brave soldiers who served our country, tracking down the correct Embassy or Agency staff to fix passport or visa issues.

Sue Ellen has been dedicated to the constituents of Missouri. She served in former Senator Roy Blunt's office from 2003 to 2015 in a variety of roles, including constituent services representative, constituent advocate, and as the southwest Missouri district director from 2011 to 2015. Since then, she has specialized as a veterans constituent advocate with my office since January. Throughout her time in the Senate, Sue Ellen has ensured that the citizens of Missouri have an advocate in Congress.

She is married to Ed Ball, has one son Charlie, and enjoys her two grandchildren Logan and Eleanor. I wish Sue Ellen the best in her well-earned retirement, during which she plans on spending as much time with her family and grandchildren as possible. She truly is an example of a public servant, and our Nation and our government is better off because of her tireless efforts.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO GARY E. HICKS

• Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I rise today to salute Justice Gary E. Hicks for his many years of dedicated service in the New Hampshire judicial branch. Justice Hicks recently retired from his role as senior associate justice of the New Hampshire Supreme Court, a culmination of a long legal career that also included 23 years as a commercial litigator and 5 years as a Superior Court judge. He leaves a legacy worthy of our praise and our gratitude.

Justice Hicks has firm roots in New Hampshire. He was born in West Stewartstown and raised in nearby Colebrook, two close-knit communities in northern New Hampshire near the U.S.-Canada border. His father ran the local hardware store on Main Street in Colebrook, Hicks Hardware. Justice Hicks started working in the store at age 12, and he often observes that the service-oriented and problem-solving aspects of that job proved useful in his later career as a judge. Even when his duties as a justice of the New Hampshire Supreme Court kept him close to

the State capital, Justice Hicks still found time to visit family and friends in his hometown and mentor students at his alma mater, Colebrook Academy.

He left Colebrook after high school to attend Bucknell University. At the encouragement of his wife Patricia, Justice Hicks then enrolled in law school and received his J.D. from Boston University School of Law in 1978. He worked as a commercial litigator for 23 years at a prestigious New Hampshire law firm. In a short time, Justice Hicks developed a reputation for his compassion, his kindness, his intellect, and his thorough understanding of the law.

As Governor of New Hampshire, I had the honor of nominating Gary Hicks to fill a vacancy on the New Hampshire Superior Court in 2001. He brought the same integrity and work ethic to the bench, and he later wrote that his experience as a Superior Court judge was both fascinating because of the breadth of issues he encountered and rewarding because of the many people who obtained justice through the legal system. When there was a vacancy on the New Hampshire Supreme Court in 2006, Governor John Lynch nominated Gary Hicks for a position on New Hampshire's highest court. An elated Justice Hicks referred to the appointment as his "life's ambition."

Friends, colleagues and fellow jurists are quick to point to one character trait in particular when describing Justice Hicks. He is an incredibly thoughtful person who is generous with his time and takes great care to use his legal talents to get it right. His thoughtfulness emerges not only in the many cases to which he applied an even temperament and careful deliberation, but also in his treatment and mentorship of law clerks and new attorneys. Many of his former law clerks, including my daughter Stacey, remember his patience and guidance as they navigated complicated legal questions, and they continue to draw on their formative experience with Justice Hicks when resolving difficult issues later in their careers. They benefited tremendously from his goodwill. In many respects, Justice Hicks is a living testament to one of his literary heroes, the dignified, reasoned, genuine, and inspiring character of Atticus Finch from "To Kill A Mockingbird."

On behalf of the people of New Hampshire, I ask my colleagues and all Americans to join me in thanking Justice Gary Hicks for his many years of service to New Hampshire and his fellow Granite Staters. In retirement, he plans to spend more time with his grandchildren and expand his involvement with the advanced studies program at St. Paul's School in Concord, NH. We wish him all the best in this new chapter of his life.●

TRIBUTE TO SPECIALIST MATT BRANNON

• Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, many of our veterans carry both visible

and invisible scars from their time in the military. This is true for U.S. Army SPC Matt Brannon of Boaz. Matt vividly remembers, as a young man, watching the events of 9/11 unfold. This inspired him to join the military in 2007 after graduating from Boaz High School. Matt was wounded in action by an RPG explosion, receiving wounds to his face, arms, and hands. He continued to fight even after sustaining injuries, saving the lives of many of his fellow soldiers. Matt was awarded a Purple Heart for his heroic actions.

In 2012, he returned home to Boaz, where he began working with the local police department. As Matt adjusted to living with his battle scars, he found healing through the outdoors. He decided to use his experience to help veterans like him who were struggling with the after-effects of war. This led him to bring Wounded Warriors in Action to the region. Each year, he helps veterans from Alabama—and across the Nation—who served in combat, find healing through hunting and fishing.

Matt also serves as a narcotics agent with the Bureau of Special Investigations arm of the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency. He is on the frontlines keeping our communities safe from deadly drugs like fentanyl.

Alabama is grateful for Matt's service. It is my honor to recognize Matt Brannon as the December Veteran of the Month.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

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 Committee on Armed Services.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:21 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4468. An act to prohibit the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from finalizing, implementing, or enforcing a proposed rule with respect to emissions from vehicles, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5933. An act to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require additional information in disclosures of foreign gifts and contracts from foreign sources, restrict contracts with certain foreign entities and foreign countries of concern, require certain staff and faculty to report foreign gifts and contracts, and require disclosure of certain foreign investments within endowments.