

their brothers, their sisters—were going to be able to assume the promotions that they have earned for their years of service in protecting our country and in helping to defend our Constitution that this sad chapter has come to an end.

I want to apologize to those families. I spoke last week and urged that we turn this page and move on, and I am grateful that that has happened.

I want to especially commend the work behind the scenes of our chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, JACK REED, an Army veteran, for the work that he has done in enabling us to end this sad chapter.

I remember serving in a number of tours in Southeast Asia in the Vietnam war. In some of those years, we were not home for Christmas, for the holidays. We were on the other side of the world, and our families were back here in the States. Those were not happy days for us, and I know the last months have not been happy days for a lot of people in the armed services who deserve better.

My hope is and my prayer is that at this Christmas season—at this holiday season, as we move toward Christmas—and as we move toward the end of the year and into a new year that the memories of what they have had to endure will fade and that what they will remember is that there are a number of our colleagues who stood up and said that this has got to end, and let's treat our military folks—all of them—with the respect that they deserve.

We have a big Air Force base in Delaware, Dover Air Force Base. We have C-5s and C-17s. Through their large cargo aircraft, they provide an air bridge to Ukraine by literally carrying in those large aircraft the munitions, the supplies, and the materials that are needed to help Ukraine fight back against the Russian invasion.

I have kept very close tabs with the Air Force base, gosh, for 30-some years. One of the challenges we have at the Dover Air Force Base, with the Delaware National Guard, and at military installations across the country is the workforce. We find, for civilians, there are all kinds of businesses and all kinds of employers. When I go visit them in Delaware and across the country and I ask them how are they doing, how are we doing, what can we do to help—we in the Federal Government and the State government—they say: We just need people to come to work, people who are employable and trainable who will come to work.

We have similar challenges in our armed services these days. We need people who are willing to step up, be trained, and serve in the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the Marine Corps, and the Coast Guard. We want to make sure, when they do that, that we will respect them and their families as we traditionally have done since the beginning of this country.

So, as we wrap this up and prepare to go home for the day—at least in Dela-

ware—I will be back tomorrow to, hopefully, do more of our Nation's business. I am hopeful we will, and I am encouraged by what has happened today.

Again, to those who serve us throughout the world in the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines, the Navy salutes you, and God bless. To each and every one of you out there who is serving us, whether you happen to be in the States or someplace around the world, God bless you. Be safe, and thank you so much.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in 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.

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

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. BRAUN. Mr. President, on December 19, 2023, the Senate voted on the confirmation of Ms. Elizabeth H. Richard, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Coordinator for Counterterrorism, with the rank and status of Ambassador at Large, Executive Calendar No. 144. Had I been present for this, I would have voted in favor of Ms. Richard's nomination.●

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)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 23-0W. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 17-57 of October 30, 2017.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-0W

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(C), AECA)

(i) Purchaser: Government of Canada.
(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 17-57; Date: October 30, 2017; Implementing Agency: Air Force.

(iii) Description: On October 30, 2017, Congress was notified by Congressional certification transmittal number 17-57 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of up to thirty-two (32) AIM-120D Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAMs), up to eighteen (18) AMRAAM Captive Air Training Missiles (CATMs); up to four (4) AMRAAM Non-Development Item—Airborne Instrumentation Unit (NDI-AIU); up to two (2) AMRAAM Instrumented Test Vehicles (ITV); up to seven (7) spare AMRAAM guidance units; up to four (4) spare AMRAAM control sections for use on their F/A-18 aircraft. Included in the sale were containers; storage and preservation; transportation; aircrew and maintenance training; training aids and equipment, spares and repair parts; warranties; weapon system support and test equipment; publications and technical documentation; software development, integration, and support; system integration and testing; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The total estimated program cost was \$140 million. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$130 million of this total.

On February 21, 2019, Congress was notified by Congressional certification transmittal number 19-0E of the inclusion of up to eighty-eight (88) AIM-120D AMRAAMs beyond the number enumerated in the original notification (for a total of one hundred twenty (120) AIM-120D AMRAAMs),—as well as the increase of up to sixteen (16) spare AMRAAM guidance units (for a total of twenty-three (23) spare AMRAAM guidance units), and eight (8) spare AMRAAM control sections (for a total of twelve (12) spare AMRAAM control sections). The MDE value increased by \$150 million to \$280 million. The total case value increased to \$308 million.

This transmittal notifies the inclusion of the following additional MDE items: up to four hundred twelve (412) AIM-120D AMRAAMs; up to forty-eight (48) AMRAAM Air-to-Air Vehicles Instrumented (AAVI); and up to ten (10) spare AMRAAM guidance units for use on F/A-18 and F-35 aircraft. Also included are KGV-135A embedded COMSEC devices; classified software and

technical publications; AMRAAM control and telemetry sections; containers; field spares; support equipment; spare parts; technical publications; country-specific technical orders; repair and return services; site surveys; weapons system support; and training. The estimated total value of the new items and services is \$1.902 billion. The estimated MDE value will increase by \$1.66 billion to a revised \$1.94 billion. The estimated non-MDE value will increase by \$0.242 billion to a revised \$0.270 billion. The estimated total case value will increase to \$2.21 billion.

(iv) Significance: The inclusion of this MDE represents an increase in capability and capacity over what was previously notified. The proposed sale will increase Canada's stock of AIM-120D AMRAAM for use with its F/A-18 and F-35 fleets.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve the military capability of Canada, a North Atlantic Treaty Organization Ally that is an important force for ensuring political stability and economic progress, and is a contributor to military, peacekeeping and humanitarian operations around the world.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology:

The AIM-120D AAVI is a live launch test vehicle used primarily for flight test integration with a rocket motor and instrumentation unit in place of a warhead. The AAVI verifies and assesses the ability to safely launch an AMRAAM and validate the missile's performance.

The Sensitivity of Technology Statement contained in the original notification applies to additional items reported here.

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 14, 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)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 23-0Y. This notification relates to enhance-

ments or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 23-53 of August 1, 2023.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-0Y

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(C), AECA)

(i) Purchaser: Government of Finland.
(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 23-53; Date: August 1, 2023; Implementing Agency: Army.

(iii) Description: On August 1, 2023, Congress was notified by Congressional certification transmittal number 23-53, of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of the M270A2 upgrade of M270A1 Multiple Launch Rocket Systems (MLRS). The upgrade includes intercom systems; radio communication mounts; machine gun mounts; battle management system vehicle integration kit; publications for MLRS; spares; services; support equipment; and other related elements of program and logistics support. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$0 of this total.

This transmittal notifies an increase in non-MDE value by \$180 million, resulting in a new estimated non-MDE and overall total case value of \$575 million. There is no MDE included in this potential sale.

(iv) Significance: Recent cost increases have brought about the need to add value to the original notification. The upgraded M270A2 MLRS will give Finland additional advanced capability to address current and future regional threats; reinforcing its ability to maintain regional stability, increasing Finland's security. The sale supports U.S. national security interests by bolstering the land defense in Europe's northern flank.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by improving the security of a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Ally that is an important force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology: The Sensitivity of Technology statement contained in the original notification applies to items reported here.

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: December 18, 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. 23-85, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Greece for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$1.95 billion. 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. 23-85

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 Greece.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment * \$.85 billion.
Other \$1.10 billion.
Total \$1.95 billion.

Funding Source: National Funds.

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

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Thirty-five (35) UH-60M Black Hawk helicopters.

Eighty (80) T700-GE 701D Engines (70 installed, 10 spares).

Forty-four (44) AN/AAR-57 Common Missile Warning Systems (CMWS) (35 installed, 9 spares).

Eighty-five (85) H-764U Embedded Global Position Systems with Inertial Navigation (EGI) and country unique selective availability anti-spoofing module (SAASM) (or future replacement) (70 installed, 15 spares).

Eighty-five (85) AN/ARC-231A VHF/UHF/LOS SATCOM Radio Systems.

Non-MDE: Also included are AN/ARC-231 Receivers/Transmitters RT-1808A (or future replacement); VHF/UHF/LOS SATCOM radios; APR-39C(V)1/4 Radar Warning Receivers; AVR-2B Laser Detecting Sets; APX-123A Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) Transponders; ARC-220 High Frequency (HF) radios with KY-100M; VRC-100 Ground Stations; AN/PYQ-10 Simple Key Loaders (SKLs); KIV-77 Common IFF Applique Crypto Computers; COMSEC Encryption devices; AN/ARN-147(V) Very High Frequency Omni-Directional Range (VOR)/Instrument Landing System (ILS) Receiver Radios; AN/ARN-149(V) Low Frequency (LF)/Automatic Direction Finder (ADF) Radio Receivers; AN/ARN-153 Tactical Air Navigation System (TACAN) Receiver Transmitters; AN/APN-209 Radar Altimeters; AN/ARC-210 radios; EBC-406HM Emergency Locator Transmitters (ELTs); Encrypted Aircraft Wireless Intercommunications Systems (EAWIS); Improved Heads Up Displays (IHUD); Signal Data Converters for IHUD; Color Weather Radars; MX-10D EO/IR with Laser Designators; EO/IR Cabin Monitoring Systems; EO/IR Digital Video Recorders; AN/ARC-201D RT-1478D radios; Engine Inlet Barrier Filters (EIBF); Ballistic Armor Protection Systems (BAPS); Internal Auxiliary Fuel Tank Systems (IAFTS); Fast Rope Insertion Extraction Systems (FRIES); External Rescue Hoists (ERH); Rescue Hoist Equipment Sets; Dual Patient Litter System (DPLS) Sets; Martin Baker Palletized Crew Chief/Gunner Seats with crashworthy floor structural modifications; External Stores Support System (ESSS); Integrated Tow Plates Production Assets; Universal Software Loading