

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, with the exception of Col. Ralph J. Rizzo, Jr., and all nominations on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Calendar Nos. 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, with the exception of Col. Ralph J. Rizzo, Jr., and all nominations on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy, en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc, as follows:

NOMINATIONS [NEW REPORTS] IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be admiral

Adm. Samuel J. Paparo, Jr.

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Frank L. Bradfield, III
Brig. Gen. Howard T. Clark, III
Brig. Gen. Robert W. Claude
Brig. Gen. Melissa A. Coburn
Brig. Gen. William D. Murphy
Brig. Gen. Dana N. Nelson
Brig. Gen. David A. Piffarerio
Brig. Gen. Regina A. Sabric
Brig. Gen. Mark V. Slominski

IN THE ARMY

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. James D. Burk
Col. Andrew L. Landers
Col. Bill A. Soliz
Col. Yolonda R. Summons

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be brigadier general

Col. Craig M. Hunter

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be brigadier general

Col. Michael K. Moreni

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. Vivek Kshetrapal

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. Carlos E. Gorbea

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officers for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Marine Corps under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. Nick I. Brown
Col. Shannon M. Brown
Col. Tamara L. Campbell
Col. James W. Lively
Col. Samuel L. Meyer
Col. Michael R. Nakonieczny
Col. Douglas C. Sanders
Col. Matthew W. Tracy

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN1077 AIR FORCE nominations (56) beginning SHELLEY L. ALDRICH, and ending HEATH D. WRIGHT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 19, 2023.

PN1079 AIR FORCE nominations (15) beginning CARL P. BHEND, and ending CHRISTOPHER M. WOLBERT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 19, 2023.

PN1139 AIR FORCE nomination of Mauricio De Castro Pretelt, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 6, 2023.

PN1271 AIR FORCE nominations (43) beginning JULIA M. BELL, and ending RYAN K. ZARNOWSKI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 8, 2024.

PN1273 AIR FORCE nominations (303) beginning CHERYLENE S. ABALOS, and ending CHENG ZENG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 8, 2024.

PN1276 AIR FORCE nominations (30) beginning DAVID Y. AHN, and ending JOHN M. VANN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 8, 2024.

PN1277 AIR FORCE nominations (143) beginning ADAM H. ALTMAN, and ending JASON M. ZHAO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 8, 2024.

PN1385 AIR FORCE nomination of Heidi L. Clark, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 25, 2024.

PN1386 AIR FORCE nomination of Christopher C. Lazidis, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 25, 2024.

PN1418 AIR FORCE nomination of Agatha C. Graves, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 6, 2024.

PN1419 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning MARK D. JOHNSON, and ending JOHN PAUL F. MINTZ, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 6, 2024.

IN THE ARMY

PN1387 ARMY nomination of Sara V. Turinsky, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 25, 2024.

PN1390 ARMY nominations (106) beginning ALAN L. ADKISSON, and ending 002668953, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 25, 2024.

PN1420 ARMY nomination Brandon D. Howard, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 6, 2024.

PN1421 ARMY nomination of Thomas P. Gallagher, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 6, 2024.

PN1422 ARMY nomination of Jeffrey A. Banks, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 6, 2024.

PN1423 ARMY nomination of Jonathan C. Young, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 6, 2024.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN1280 MARINE CORPS nominations (7) beginning SEAN P. DILLON, and ending JOSHUA B. SIMPSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 8, 2024.

IN THE NAVY

PN1303 MARINE CORPS nomination of Kenneth J. Schneider, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 10, 2024.

IN THE NAVY

PN1393 NAVY nomination of Rockford D. Burton, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 25, 2024.

PN1424 NAVY nomination of Donny L. James, II, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 6, 2024.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam 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.

TRIBUTE TO TOM SKILLING

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, there are many things that Chicagoans disagree on: deep-dish or tavern style, Cubs or Sox, gardeniera or sweet peppers. But one thing that Chicagoans have in common? They get their weather from Tom Skilling. For 45 years, Tom has been the authoritative source on all things weather in Chicago. And after nearly five decades of forecasting snow, sleet, sun, and storms, today was his last day on air.

A native of Aurora, Tom began his career at the almost unbelievable age of 14. He held a series of radio and television jobs throughout Illinois and then studied meteorology and journalism at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. In August 1978, Tom joined WGN, and it is not hyperbole to say Chicago's weather forecasts have never been the same since.

As a meteorologist, Tom gave weather forecasts to his viewers. But he was

so much more than just a “weather-man.” Tom was a storm chaser—having famously chased and been chased by a tornado. He was an awestruck weather observer—being overcome by emotion while watching a total solar eclipse in Carbondale in August 2017. He was a comedian—bringing viewers belly laughs with his viral “Tom Freakin’ Skilling” skit. And perhaps most importantly, he was an educator—explaining to viewers the “why” behind the weather.

In fact, Tom’s focus on the science of climate change and weather patterns only grew as his career did. In addition to broadcasting his weather forecasts on WGN News, Tom also hosted nearly 40 years of severe weather seminars at Fermilab and penned a Chicago Tribune column answering weather-related questions. In both, Tom used his platform to educate his audience in a down to earth and understandable manner.

Tom’s legendary career has earned him a reputation for setting the gold standard in television weather, garnered him a cult-like following, and afforded him a permanent place in Chicagoans’ living rooms. Unsurprisingly, he has been showered with countless accolades for his work, winning multiple Emmy Awards from the Chicago/Midwest chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences and receiving several honorary degrees. He deserves each and every one.

I had the privilege of sharing the stage with Tom in the summer of 2019 at a forum to discuss climate change with U.S. Representatives BILL FOSTER and SEAN CASTEN. I can tell you, not a single Member of Congress on that stage was under the illusion that they were the main attraction. People were there for Tom.

Tom, congratulations on a truly remarkable career. From choosing how many layers to wear in the morning to knowing when the break in the snow is coming so we can shovel our parking spots, I don’t quite know how we will weather the storm of life without your valuable insights. You are nothing short of a Chicago institution. And it is only fitting that you will live on in the weather world, in the form of a Chicago snowplow named “Skilling It” in your honor. Short of having you on air to warn us of snow, having a Tom Skilling snowplow keeping the streets safe is a close second.

But, luckily, even in your absence, we will not have to predict the weather for ourselves. Congratulations to your successor, Demetrius Ivory, on being named as WGN’s new chief meteorologist. Though Demetrius certainly has large shoes to fill, there are no better footsteps to follow in than yours. I wish him luck in his new role.

Tom, thank you for all the warmth you brought into our homes during even the coldest of Chicago winters. Wishing you sunny days during this next, well-deserved chapter of your life.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CARDIN. Madam 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. 24-22, concerning the Army’s proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Germany for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$281 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. 24-22

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 Germany.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$0.
Other \$281 million.
Total \$281 million.

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

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):
None.

Non-MDE: Included are AN/PRC-117 radios; AN/PRC-160 radios; spare and repair parts; support equipment; tools and test equipment; diagnostic equipment; technical data and publications; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor technical assistance; technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (GY-B-XBU, GY-B-XBV, GY-B-XBW, GY-B-XBX).

(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: February 27, 2024.

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Germany—High-Frequency, Very-High Frequency, and Ultra-High Frequency Radios

The Government of Germany has requested to buy AN/PRC-117 radios; AN/PRC-160 radios; spare and repair parts; support equipment; tools and test equipment; diagnostic equipment; technical data and publications; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor technical assistance; technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$281 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by improving the security of a NATO Ally that is an important force for political and economic stability in Europe.

The proposed sale will improve interoperability between Germany and other NATO military forces and will increase secure communications effectiveness to help combat current and future threats. Germany 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 will be L3Harris Global Communications, Inc., Rochester, NY. There are no known offset agreements in connection with this potential sale.

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

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

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-22

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/PRC-117 and AN/PRC-160 radios and their accessories are used to transmit and receive voice and data information using Type-1 encryption.

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 hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures or equivalent systems which might reduce system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that Germany 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 Germany.

SFRC MEETING MEMORANDUM

To: Chairman Cardin.

From: Charlotte Oldham-Moore, Molly Barlow, Stephanie Oviedo.

Date: Tuesday, February 27, 2024.

Re: Meeting with ICRC President Mirjana Spoljaric Egger.

Meeting Purpose: On Thursday, February 29 at 11:30AM in SH-509, YOU will have a meeting with Mirjana Spoljaric Egger, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Charlotte will staff. Ms. Spoljaric would like to discuss the ICRC’s operations in Israel/Gaza, Ukraine, and