

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 that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an 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. 24-0B. 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 18-40 of October 19, 2018.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCHE,
Director.

Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-0B

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

(i) Purchaser: Government of the United Kingdom

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 18-40

Date: October 19, 2018

Implementing Agency: Army

(iii) Description: On October 19, 2018, Congress was notified by Congressional certification transmittal number 18-40 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of sixteen (16) H-47 Chinook (Extended Range) helicopters; thirty-six (36) T-55-GA-714A engines (32 installed, 4 spares); forty-eight (48) embedded GPS inertial navigation units (32 installed, 16 spares); twenty (20) common missile warning systems (16 installed, 4 spares); twenty-two (22) radio-frequency countermeasures (16 installed, 6 spares); nineteen (19) multi-mode radars (16 installed, 3 spares); nineteen (19) electrooptical sensor systems (16 installed, 3 spares); forty (40) M-134D-T miniguns, plus mounts and tools (32 installed, 8 spares); and forty (40) M240H machine guns, plus mounts and tools (32 installed, 8 spares). Also included was communications equipment; navigation equipment; aircraft survivability equipment; initial training equipment and services; synthetic training equipment; support package including spares and repair parts; special tools and test equipment; aviation ground support equipment; safety and air worthiness certification; technical support; maintenance support; technical and aircrew publications; mission planning system equipment and support; project management and governance; U.S. Government and contractor engineering and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The total estimated program cost was \$3.5 billion. Major

Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$1.655 billion of this total.

This transmittal notifies the addition of the following MDE items:

—Seventeen (17) Common Infrared Countermeasure (CIRCM) Systems.

—Seventeen (17) Limited Missile Warning Receiver Systems (LIMWS).

—Seventeen (17) Degraded Visual Environment Pilotage Systems (DVEPS).

Also included are Man-Portable Night Vision Devices. The estimated total value of these new items is \$162 million, but their addition will not cause an increase in the total case value. The estimated total case value will remain at \$3.5 billion. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) will remain at \$1.655 billion of this total.

(iv) Significance: The proposed sale will enhance the United Kingdom's capabilities to provide national defense and contribute to NATO and coalition operations.

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

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology: CIRCM is the next-generation lightweight, laser-based, infrared countermeasure system for rotary-wing, tiltrotor, and small fixed-wing aircraft across the Department of Defense (DoD). CIRCM provides near-spherical coverage of the host platform to defeat infrared (IR)-seeking threat missiles. CIRCM receives an angular bearing hand-off from the Missile Warning System (Common Missile Warning System (CMWS) or LIMWS) and employs a pointing and tracking system that acquires and tracks the incoming missile. CIRCM jams the missile by using modulated laser energy, thus degrading the tracking capability of the missile and causing it to miss the aircraft.

LIMWS will protect aircraft from missiles by deploying flares and by cueing laser-based countermeasure systems such as the CTROM. The LIMWS A-kit is backwards compatible with CMWS. LIMWS maintains overmatch of quickly emerging threat technology and tactics by providing increased detection range, improved detection in clutter, and more agile algorithms to rapidly respond to emerging Man-Portable Air Defense Systems (MANPADS) threats. LIMWS utilizes IR-based sensors to detect incoming missiles and unguided hostile fire, fiber optic cables for high-speed data transmission from the sensors to the system processor and implements machine learning algorithms.

DVEPS provides overmatch by providing increased situational awareness to the aircrew in Degraded Visual Environment (DVE) conditions such as brownout, allowing Special Operations Aviation assets to execute missions in almost any environmental condition. DVEPS utilizes using three-dimensional (3D) imaging technology. DVEPS produces imagery, 3D conformal symbology, and system alerts to aid pilots in maintaining spatial awareness during and after transition from visual meteorological conditions (VMC) to DVE conditions. DVEPS includes a synthetic vision avionics backbone (SVAB), light detection and ranging (LiDAR), removable storage device, infrared camera, power distribution unit, and inertial measurement unit.

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

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: March 12, 2024.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONNECTICUT HUMANITIES

● Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of Connecticut Humanities, CTH. CTH is a trusted leader and public/private partner with the State of Connecticut, having supported vital, widely accessible humanities programming throughout its 50-year history.

Founded in 1974 as the Connecticut Humanities Council at the request of the National Endowment for the Humanities, CTH has dedicated itself to connecting residents of Connecticut to the humanities through grants, partnerships, and collaborative programs. Over the past 50 years, CTH has inspired storytelling, lifelong learning, informed public dialogue, and civic engagement throughout the State of Connecticut and, in doing so, has strengthened communities and enhanced the quality of life for all residents.

Connecticut Humanities has created and promoted a number of incredibly worthwhile projects in Connecticut. CTH created the Connecticut Center for the Book, a State affiliate of the Library of Congress that promotes the written and spoken word. Along with its partners, CTH created Why It Matters: Connecticut's Civic Reconstruction, a program that provides frameworks for meaningful discussion regarding often difficult and divisive topics, instruction on civic processes and participation, and avenues that safeguard participation in our democracy for all citizens. CTH has also participated in the Democracy and the Informed Citizen initiative, supporting connections between the humanities and journalism and fostering an informed citizenry and a democratic society.

Connecticut Humanities has long been a champion of the enduring value of public humanities in our lives and civil society. By implementing and supporting strong, viable, and sustainable cultural organizations that play a pivotal role in promoting the educational, cultural, and economic vitality of Connecticut, and ensuring that their programming is widely accessible to diverse and new audiences across the State, CTH continues to play a central role in the preservation of the humanities and the promotion of civic engagement.

It is my hope that Connecticut Humanities will continue to grow and expand their vital work in the years to come. I applaud Connecticut Humanities for their exemplary work and hope my colleagues will join me in expressing our gratitude and admiration.

RECOGNIZING LEADAR

● Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 40th anniversary

of LeadAR, a hands-on program that brings together dedicated individuals from across Arkansas to empower their communities and initiate positive change.

LeadAR has helped educate and build a network of Natural State leaders who share the common goal of bettering their communities.

As a champion of leadership development in the Natural State, the program gives participants an opportunity to connect with peers from different backgrounds who call a variety of rural, agriculture, and larger communities home in order to facilitate an understanding of the unique needs across our State.

Participants take part in a number of seminars and team-building exercises throughout the year in multiple settings. I have had the opportunity to visit with LeadAR classes during the trip each takes to Washington, DC, and share how we work together with local communities and the State to support the needs of citizens, including encouraging economic growth and development.

Alumni of this organization include individuals from all walks of life. Professionals including educators, farmers, to local elected leaders and more have benefited from the excellent leadership principles LeadAR teaches. Over the course of 18 months, these Arkansans acquire even more tools and skills to enrich their own careers and enhance the civic contributions their families, friends, and neighbors value.

As we celebrate this milestone, we recognize the impact it has made in the lives of participants and the progress it has helped inspire in communities across the State.

I appreciate the guidance of the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service for successfully coordinating this program so it continues to be a distinguished activity citizens strive to be part of. I look forward to supporting LeadAR for many years to come and celebrating the next generation of participants who are developing their vision for a stronger Arkansas.●

RECOGNIZING BROWNS CENTURY THEATER

● Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Browns Century Theater of Le Mars, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 2000, siblings Adam, Michaela, and Andrew partnered with their mother Shelly to start a music group called The Browns. The Brown family is originally from Le Mars but took their music talents around the United States, Canada, and Europe. In 2015, after touring for 15 years, the Browns returned home to Iowa and purchased

the historic German-American Savings Bank building in downtown Le Mars. The theater seats 150 people and now includes the Central Event Center for dining, the Inn on Central for visiting guests, and the Gift Shoppe. The Browns Century Theater seasonally employs between 9 to 12 employees and has hosted 100 shows every year since its opening, featuring the family's music and other artists from across the country.

In addition to owning a small business, The Browns host a reality TV show called "Hometown with The Browns" on their YouTube channel. The first episode of their show details the renovations they did to the German-American Savings Bank to convert it into the Browns Century Theater. Their daughter Michaela creates cooking videos for the family channel and is also the author of three cookbooks. The Browns have recorded 2 dozen albums and often perform special shows in addition to their hits, including songs like "Oh, My Iowa!"

The Brown family has deep roots in Le Mars and proudly owns a more than a century-old farm. Michaela Brown served as the Le Mars Chamber of Commerce president in 2022, and Adam Brown served on the Plymouth County Fair board in 2023. The Browns have performed at the Christmas in Hometown event since its inception in 2020, the Plymouth County Fair, and Ice Cream Days. In addition to performing for and supporting their community, Adam Brown played as a linebacker and defensive end for the Sioux Empire Crusaders of the Southern Plains Football League.

The Browns are well recognized for their hard work. Shelly Brown was awarded the Le Mars Area Chamber of Commerce Volunteer of the Year Award in 2019. The Browns Century Theater was awarded the Community Impact Award in 2023 and the Business of the Year Award in 2017 by the Le Mars Chamber of Commerce. Their music has earned them Dove Award nominations and a place in the Old Time Country Music Hall of Fame. Due to their incredible efforts, The Browns celebrated their 24th anniversary of performing together and their ninth anniversary of owning the Browns Century Theater in 2024.

The Brown family's commitment to Le Mars, the gospel music industry, and their family business is clear. I want to congratulate the Brown family and the entire team at Browns Century Theater for their continued dedication to the Le Mars community. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Iowa.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Stringer, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

BUDGET OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025—PM 44

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred jointly, pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975, as modified by the order of April 11, 1986; to the Committees on Appropriations; and the Budget:

To the Congress of the United States:

When I was elected President, a pandemic was raging and our economy was reeling. We were in the midst of the most devastating downturn in nearly a century. I came into office determined to fundamentally change things, by rebuilding our economy from the middle out and bottom up, not the top down—because when the middle class does well, the poor have a ladder up and the wealthy still do well. We all do. We can give everyone a fair shot and leave no one behind.

Our work started with the American Rescue Plan, which vaccinated the Nation, delivered immediate economic relief to people who badly needed it, and sent funding to States and cities to keep key services going. It continued with the biggest investment in our Nation's infrastructure since the 1950s. More than 46,000 new projects have been announced to date, rebuilding our roads, bridges, railroads, ports, airports, public transit, water systems, high-speed internet, and more. At the same time, we are making the most significant investment in fighting climate change in the history of the world. I have seen Americans' courage and resilience in the wake of devastating natural disasters, and I will always have their backs as we rebuild and boost resilience to extreme weather. We are building a cleaner, more resilient and sustainable power grid, and making America's biggest investment in rural electricity since the New Deal. We are revitalizing fence-line communities that have shouldered the burden of harmful pollution for generations. We are lowering energy costs for hard-working families and strengthening our energy security with clean energy breakthroughs. Across the board, we are supporting advanced manufacturing, ensuring the industries of the future are made in America by American workers.