

For my Democratic colleagues, as you well know, those numbers are disproportionately higher among the Democratic community.

April 10, the Economist/YouGov poll: 37 percent support decreasing military aid to Israel, and just 18 support an increase. Overall, 63 percent support a cease-fire, and 15 percent oppose.

It is not just protesters on college campuses who are upset about U.S. Government policy regarding Israel and Gaza. Increasingly, the American people want an end to U.S. complicity in the humanitarian disaster which is taking place in Gaza right now. The people of the United States—Democrats, Republicans, Independents—in large numbers, do not want to be complicit in the starvation of hundreds of thousands of children.

Now, maybe this is a very radical idea. Here is a really, really, really radical idea: Maybe it is time for the U.S. Congress to listen to the American people. Maybe it is time to rethink the decision that the U.S. Senate recently made to provide Netanyahu with another \$10 billion in unfettered military aid. Maybe it is time to not simply worry about the violence we are seeing on American college campuses but to focus on the unprecedented violence we are seeing in Gaza, which has killed 34,000 Palestinians and wounded more than 77,000, 70 percent of whom are women and children.

So I suggest to CNN and maybe some of my colleagues here: Maybe take your cameras, just for a moment, off of Columbia and off of UCLA. Maybe go to Gaza and take your camera and show us the emaciated children who are dying of malnutrition because of Netanyahu's policies. Show us the kids who have lost their arms and their legs. Show us the suffering that is going on over there.

Let me conclude by saying this: I must admit that I find it incomprehensible that many Members of Congress are spending their time attacking the protesters rather than the Netanyahu government, which has caused and brought about these protests and has created this horrific situation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 575 and 606; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate resume legislative session.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Clinton J. Fuchs, of Maryland, to be United States Marshal for the District of Maryland for the term of four years, and Gary D. Grimes, Sr., of Arkansas, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of Arkansas for the term of four years, en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

#### TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL RICHARD R. NEELY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, there are few things more American than serving our Nation. It is a special privilege of mine when I am able to honor some of our Nation's women and men in uniform. And it is even more special when I am able to recognize the dedicated service of those who have served in Illinois. After a decorated career, Maj. Gen. Richard R. Neely—the Adjutant General of Illinois, Commander of the Illinois National Guard, and Director of the Illinois Department of Military Affairs—is retiring after nearly 40 years of service to our State and Nation.

It is no coincidence that many extraordinary Americans have been from Illinois. General Neely is certainly one of them. While he began his tenure as the Adjutant General for Illinois in 2019, his military career in our State began several decades prior. General Neely hails from the South Side of Chicago. The summer before his senior year of high school, he joined the Army Reserves and later the Air National Guard as an airman. After graduating from Illinois State University, he joined the 183rd Wing in my hometown of Springfield, where General Neely spent more than two decades of his career serving in various positions.

General Neely's military career also took him well beyond the Prairie State. Over the course of his service, he was sent on two combat deployments in Iraq in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. His bravery helped safeguard American national security during a critical time in our history.

Because of his exceptional service, General Neely was appointed as Illinois's Adjutant General in 2019. He served in this role during a period of historic challenges for our State and Nation, and in every instance, he rose to the occasion.

Not even 4 months into the job, following major flooding in our State in the spring of 2019, General Neely activated 830 soldiers over 9 weeks to help

support the State's recovery. The Illinois National Guard's task forces completed 62 requests for assistance along more than 362 miles of riverbank as part of an overall response effort led by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency.

In response to the health and safety challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, General Neely directed the largest and longest domestic operations activation in the history of the Illinois National Guard. During this time, Illinois National Guard soldiers and airmen provided 250,000 COVID-19 tests, delivered millions of masks, and administered nearly 2 million vaccines throughout the State. General Neely's leadership helped save millions of lives.

And following the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, one of the darkest days in our Nation's history, General Neely directed five Illinois National Guard activations in response to the civil unrest.

In all of these examples, I hesitate to imagine where we would be if not for General Neely's innovative, dedicated, and selfless leadership. But perhaps most impactful was General Neely's care for our daughters, sons, and friends who made the brave decision to serve our country. As commander of the Illinois National Guard, General Neely oversaw approximately 13,000 military members, 2,200 full-time military employees, and 230 civilian State employees. And he managed the deployment of thousands of servicemembers to 21 countries around the world. We all owe him a debt of gratitude for ensuring the safety and well-being of the Illinoisans in uniform.

General Neely's work has gone above and beyond what one thinks of when they imagine "military service." As technology continues to advance and the cyber realm becomes our newest battlefield, General Neely is a national leader in the area of cyber security. Prior to his appointment as the Adjutant General, General Neely served in the Pentagon as the Chief of Current Operations, then as the Deputy Director for Cyber, Communications, and Space Operations, and finally as the Principal Deputy Director for Air Operations, Intelligence, Cyber, and Space Operations. He was the nation's first Cyberspace Officer to serve as an Adjutant General, and he has become a trusted voice on all things cyber.

But he did not do this alone. Of special note, I want to recognize Maj. Gen. William D. Cobetto, who has known and served with General Neely since the late 1980s. Like General Neely, General Cobetto spent much of his military career based out of Springfield, and he went on to serve as Illinois's Assistant Adjutant General—Air. Although General Cobetto retired from the military in 2015, he returned to the Department of Military Affairs in 2019 in a civilian capacity, where he supported General Neely as a legislative liaison and now as the chief of staff. General Cobetto, thank you for your

dedicated service to our State and Nation.

I also want to congratulate General Neely's successor, Maj. Gen. Rodney Boyd. General Boyd will make history as the first Black officer to command our State's National Guard, and he is incredibly qualified to serve as the 41st Adjutant General for Illinois. I have no doubt that he will faithfully serve the State of Illinois and live by the legacy of leadership General Neely leaves behind. I look forward to working with him, and I wish him luck in this newest challenge.

General Neely, you are nothing short of exceptional. You exemplify leadership, embody dedication to our country, and epitomize the very best of America. Thank you for your service. I am honored to call you a fellow Illinoisan.

Loretta and I wish you, your wife Tammy and your children—Ashley, Denton, Janay, Jennifer, and Jessica—nothing but the best in this next, well-earned chapter of your life.

#### REMEMBERING COLIN C. SMITH

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, with a heavy heart, I come to the floor of the U.S. Senate to pay my respects for the unexpected and tragic passing of a young Iowan earlier this year. Colin C. Smith lost his life at age of 37, while scuba diving in February. He had a longtime passion for this deep sea pursuit and was a seasoned diver. For 20 years, he had enjoyed scuba diving in Grand Cayman and always looked forward to visit this special place with his family.

During his undergraduate years, Colin served as an intern in my Senate office. This was just the first rung on his ladder of government service. He also landed a White House internship during the George W. Bush administration. After graduating from the University of Iowa in 2009, Colin went on to earn his law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law.

Then, Colin returned to his Hawkeye roots in 2012 and launched his legal career at the Nyemaster Goode Law Firm in Des Moines. Not long after that, he answered the call to public service and accepted the opportunity to serve as Legal Counsel for two chief executives for the State of Iowa, Governors Terry Branstad and Kim Reynolds, respectively. Most recently, he was a partner in the Sullivan and Ward Law Firm.

His professional achievements matched his ambitious travel itinerary exploring the world. Not even a year ago, Colin had returned from a 2-week trek to Antarctica. I am told his globe-trotting bucket list included bringing his beloved daughter Maddie on a safari to Tanzania this summer and to places around the world as she grew older. May Colin's zeal for adventure and discovery carry on through his daughter.

Barbara and I send our condolences to Colin's family and loved ones. We are grateful to call his parents Jim and

Cindy Smith good friends. In your time of bereavement and mourning, our hearts go out to you. No parent ought to experience the grief of laying a child to eternal rest. Take comfort in the joy Colin's life brought to all who knew and loved him. May his memory bring you peace in the years to come.

#### ARMS SALES NOTIFICATIONS

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 still 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)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 24-35, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of the Netherlands for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$700 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. 24-35

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 Netherlands.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment\* \$575 million.

Other \$125 million.

Total \$700 million.

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

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Two hundred sixty-five (265) AGM-88G Advanced Anti-Radiation Guided Missiles—Extended Range (AARGM-ER) All Up Rounds (AUR) (includes fifteen (15) Fly-to-Buy Rounds).

Eight (8) AGM-88G AARGM-ER Guidance Sections (spares).

Eight (8) AGM-88G AARGM-ER Control Sections (spares).

Non-MDE: Also included are Dummy Air Training Missiles (DATM); missile con-

tainers; software; training; support equipment; spare and repair parts; embedded GPS receiver, M-Code; publications and technical documentation; transportation; U.S. Government and contractor engineering; technical and logistical support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (NE-P-AGP).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

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

(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: April 24, 2024.

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

#### POLICY JUSTIFICATION

The Netherlands—Advanced Anti-Radiation Guided Missiles—Extended Range

The Government of the Netherlands has requested to buy two hundred sixty-five (265) AGM-88G Advanced Anti-Radiation Guided Missiles—Extended Range (AARGM-ER) All Up Rounds (AUR) (includes fifteen (15) Fly-to-Buy Rounds); eight (8) AGM-88G AARGM-ER Guidance Sections (spares); and eight (8) AGM-88G AARGM-ER Control Sections (spares). Also included are Dummy Air Training Missiles (DATM), missile containers; software; training; support equipment; spare and repair parts; embedded GPS receiver, M-Code; publications and technical documentation; transportation; U.S. Government and contractor engineering; technical and logistical support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$700 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy 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.

The proposed sale will improve the Netherlands' capability to meet current and future threats by suppressing and destroying land or sea-land based radar emitters associated with enemy air defenses. This capability denies the adversary the use of its air defense systems, thereby improving the survivability of the Netherlands tactical aircraft. The Netherlands 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 Northrop Grumman Systems located in Falls Church, VA. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require multiple trips by ten U.S. Government representatives and the assignment of four contractor representatives to the Netherlands on an intermittent basis over the life of the case to support delivery and integration of items and to provide supply support management, inventory control and equipment familiarization.

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

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-35

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 AGM-88G Advanced Anti-Radiation Guided Missile—Extended Range (AARGM-