

PN1740 NAVY nominations (2) beginning NOREEN P. KIRBY, and ending PATRICK D. TACKITT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 7, 2024.

PN1741 NAVY nomination of Bryon M. Lee, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 7, 2024.

PN1779 NAVY nomination of Hana Lee, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 20, 2024.

PN1780 NAVY nomination of Timothy P. Fletcher, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 20, 2024.

PN1781 NAVY nominations (5) beginning MARK K. ANDERSON, and ending GERALD V. WEERS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 20, 2024.

PN1782 NAVY nominations (21) beginning ANASTASIA S. ABID, and ending ASHLEY L. WARD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 20, 2024.

PN1783 NAVY nominations (37) beginning ADAM D. AHLSTROM, and ending JEREMIAH J. ZAMORA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 20, 2024.

PN1795 NAVY nominations (26) beginning WARREN K. BLACKBURN, and ending JAMES L. VENCKUS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 23, 2024.

PN1796 NAVY nominations (15) beginning JOHN D. AULT, and ending TIMOTHY A. SPRINGER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 23, 2024.

PN1797 NAVY nominations (16) beginning AARON T. ALLISON, and ending KRISTIN B. WHITEHOUSE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 23, 2024.

PN1798 NAVY nominations (22) beginning COLLEEN C. BLOSSER, and ending DAMIAN M. STORZ, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 23, 2024.

PN1799 NAVY nominations (15) beginning MICHAEL W. BLOOMROSE, and ending MATTHEW J. WOOTEN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 23, 2024.

PN1800 NAVY nominations (33) beginning GARTH W. ALDRICH, and ending EMILY L. ZYWICKE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 23, 2024.

PN1801 NAVY nominations (23) beginning RICARDO M. ABAKAH, and ending YU ZHENG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 23, 2024.

PN1802 NAVY nominations (77) beginning THOMAS B. ABLEMAN, and ending JERRY YUAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 23, 2024.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for 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. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

### VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 198, motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Katherine E. Oler to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 199, confirmation of the nomination of Katherine E. Oler to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 200, on the motion to concur in the House amendments to S. 870, Fire Grants and Safety Act. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea. •

### RECOGNIZING THE BEREIA CITIZEN

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the Berea Citizen, a long-standing community institution and one of only a few locally owned, operated, and printed newspapers in the entire Commonwealth. This year, I am proud to join my home State in celebrating this native Kentucky newspaper as it marks 125 years of journalistic success.

Founded in 1899, the Berea Citizen came into existence on the campus of Berea College, nestled between the foothills of the Cumberland Mountains and the Bluegrass plains. The late Berea College president William G. Frost, a renowned abolitionist and scholar, led the charge in creating the school newspaper with the mission of providing this burgeoning region with informative, balanced local news. Service soon began along the dirt road of Chestnut Street in Berea's town center, where it continued for nearly a century. The Berea Citizen maintained its ties to the college up until 1984, by then transitioning into a private, locally owned newspaper.

Since the turn of the 20th century, the Berea Citizen has remained a fixture within the Madison County community. It has continued to provide local news without interruption through some of our Nation's most turbulent times, surviving the Great Depression, two World Wars, and, most recently, a global pandemic. Through the years, the newspaper and its team have adapted to the ever-evolving landscape of news, expanding print operations to include online coverage while always remaining faithful to its Kentucky focus. Today, the Berea Citizen boasts a readership of over 10,000 Kentuckians and remains a leading voice for local news in Madison County.

As the Berea Citizen marks this impressive milestone, I would like to ex-

tend my best wishes to the reporters, editors, and staff who have made the newspaper a vital resource to Central Kentuckians. It is a privilege to congratulate the Berea Citizen on 125 years of quality journalism. I hope my Senate colleagues join me in recognizing this longstanding fixture of Madison County and its many accomplishments.

### 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. 24-52, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of the Netherlands for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$678 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MIKE MILLER  
(for James A. Hursch, Director).

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-52

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 Netherlands.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:  
Major Defense Equipment \* \$607 million.  
Other \$71 million.  
Total \$678 million.

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

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

One hundred seventy-four (174) Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missiles-Extended Range (AMRAAM-ER).

Four (4) AMRAAM-C8 guidance sections.

Non-MDE: Also included is the following non-MDE: AMRAAM containers, load trainers, control section spares and support equipment; KGV-135A cryptographic devices; Common Munition Built-in-Test (BIT)/Reprogramming Equipment (CMBRE); ADU-891

Adaptor Group Test Sets; integration and test support and equipment; munitions support and support equipment; spare parts, consumables, and accessories, and repair and return support; classified software delivery and support; classified and unclassified publications, and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; studies and surveys; Contractor Logistics Support (CLS); U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (NE-D-YAJ).

(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: June 13, 2024.

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

#### POLICY JUSTIFICATION

##### The Netherlands—Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missiles-Extended Range

The Government of the Netherlands has requested to buy one-hundred seventy-four (174) Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missiles-Extended Range (AMRAAM-ER) and four AMRAAM-C8 guidance sections. Also included is the following non-MDE: AMRAAM containers, load trainers, control section spares and support equipment; KGV-135A cryptographic devices; Common Munition Built-in-Test (BIT)/Reprogramming Equipment (CMBRE); ADU-891 Adaptor Group Test Sets; integration and test support and equipment; munitions support and support equipment; spare parts, consumables, and accessories, and repair and return support; classified software delivery and support; classified and unclassified publications, and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; studies and surveys; Contractor Logistics Support (CLS); U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$678 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (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 providing advanced air defense missiles as part of an upgraded Medium Range Air Defense (MRAD) system and thereby enhancing its air defense capability. This enhanced capability will protect the Netherlands and local allied forces, and will significantly improve the Netherlands' contribution to NATO Integrated Air and Missile Defense. The Netherlands will have no difficulty absorbing these articles 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 RTX Corporation, located in Camden, AR. The purchaser typically requires offsets. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

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

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

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-52

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 Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM) is a supersonic, air-launched, aerial intercept guided missile featuring digital technology and microminiature solid-state electronics. AMRAAM capabilities include look-down/shoot-down, multiple launches against multiple targets, resistance to electronic countermeasures, and interception of high- and lowflying and maneuvering targets. This potential sale will include AMRAAM guidance sections, control sections, warhead spares, and containers.

2. The Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missile-Extended Range (AMRAAM-ER) is a surface-launched missile that utilizes an AIM-120C-7 or C-8 seeker and warhead. It is joined with a separate control section and rocket motor for surface launch, making it different from the traditional air-launched AMRAAM. This provides extended range and altitude as well as higher speed and maneuverability.

3. The KGV-135A is a high-speed, general purpose encryptor/decryptor module used for wideband data encryption.

4. The Common Munitions Built-In-Test (BIT)/Reprogramming Equipment (CMBRE) is support equipment used to interface with weapon systems to initiate and report BIT results, and upload and download flight software. CMBRE supports multiple munitions platforms with a range of applications that perform preflight checks, periodic maintenance checks, loading of Operational Flight Program (OFF) data, loading of munitions mission planning data, loading of Global Positioning System (GPS) cryptographic keys, and declassification of munitions memory.

5. The ADU-891 Adapter Group Test Set provides the physical and electrical interface between the CMBRE and the missile.

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

7. 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.

8. A determination has been made that the Netherlands can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This proposed sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

9. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of the Netherlands.

#### ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL APPOINTMENT

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have the following statement on the appointment of the Architect of the Capitol be printed in the Congressional Record:

In accordance with the Architect of the Capitol Appointment Act of 2023, the Architect of the Capitol Congressional Commission, consisting of Representative Mike Johnson, Speaker of the House; Senator Charles E. Schumer, Senate Majority Lead-

er; Representative Hakeem S. Jeffries, House Democratic Leader; Senator Mitch McConnell, Senate Republican Leader; Representatives Tom Cole and Rosa L. DeLauro, Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Committee on Appropriations; Senators Patty Murray and Susan Collins, Chair and Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee; Representatives Bryan Steil and Joseph D. Morelle, Chair and Ranking Member of the House Committee on Administration; and Senators Amy Klobuchar and Deb Fischer, Chair and Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration; appoints Thomas E. Austin to be the thirteenth Architect of the Capitol for a term of ten years, effective June 24, 2024.

#### TRIBUTE TO MARGARET BASS BAINES AND ANTONIO RODOLFO BAINES

Mr. REED. Mr. President, it is my honor to pay tribute to a remarkable team upon their retirement from the Department of the Army. The combined service of Mrs. Margaret "Peggy" Bass Baines and Mr. Antonio Rodolfo Baines spans an astounding 80 years, a testament to their unwavering commitment to our Nation.

Each beginning their careers in the 1980s, Peggy and Antonio ultimately completed 20 years of Active military duty in the U.S. Army. Both then transitioned seamlessly into civilian roles within the Department of the Army and continued to serve with dedication. Remarkably, they each added two more decades of devoted service to the Army and the Nation.

Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Margaret Baines exemplified excellence during her tenure as both a signal corps officer and a judge advocate. Her service was marked by integrity, legal acumen, and a steadfast commitment to the Army's mission. Following her retirement from Active Duty, Peggy continued her invaluable contributions as the deputy legal advisor (Counsel) within the Army Office of the Inspector General. Subsequently, she assumed the role of Associate Deputy General Counsel for Ethics in the office of the Army General Counsel, further enhancing the legal framework that underpins the Army's operations. Peggy ensured Army leaders received thoughtful and purpose-built legal advice that facilitated effective management of critical Army programs and decisions.

Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Antonio Baines left an indelible mark on the Army. As an Active-Duty signal corps officer and force management expert, he demonstrated exceptional leadership and technical expertise. Upon transitioning to civil service, Antonio directly contributed to congressional support for critical Army modernization priorities during his 20 years with the Office of the Chief of Legislative Liaison. As the Army's senior liaison for intelligence, modernization, and equipping, he played a pivotal role advising senior Army leaders and shaping legislative outcomes that directly impacted Army programs. Antonio's