

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

mentorship of military officers assigned to the Army's Congressional Liaison Office not only improved the Army's ability to interact effectively with Congress, but also solidified his legacy within the Department of Defense's congressional liaison community.

It is also important to note and thank those who supported Mrs. and Mr. Baines throughout their careers, all of whom can be justifiably proud of the accomplishments of these two. This includes Peggy's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alden and Doris Bass of Fort Wayne, IN, and Antonio's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Albert and Yolanda Baines of Jonesboro, GA. Additionally, Courtney Baines of Charlotte, NC, and Joshua Baines of Cambridge, MA, stand as living testaments to their parents' legacy. I honor the commitment and service of Peggy and Antonio, and I wish them the peaceful and joyful retirement they have earned. Well done.

TRIBUTE TO SANDRA E. LATTA

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Ms. Sandra E. Latta, who is retiring from the Department of the Navy after more than 35 years of faithful civilian service to our Nation, culminating as the Deputy Chief of Legislative Affairs for Strategy and Assessment, Office of Legislative Affairs, U.S. Department of the Navy.

Ms. Latta's contributions to the Department of the Navy have been numerous. Her responsibilities include directing the Department's legislative strategy and directly supporting the President's budget submission and subsequent congressional action on the annual National Defense Authorization Act. As one of two deputies in the Office of Legislative Affairs, and the only civilian to serve in that capacity, Ms. Latta established and executed the overall legislative direction for the Department of the Navy. During her tenure, Ms. Latta provided expert congressional advice to six Secretaries of the Navy and seven Chiefs of Naval Operations as they met with congressional leaders and staff to advance the priorities of the Department of the Navy.

Ms. Latta began her Washington career on the staff of U.S. Representative Bill Hefner of North Carolina, who was a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee. During her 14-year tenure with Representative Hefner, Ms. Latta advised the Congressman on a range of policy issues and for 8 of those years served as his press secretary. Prior to her tenure with the Department of the Navy, Ms. Latta worked for 5 years in the private sector, where she established and led a team that advised the Navy on congressional activities affecting defense policy and budgets. She then brought her significant experience and leadership to the Department of the Navy in 2003, to serve as the first civilian Deputy Chief of Legislative Affairs.

Ms. Latta is a native of Mocksville, NC. She received a B.A. in political

science from North Carolina State University and currently serves on the advisory council for the School of Public and International Affairs.

Throughout her career, Ms. Latta's leadership and performance has been recognized by numerous awards including the Department of the Navy's Distinguished Civilian Service Award and the Department of Defense's Spirit of Service Award.

I am proud to recognize Ms. Latta, and I thank her and her family for her honorable service to our nation. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Ms. Sandra Latta "fair winds and following seas" as she concludes a distinguished career of public service.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF A.O. SMITH

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate A.O. Smith Corporation on the occasion of their 150th anniversary.

In 1874, A.O. Smith began in Milwaukee, WI, as a small family business. Over the past century and a half, they have grown from their humble roots. They began by specializing in the fabrication of metal hardware specialties and have emerged today as an industry leading global water technology manufacturer producing residential and commercial water heaters, boilers, and water purification equipment. Today, they employ more than 12,000 people across the world and conduct business in over 60 countries.

The company was instrumental in helping to usher in the automobile revolution, developing a new, lightweight steel car frame—a development that caught the interest of major car companies including Peerless, Cadillac, Packard, Oldsmobile, and Ford. Ford's initial order of 10,000 frames led A.O. Smith to develop the world's first mass production process for assembling frames, later introducing the world's first automated frame production line. This first fully automated frame assembly plant came to be known as the Mechanical Marvel due to the line's ability to make a frame every 8 seconds—10,000 frames a day. A.O. Smith was also a large component manufacturer that supplied parts to another early Wisconsin pioneering manufacturer, Harley-Davidson.

A.O. Smith engineers discovered an improved method for welding, allowing for the production of a wide range of steel products. This included the pressure vessel for oil refining and large diameter steel pipe, important components in the oil and natural gas industries.

One of the company's most important and enduring innovations was the process of fusing glass to steel. By perfecting this process, the company developed a range of new products, including glass-lined beer kegs, glass-lined brewery tanks, and glass-lined residential water heaters. Glass-lined water heaters rapidly became an indus-

try standard that endures today and led to A.O. Smith's growth as a global leader in water heating products. These products now include industry leading models that are consistently among the most efficient in the market according to the ENERGY STAR program.

In recent years, A.O. Smith has emerged as an industry leader in developing technologies that address drinking water quality challenges. A co-founding member of the Water Council, A.O. Smith has helped ensure Milwaukee's place as a global water technology hub, while supporting economic development in Wisconsin. The Water Council helped bring about the creation of the Global Water Center, which houses water-related business accelerators and research facilities where engineers conduct controlled testing on water purification products sold around the world. Bringing together their work has helped transform Milwaukee into a world hub for water research, education, and economic development.

I am proud to recognize A.O. Smith as an industry leader, and I share my best wishes with the company and their employees for their continued success.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO RUBY MAE PRICE WOMACK

• Mrs. BRITT. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Mrs. Ruby Mae Price Womack of Greenville, AL, ahead of her 100th birthday.

The daughter of Nobie Davis and Foster Price, Ruby was born on July 17, 1924, in Greenville. She is the proud mother of three sons Anthony, Chris, and Vince; grandmother to six; and great-grandmother to four.

Ruby attended school in Butler County before graduating with her undergraduate degree from Alabama A&M University and her master's degree from Alabama State University. She became an educator herself, teaching in the Butler County school system for over 40 years.

Ruby is also dedicated member of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, where she has been playing piano since the age of 8. Incredibly, Ruby never received formal lessons and learned to play by ear. She continues to serve as an active member of the Greenville civic community to this day.

On behalf of the people of Alabama, I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations and sincere well wishes to Ruby. I wish her a very happy birthday, surrounded by friends and family, and many more celebrations to come.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. VALERIE MONTGOMERY RICE

• Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, I rise to commend Dr. Valerie Montgomery