

The influx of migrant children under the Biden-Harris administration overwhelmed the Office of Refugee Resettlement, also abbreviated the ORR. This is the Agency responsible for unaccompanied children apprehended at the border and responsible for releasing them to thoroughly vetted sponsors.

ORR responded to this influx by sending children to hastily constructed emergency care facilities with untrained, unvetted staff and poor living conditions. The Agency also removed key sponsor-vetting requirements after senior Biden-Harris officials directed ORR to expedite the process of releasing migrant children to outside sponsors.

It is so easy to interpret this as a means to shield the White House from the political embarrassment of facilities overrun with unaccompanied children crossing the border that they had just opened.

In fact, as early as July 21, ORR staff warned superiors that ORR leadership had dismantled sponsor-vetting policies and that these changes weakened ORR's ability to protect children from risk such as trafficking and exploitation. Despite this, ORR left these policies in place for years while hundreds of thousands of children were released to poorly vetted sponsors.

You know, sometimes, it is easy to think this is partisan. Sometimes, it is easy to lose track as Republicans and Democrats talk about issues. But now, we are talking about kids—children that could be our children—who are being released to people who are not being vetted. It is easy to forget that. This is not partisan. This is something which should concern us all.

As a ranking member of the Senate HELP Committee, I am investigating the administration's failure to protect these migrant children from exploitation and abuse. I have learned that some of these children were forced into dangerous working conditions and exploited for illegal labor. At one such facility currently under investigation, a child was pulled into a meat processing machine.

By the way, again, we are not making this up. We have testimony from witnesses who speak to all of these facts. We have the whistleblowers who came to a roundtable. We have got the transcripts.

I have also learned that ORR's weakening of sponsor-vetting requirements directly led to children being put in harm's way. And in one instance, ORR neglected to verify whether the sponsor's claimed address was even a real home, and they sent this child to an address nothing more than open field. In another case, a 16-year-old was released to a sponsor who posted sexually explicit photos of the child on social media, including a photo with the sponsor touching the child inappropriately.

In addition to my investigation, I joined Senators GRASSLEY and JOHNSON earlier this summer in hosting a Sen-

ate roundtable to examine ORR's failures and identify steps Congress could take to reform the Agency. We learned that due to failure at ORR, some unaccompanied children have been forced into drug trafficking, sex trafficking, and other criminal activity to pay off the cartels who brought them. All of this—according to whistleblowers—without followup or meaningful oversight from the Biden-Harris administration.

I repeat: This is not rhetoric, not fiction. This is what we are hearing from whistleblowers.

This exploitation also seemingly occurs while migrant children are still in ORR custody. In July, the Department of Justice filed a lawsuit against Southwest Key Programs, the largest ORR contractor housing unaccompanied children, alleging that for nearly a decade, its employees have committed sexual abuse and harassment against unaccompanied children as young as 5 years old.

DOJ alleges that Southwest Key not only failed to take sufficient action to prevent sexual abuse but actively discouraged children from officially reporting these incidents.

Once more, this is not rhetoric. This is as a result of whistleblowers. This should not be partisan.

In August, I called on the HELP Committee chair to hold a hearing with Southwest Key and ORR officials to answer how these shocking allegations of sexual abuse went undetected for so long. So far, HELP Committee Democrats have not committed to a hearing or any effort to investigate.

And, by the way, Southwest Key still receives hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars to operate shelters for migrant kids. If ORR will not take action in the wake of these allegations, Congress should. That is why I worked with Senator GRASSLEY on legislation that would prohibit the use of Federal funds for Southwest Key or any other ORR grantee facing suspension and debarment procedures for allowing illegal sexual abuse or harassment of children in its care. I appreciate Senator GRASSLEY's leadership.

The problems with ORR and the exploitation of children have been well-documented for years. Yet there has been no substantive effort by Biden or HARRIS to fix their open border policies—which caused these problems to begin with—or reform ORR to protect unaccompanied children from harm.

The exploitation of children should not be partisan. This is not a Republican or Democratic issue. When vulnerable children are harmed or die at the expense of bad policies or bad procedures or bad process, everyone should be outraged and everyone should be demanding change.

Unfortunately, it is clear that Republicans are taking this problem more seriously than Democrats.

It is not a messaging issue. It is an issue that challenges the humanity within us. It is something we should

address whether or not it is an election year.

I wish that my Democratic colleagues would join Republicans tonight to pass this commonsense bill to hold ORR contractors accountable for the abuse and exploitation of children under their watch. We should protect these vulnerable children from harm as if they were our own.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

CLOTURE MOTION WITHDRAWN

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the cloture motion with respect to the Pennell nomination be withdrawn.

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

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. 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 ROBERT "BOB" SUNSHINE

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise to acknowledge the service of an extraordinary public servant who is retiring at the end of next week, Robert "Bob" Sunshine.

Congress depends on the expertise and hard work of our valued staff and supporting agencies. After 48 years of exemplary service to the Congressional Budget Office, spanning virtually the entirety of the agency's existence, few staffers have done more to serve this institution and the American people than Bob Sunshine. As President pro tempore of the Senate, as well as the chair of the Appropriations Committee and former chair of the Budget Committee, I thank and commend Bob for his many decades of excellent public service to CBO and the Congress and wish him and his family all the best in his much-deserved retirement.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Bob for his dedication and service to us and the American people.

### 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)(5)(A) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 0N-23. 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 22-11 of May 26, 2022.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,  
Director.

Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 0N-23

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

(i) Purchaser: Government of Egypt.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 22-11; Date: May 26, 2022; Military Department: Army.

Funding Source: Foreign Military Financing (FMF).

(iii) Description: On May 26, 2022, Congress was notified by Congressional certification transmittal number 22-11, of the possible sale under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act of twenty-three (23) CH-47F Chinook Helicopters; fifty-six (56) T-55-GA-714A Engines (46 installed, 10 spares); fifty-two (52) Embedded Global Positioning System (GPS) Inertial Navigation Systems (INS) (EGI) (46 installed, 6 spares); twenty-nine (29) AN/AAR-57 Common Missile Warning Systems (CMWS) (23 installed, 6 spares); and seventy-five (75) M-240 Machine Guns (69 installed, 6 spares). Also included was Common Missile Warning System (CMWS) classified software; AN/APR-39 Radar Warning Receivers (RWR); AN/AVR-2B Laser Detecting Sets (LDS); High Frequency (HF) radios; Aircraft Survivability Equipment (ASE) (including 25.4mm decoy cartridges, impulse cartridges for cable cutters and aircraft cartridges); AN/ARN-147 Very High Frequency (VHF) Omni Directional Radio Range/Instrument Landing System (VOR/ILS) receivers; AN/ARN-153 Tactical Airborne Navigation System (TACAN) radios; AN/APN-209 radar altimeters; AN/AVS-6 Night Vision Devices (NVD); 7.62mm ammunition; items and services to support the mission equipment; hardware and services required to implement additional aircraft options such as: rescue hoists; external cargo slings and nets; Bambi fire buckets; Fast Rope Insertion Extraction Systems (FRIES); Cargo On/Off Loading Systems (COOLS); Extended Range Fuel Systems (ERFS); upgrade to the maintenance hangar and additional parking pads; special tools and test equipment; ground support equipment; airframe and engine spare parts; technical data; publications; Maintenance Work Orders/Engineering Change Proposals (MWO/ECPs); technical assistance; transportation; training; and other related elements

of logistics and program support. The total estimated program cost was \$2.6 billion. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$1.725 billion of this total.

This transmittal notifies the following MDE articles that were previously reported as non-MDE: eighty-one (81) AN/ARC-231A (RT-1987) radios. This transmittal also reports replacing the previously notified fifty-two (52) Embedded Global Positioning System (GPS) Inertial Navigation Systems (INS) (EGI) (46 installed, 6 spares) with fifty-two (52) Embedded Global Positioning System (GPS) Inertial Navigation Systems (INS) (EGI) with M-Code (46 installed, 6 spares). The following non-MDE items will also be included: AN/APX-123A Identify Friend or Foe (IFF) Transponders; KY-100 Encryptor Terminals; KIV-77 Crypto Appliques; AN/VRC-100 Advanced High Frequency Ground Transceivers; AN/PYQ-10 (C) Simple Key Loaders; AN/ARC-220 High Frequency (HF) Radios; and the Automated Communication Engineering Software (ACES) Package. Although the estimated additional MDE value is \$12 million, the estimated total MDE value will remain \$1.725 billion. The total estimated case value will remain \$2.6 billion.

(iv) Significance: This notification is being provided to add MDE articles that were added to the program due to the obsolescence of the items they will replace and to report the AN/ARC-231A as MDE. The proposed articles and services will support Egypt's ongoing effort to modernize its armed forces and increase its capacity to detect threats and control its borders, contributing to the maintenance of regional stability and security. This will contribute to the Egyptian military's effort to update their capabilities and enhance interoperability with the United States and other strategic allies.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve the security of a Major Non-NATO Ally that continues to be an important force for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology: The AN/ARC-231A (RT-1987) radio is a multi-mode software defined radio providing line of sight very high frequency (VHF)/ultra high frequency (UHF) secure and non-secure voice and data communications over the 30.000-941.000 MHz frequency and Satellite Communications (SATCOM) beyond line of sight secure and non-secure voice and data, including Demand Assigned Multiple ACCESS (DAMA) communications from the 240-320 MHz frequency range on manned and unmanned aviation platforms. ARC-231A includes improved type-1 cryptographic algorithm and processing capabilities, Civil Land Mobile Radio, Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radios System (SINCGARS) capabilities, HAVE QUICK (HQ), Second Generation Anti-Jam Tactical UHF Radio for NATO (SATURN) wave form, 8.33 kHz channel spacing for Global Air-Traffic Management (GATM) compliance, and capability for Mobile User Objective System (MUOS) wave-form through possible future hardware and software updates.

The AN/APX-123A Transponder is an IFF digital transponder set that provides pertinent platform information in response to an IFF interrogator. It provides this cooperative capability using full diversity selection, as well as Mode Select capability.

The KY-100 is a radio encryptor that has sensitive technology. This device is a self-contained terminal and provides for secure voice and data communications in tactical airborne/ground environments.

The KIV-77 is a Common Crypto Applique for Identification, Friend or Foe (IFF) that provides Mode 4/5 capability.

The AN/VRC-100 is the ground version of the AN/ARC-220 HF radio, which provides embedded Automatic Link Establishment (ALE), serial tone data modem, text messaging, and GPS position reporting functions.

The AN/PYQ-10 (C) Simple Key Loader (SKL) is a ruggedized, portable, hand-held fill device used for securely receiving, storing, and transferring electronic key material and data between compatible end cryptographic units (ECU) and communications equipment. It supports both the DS-101 and DS-102 interfaces, as well as the Crypto Ignition Key and is compatible with existing ECUs.

The AN/ARC-220 HF airborne communications system provides embedded ALE, serial tone data modem, text messaging and GPS position reporting functions.

The Sensitivity of Technology Statement contained in the original notification applies to the other items reported here.

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

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

#### TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL JONATHAN STUBBS

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate U.S. Army LTG Jonathan Stubbs on his promotion to director of the Army National Guard.

General Stubbs was appointed by Arkansas Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders to serve as adjutant general of the Arkansas National Guard in January 2023 after a long and distinguished career in the National Guard.

He first enlisted in the Army National Guard in Tennessee, but very quickly made his home in the Natural State and spent nearly three decades serving and leading citizen soldiers in Arkansas. In fact, he held every leadership position within the 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and deployed to Iraq twice during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

As an Active-Guard Reserve officer from 1997-2021, Stubbs completed numerous trainings and assignments, which culminated in his promotion as chief of staff for the Arkansas Army National Guard.

His entire service in uniform has been characterized by bravery and skill, earning him decorations to include the Combat Infantryman Badge, Valorous Unit Award, three Legion of Merit citations, two Bronze Star Medals, and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, among many others.

His leadership potential and experience led to his appointment as vice director for operations for the National Guard Bureau in 2021, and the next year, he was assigned as the deputy director of Operations, Readiness, and Mobilization at Department of the Army Headquarters, based at the Pentagon.

As head of the Arkansas National Guard, General Stubbs was a driving force of remarkable progress and growth. He connected communities to the Guard and enhanced relationships between servicemembers, families, veterans, businesses, and local leaders;