

Three years after Hurricane Ida and months after Hurricane Francine hit Louisiana, communities are still recovering, and every bit we give helps. This bill allows Hurricanes Ida and Francine victims and other victims of natural disasters elsewhere in the country to deduct qualified disaster-related personal casualty losses from their income, even when above the standard deduction.

This is not new, and this is not novel. We have done it before. I led legislation to help the victims of Hurricane Laura and for those impacted by the great floods of 2016.

By the Senate passing the bill tonight, the bill will go to the President's desk to be signed into law, cutting taxes for Louisiana families who will use this money to rebuild. It goes without saying, we only have to look at North Carolina to say what an impact this can have elsewhere in the country.

We have to recognize that if a family wants to rebuild, we can give them a Federal handout, or we can say: Use your own resources.

And these are their own resources. The American people have always been there to help whoever has had a natural disaster. We in Louisiana have benefited. We in Louisiana will always help others.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

TRIBUTE TO LAPHONZA R. BUTLER

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I also rise today with the bittersweet task of saying farewell to my trusted partner for the State of California, Senator LAPHONZA BUTLER, as her tenure here in the Senate with us comes to end in the coming days.

You may recall that just over a year ago, Senator BUTLER was appointed to serve alongside me here in the U.S. Senate. I remember it vividly. In just a matter of days, she received a call from Governor Newsom, accepted the appointment, traveled to Washington to take the oath of office, and introduced herself to the Nation.

That alone is a tall task for anyone—imagine—to be called upon on such short notice to serve a State of nearly 40 million people—but it is another thing entirely to be asked to also, in the process, fill the shoes of the legendary Senator Dianne Feinstein, a titan of California politics and the U.S. Senate, who served with such honor and dignity and grace for over three decades, not to mention that she carried on her shoulders the fate of a narrow Senate Democratic majority. It literally rested on her appointment and willingness to serve. But as I think back and reflect on that moment in her decision to say yes, it takes a trailblazer to fill the seat of a trailblazer.

And LAPHONZA BUTLER was certainly no stranger to high stakes. She knew it and proved it as a union organizer, fighting for workers all across the Nation; she knew it as the onetime presi-

dent of California's SEIU Local 2015, representing members of California's largest home care and nursing home workers union; and she knew it as president of EMILY's List—all leadership positions that she held prior to joining us here in the Senate. So once she did join us here in the Senate, it was no surprise to me that she hit the ground running. She immediately set up an office and built a team of more than capable and passionate public servants who would help her and my office, frankly—we are a tag team, after all—serve the people of California.

Imagine, as she began to navigate the complex Senate procedures to effectively represent Californians, she was also learning, in the early days, how to simply navigate the halls of the U.S. Capitol—with the help of the legendary Alex Baldonado, I might add.

I was honored to serve alongside her here in the Senate, to offer her advice when I could and even lend staff assistance. In the year that has followed, I have been proud to work with her, nominating and confirming historic judicial nominees to the Federal bench, fighting for critical disaster funding for Californians in the relief we just passed a few minutes ago, working to protect and conserve our cherished public lands, and so much more.

Through it all, Senator BUTLER worked to also lift up the voices of all Californians, including through her Youth Advisory Council, empowering young Californians to get involved in the civic process.

So, Senator BUTLER, let the RECORD reflect that it has been an honor to serve alongside you these past 14 months. While we will miss you here in the U.S. Senate, I know that your work is far from over and that our partnership will continue. I have no doubt that I will see you in the trenches.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. PADILLA. Madam 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.

### ARMS SALES NOTIFICATIONS

Mr. CARDIN. Madam 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. 25-02, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Republic of Korea for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$6.2 billion. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,  
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-02

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: Republic of Korea.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:  
Major Defense Equipment\* \$2.6 billion.  
Other \$3.6 billion.  
Total \$6.2 billion.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: The Republic of Korea has requested to buy equipment and services to upgrade its F-15K aircraft fleet, including: Major Defense Equipment (MDE): Ninety-six (96) Advanced Display Core Processor II (ADCP II) mission system computers.

Seventy (70) AN/APG-82(v)1 Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radars.  
Seventy (70) AN/ALQ-250 Eagle Passive Active Warning Survivability System (EPAWSS) electronic warfare (EW) suites.  
Seventy (70) AN/AAR-57 Common Missile Warning Systems (CMWS).

Non-Major Defense Equipment: The following non-MDE items will also be included: Joint Mission Planning Systems (JMPS) with unique planning components; Computer Program Identification Numbers (CPINs); Joint Helmet Mounted Cueing Systems; major modifications and maintenance support; aircraft components, parts, and accessories; spare parts, consumables, accessories, and repair and return support; training aids and devices; weapons software and software support; classified and unclassified software delivery and support; classified and unclassified publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; aerial refueling support; aircraft ferry and transportation support; facilities and construction support; studies and surveys; 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 (KS-D-QHE).

(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: November 19, 2024.

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

#### POLICY JUSTIFICATION

##### Republic of Korea—F-15K Aircraft Upgrade

The Republic of Korea has requested to buy equipment and services to upgrade its F-15K aircraft fleet, including ninety-six (96) Advanced Display Core Processor II (ADCP II) mission system computers; seventy (70) AN/APG-82(v)1 Active Electronically Scanned Arrays (AESA) radars; seventy (70) AN/ALQ-250 Eagle Passive Active Warning Survivability System (EPAWSS) electronic warfare (EW) suites; and seventy (70) AN/AAR-57 Common Missile Warning Systems (CMWS). The following non-MDE items will also be included: Joint Mission Planning Systems (JMPS) with unique planning components; Computer Program Identification Numbers (CPINs); Joint Helmet Mounted Cueing Systems; major modifications and maintenance support; aircraft components, parts, and accessories; spare parts, consumables, accessories, and repair and return support; training aids and devices; weapons software and software support; classified and unclassified software delivery and support; classified and unclassified publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; aerial refueling support; aircraft ferry and transportation support; facilities and construction support; studies and surveys; 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 \$6.2 billion.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a major ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in the Indo-Pacific region.

This proposed sale will improve the Republic of Korea's capability to meet current and future threats by increasing its critical air defense capability to deter aggression in the region and to ensure interoperability with U.S. forces. The Republic of Korea 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 primary contractors will be Boeing Company, based in Arlington, VA; Raytheon Technologies, located in Forest, MS; and BAE Systems, situated in Falls Church, VA. The U.S. Government is not aware of any off-set agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

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

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

#### TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-02

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 AN/APG-82(v)1 is an Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radar up-

grade for the F-15. It includes higher processor power, higher transmission power, more sensitive receiver electronics, and Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR), which creates higher-resolution ground maps from a greater distance than existing mechanically scanned array radars create. The upgrade features an increase in detection range of air targets, increases in processing speed and memory, as well as significant improvements in all modes.

2. The Advanced Display Core Processor II (ADCP II) is the mission processor for the F-15, managing the overall mission functions for the aircraft. The ADCP II controls the aircraft's avionics and provides data for the cockpit displays. It contains multiple core processors enabling rapid processing of data and is connected to aircraft systems by redundant MIL-STD-1553 buses and Ethernet interfaces.

3. The Eagle Passive Active Warning Survivability System (EPAWSS) is an advanced all-digital EW suite which provides the F-15 with fully integrated radar warning, geolocation, situational awareness, and self-protection solutions to detect and defeat surface and airborne legacy, current, and future threats in highly contested, dense signal environments. EPAWSS is equipped with advanced radio frequency (RF) electronic countermeasures (ECM), enabling deeper penetration against modern integrated air defense systems and providing rapid response capabilities designed to protect the aircrew.

4. The AN/AAR-57A Common Missile Warning System (CMWS) is the detection component of the suite of countermeasures designed to increase survivability of current generation combat aircraft and specialized special operations aircraft against the threat posed by infrared guided missiles.

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

6. 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.

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

8. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Republic of Korea.

#### ARMS SALES NOTIFICATIONS

Mr. CARDIN. Madam 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. 24-119, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Ukraine for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$100 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,  
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-119

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 Ukraine.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment\* \$0.

Other \$100 million.

Total \$100 million.

Funding Source: Foreign Military Financing.

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

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.

Non-MDE: Equipment and services for refurbishment of vehicles; technical assistance; training; publications; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (UP-B-UCZ).

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

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

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: None.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: November 19, 2024.

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

#### POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Ukraine—Blanket Order Sustainment of U.S. Army Supplied Systems

The Government of Ukraine has requested to buy equipment and services for refurbishment of vehicles; technical assistance; training; publications; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$100 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a partner country that is a force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

Ukraine has an urgent need to strengthen local sustainment capabilities to maintain high operational rates for U.S.-provided vehicles and weapon systems. This sustainment support will directly contribute to battlefield effectiveness, overall operational rates, logistics, and reduction of financial burdens as a result of a more resilient and rapid repair cycle.