

Funding Source: National Funds.

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

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): Two thousand (2,000) Advanced Precision Kill Weapon Systems (APKWS).

Non-Major Defense Equipment: The following non-MDE items will be included: APKWS spare parts; support equipment; missile software; training; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (SI-P-AAA).

(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: March 20, 2025.

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—Advanced Precision Kill Weapon Systems

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has requested to buy two thousand (2,000) Advanced Precision Kill Weapon Systems (APKWS). The following non-MDE items will be included: APKWS spare parts; support equipment; missile software; training; 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 \$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 the Gulf Region.

The proposed sale will improve the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's capability to meet current and future threats and give it the ability to precisely engage targets with much less risk of collateral damage than other guided missile systems. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia 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 BAE Systems, Inc., located in Falls Church, VA. At this time, the U.S. Government is not aware of any offset agreement proposed in connection with this potential sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require the assignment of up to two additional U.S. Government and up to two contractor representatives annually to Saudi Arabia for a duration of one week for program technical support and management oversight.

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

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-124

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 WGU-59/B Advanced Precision Kill Weapon System-II (APKWS-II) All-Up-Round (AUR) (Rotary Wing) and WGU-59A/B APKWS-II AUR (Single Variant) are a design conversion of an unguided Hydra 2.75-inch

rocket with a laser guidance kit to provide precision capability. As a low-cost weapon, it is intended as an inexpensive means to destroy targets while limiting collateral damage. The APKWS consists of an APKWS-II Guidance Section (GS) (Single Variant Block Upgrade (SVBU)) developed by BAE Systems, Inc., a legacy 2.75-inch MK66 Mod 4 Rocket Motor, and the MK-151 or MK-152 High Explosive Warhead.

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

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware or software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia 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.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

TRIBUTE TO CANDACE MCGRAW

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I want to take a moment today to congratulate Candace McGraw, CEO of Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport (CVG), on her upcoming retirement. Candace has been a friend and a leader in northern Kentucky for many years, and I would like to join her family, friends, and colleagues in celebrating her great success.

Over the last decade, CVG has undergone a complete transformation, today a national leader in aviation and e-commerce. Taking the helm in 2011, Candace brought a big vision to the airport, setting it on an upward trajectory right from the start. At a time when technology was rapidly becoming a part of our daily lives, Candace reimagined CVG as a powerhouse for e-commerce, expanding its cargo operations and forging historic partnerships with major shipping companies across the country. Under her leadership, CVG has not only become Kentucky's busiest airport—serving more than 9 million passengers annually—but also one of the fastest growing cargo hubs in the Nation. Candace's leadership proved invaluable during the pandemic when our airports and their workers found themselves right at the center of this unprecedented crisis. As passenger travel ground to a halt, CVG's robust cargo operations kept essential goods on the move all across the Nation. Even amid the challenges of the pandemic, CVG rose to become a vital e-commerce hub, setting records for air cargo and demonstrating the strength and foresight of Candace's vision.

The growth Candace worked so hard to forge at CVG has been a huge source

of strength for communities in northern Kentucky. Under her leadership, the airport has nearly tripled its economic impact, today bringing in over \$10 billion for the local economy. That has meant more jobs, more commerce, and more prosperity for thousands of families across this growing region. Over the years, I have enjoyed partnering with her on my work in the Senate, teaming up to overhaul airport infrastructure and aviation operations in the Commonwealth.

Because of the efforts of Candace and the airport's many dedicated staff, CVG consistently receives national recognition. Skytrax named CVG the Best Regional Airport in North America now eight times under Candace's leadership, and just this year, it earned the title of Best Airport in North America for customer experience by Airports Council International (ACI) World. Today, CVG ranks among the fastest growing airports in the United States. It should also come as no surprise that Candace herself has been widely recognized for her impact on the aviation industry. In 2019, Airport Experience News named her Director of the Year, and last year, she received the Excellence in Visionary Leadership Award from ACI North America.

Beyond her work at CVG, Candace also served her community as chairwoman on the board of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, our State's largest business association. Here, Candace worked hard to improve the business landscape for workers and job creators in the Commonwealth. Fortunately, even as she steps down from this role and her responsibilities at CVG, Candace's experience and leadership will continue to be invaluable assets to the aviation industry at the World Governing Board of Airports Council International, where she serves as the first female chair in the organization's history.

In her retirement, I know that Candace looks forward to spending more time with her husband Joe and their children, time she has certainly earned. I want to thank my friend for her leadership and dedication to CVG and northern Kentucky. Her steady hand has guided the airport through some of its most consequential years, leaving it stronger than ever. When she steps down at the end of June, Candace will leave behind a legacy of innovation, achievement, and extraordinary growth. So I urge my Senate colleagues to join me in celebrating Candace's remarkable career and wishing her the very best in the years ahead.

REMEMBERING KENDOLYN LOUISA HODGES-SIMONS

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise today in pay tribute to the memory of the late Kendolyn Louisa Hodges-Simons, a dedicated public servant and Marylander.

Originally from Brooklyn, Mrs. Hodges-Simons was raised in a loving

household by her parents and grandmothers. After the loss of her father, her mother and grandmother taught her the values of resilience, faith, and commitment to excellence. She carried these values throughout her life and career as a public servant.

Before her career with the government, Mrs. Hodges-Simons excelled academically. She earned a full academic scholarship to Vassar College and graduated with honors. Her passion for justice led her to earn her juris doctor at the University of California, Berkeley School of Law. Mrs. Hodges-Simons followed her pursuit for justice and practiced law as a clerk and as an attorney specializing in telecommunications law.

She continued to use her law degree as a public servant, serving our Nation through her positions at the Federal Communications Commission, the Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority, the Federal Aviation Administration, the District of Columbia's Office of the People's Counsel, and the DC Department of the Environment. Mrs. Hodges-Simons was a champion for strengthening our environmental policies. As chief of the Office of Enforcement and Environmental Justice for the DC Department of the Environment, she advocated for better environmental policies to protect underserved communities.

Mrs. Hodges-Simons was committed to serving her local community as well. She dedicated herself to community service, made a lasting impact as the first PTA president of Ernest Everett Just Middle School, and was an active member of her church, the First Baptist Church of Glenarden.

Mrs. Hodges-Simons' memory is cherished by the many people whose lives she touched, but especially by her family. She is survived by her husband Don; her children Donielle and Kenneth, who is a treasured former member of my Senate staff; her mother Mary; and her sister Karin. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our appreciation to the late Mrs. Hodges-Simons and her family for all she has done for our community and country.

#### TRIBUTE TO MARK SWEENEY

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated public servant and Marylander Mark Sweeney, Principal Deputy Librarian of Congress. With almost 40 years of unwavering service to the Library of Congress, Mr. Sweeney has faithfully served our Nation by preserving our knowledge, history, and culture.

Throughout his distinguished career, Mr. Sweeney served the Library of Congress in multiple positions. He began his career at the Library in 1985 as a Library technician. His hard work, expertise, and dedication led to multiple promotions, including to Chief of the Preservation Reformatting Division, Chief of the Humanities and Social Sciences Division, and the Library's Director of Preservation.

Throughout his career, Mr. Sweeney's dedication to preserving and enhancing knowledge strengthened the experiences of visitors to the Library of Congress. As Principal Deputy Librarian of Congress, he envisioned the Library's first user-centered strategic plan and contributed to the implementation of the Visitor Experience Master Plan.

In addition, through Mr. Sweeney's leadership and support, access to our Nation's historical newspapers increased, conserving our history and culture. As the Library's technical adviser to the U.S. Newspaper Program, Mr. Sweeney contributed to the locating, preservation, cataloging, and dissemination of newspapers from the 18th century to the present that were published in the United States. In addition, Mr. Sweeney guided and supported the Library's team for the National Digital Newspaper Program to strengthen access to newspapers through technology. Mr. Sweeney's leadership also extends past the Library of Congress; his efforts to increase the accessibility of America's history and culture have been used as a model throughout our Nation to better the conservation of newspapers.

I commend Mr. Sweeney for his remarkable commitment to preserving our Nation's history and strengthening accessibility to sources of knowledge. His legacy is one of drive, passion, and encouragement of his colleagues and many others. I congratulate and thank Mr. Sweeney for his dedication to our Nation. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him and wishing him a well-earned, enjoyable, and fulfilling retirement.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Hanley, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE DESIGNATION AS EMERGENCY REQUIREMENTS 16 APPROPRIATIONS (INCLUDING THE TRANSFER AND REPURPOSING OF FUNDS) SO DESIGNATED BY THE CONGRESS IN THE FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND EXTENSIONS ACT, 2025 ("THE ACT") PURSUANT TO SECTION 251(b)(2)(A) OF THE BALANCED BUDGET AND EMERGENCY DEFICIT CONTROL ACT OF 1985, AS OUTLINED IN THE ENCLOSED LIST OF ACCOUNTS, AND DOES NOT INCLUDE THE REMAINING 11 APPROPRIATIONS—PM 16

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on the Budget:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

In accordance with section 1110 of the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025 (H.R. 1968; the "Act") and the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (BBEDCA), I hereby designate as emergency requirements 16 appropriations (including the transfer and repurposing of funds) so designated by the Congress in the Act pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of BBEDCA, as outlined in the enclosed list of accounts.

My designation does not include the remaining 11 appropriations—totaling nearly \$3 billion—that were improperly designated by the Congress as emergency in the Act that stem from the June 2023 side deal with the Democrats to evade the spending caps signed into law, and I do not concur that the added spending is truly for emergency needs.

The details of this action are set forth in the enclosed memorandum from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

DONALD J. TRUMP.

THE WHITE HOUSE, March 24, 2025.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-490. A communication from the Associate General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs, Department of Agriculture, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-491. A communication from the Associate General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics, Department of