

system with similar or advanced capabilities.

6. A determination has been made that Australia 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.

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

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. 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. JAMES E. RISCH,
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. 0A-25. 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 20-83 of November 3, 2020.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 0A-25

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

(i) Purchaser: Government of Romania
(ii) Sec. 36(B)(5)(A), AECA Transmittal No: 20-83; Date: November 3, 2020; Implementing Agency: Air Force.

(iii) Description: On November 3, 2020, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 20-83 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of upgrades to the avionics, software, communication equipment, navigational aids, and cockpit of its Mid-Life Update (MLU) Block 15 F-16 aircraft fleet along with additional logistics support. Included in the aircraft modernization were eight (8) LN-260 Global Positioning System (GPS) and nineteen (19) Multifunctional Information Distribution System Joint Tactical Radio Systems (MIDS JTRS). Also in-

cluded were AN/APX-126 Advanced Identification Friend or Foe (IFF); ARC-210 Radios; KIV-78 Cryptographic Appliances; other secure communications, navigation, and encryption devices; Joint Mission Planning System (JMPS) software; aircraft minor modification, integration and test support, support equipment, software and software support; personnel training; spare and repair parts; publications and technical documentation; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistical support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated total cost was \$175.4 million. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$12.1 million of this total.

This transmittal reports the inclusion of the following additional MDE items: thirty-five (35) Multifunctional Information Distribution System Joint Tactical Radio Systems Variant 5 (MIDS JTRS V5). Also included is additional non-MDE aircraft minor modification; integration and test support; support equipment; software and software support; personnel training; spare and repair parts; publications and technical documentation; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total value of the new items is \$13.4 million. The estimated MDE value increases by \$9.8 million to a revised \$21.9 million. The estimated non-MDE value increases by \$3.6 million to a revised \$166.9 million. The estimated total case value increases by \$13.4 million, resulting in a total case value of \$188.8 million.

(iv) Significance: This notification is being provided because the additional MDE items were not enumerated in the original notification. The inclusion of this MDE represents an increase in capability over what was previously notified. The proposed sale will improve Romania's capability to meet current and future threats by upgrading its avionics to meet interoperability requirements for encrypted communications systems used by NATO forces.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a NATO Ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology:

The Sensitivity of Technology Statement contained in the original notification applies to 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: April 9, 2025.

NOMINATION OF SEAN PLANKEY

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I must object to the Senate proceeding to the nomination of Sean Plankey of Pennsylvania, to be Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), Department of Homeland Security.

Since July 2022, I have repeatedly urged CISA to release an important, unclassified report by independent cybersecurity experts that the Agency commissioned, titled "U.S. Telecommunications Insecurity 2022." Congress and the American people have a right to read this report, and until CISA releases it, I must object to this nomination.

CISA permitted my staff to read the report in person at the Agency's office in the fall of 2023. However, CISA has marked this unclassified report "For Official Use Only" and has refused to provide copies of the report to Congress and in response to FOIA requests from the public. I directly asked then-CISA Director Jen Easterly to release the report in a February 27, 2024, phone call; however, she continued to stonewall my requests until she left office in January 2025.

CISA has to date refused to release the report by making a claim that the report is predecisional and deliberative and protected by a so-called "deliberative process privilege." Setting aside that a FOIA exemption does not apply to disclosures to Congress, based on my staff's review of this report, this report is a technical document containing factual information about U.S. telecom security. The report does not recommend or discuss specific policy options that CISA could take to address this threat. As such, this report contains important factual information that the public has a right to see and CISA should stop withholding the entire report under a purported "deliberative process privilege" claim.

On February 29, 2024, I wrote to then-President Biden, urging the administration to take action to address the serious national security threat posed by foreign governments exploiting U.S. phone carriers' weak cybersecurity. In that letter to then-President Biden, I stated that "CISA is actively hiding information about [the threat] from the American people . . . CISA refuses to publicly release this unclassified report, which includes details that are relevant to policymakers and Americans who care about the security of their phones." The Biden administration took no action in response to my letter.

CISA's inaction on telecommunications security prompted the Agency's top telecommunications security expert to file a whistleblower report with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in the summer of 2024. Citing his access to nonpublic reports and other "very concerning information," the CISA official told the FCC that "there have been numerous incidents of successful, unauthorized attempts to access the network user location data of communications service providers operating in the USA." He added that foreign surveillance went beyond location tracking and included "the monitoring of voice and text messages" and "the delivery of spyware to targeted devices."

CISA's multiyear cover up of the phone companies' negligent cybersecurity has real consequences. In a November 2024 joint statement, CISA and the Federal Bureau of Investigation confirmed that the Chinese Government hacked "multiple telecommunications companies to enable the theft of customer call records data, the compromise of private communications of

a limited number of individuals who are primarily involved in government or political activity, and the copying of certain information that was subject to U.S. law enforcement requests pursuant to court orders.” Vice President Vance subsequently revealed that his communications and those of President Trump were compromised in this hack. This espionage incident, and the harm to U.S. national security caused by it, were the direct result of U.S. phone carriers’ failure to follow cybersecurity best practices, such as installing security updates and using multifactor authentication, and Federal Agencies failing to hold these companies accountable.

The Federal Government still does not require U.S. phone companies to meet minimum cybersecurity standards. While it is too late to prevent the Salt Typhoon hack, there is still time to prevent the next incident. As such, I intend to object to considering this nominee until CISA agrees to release this report, which will enable Congress and the public to better understand the current threats and the need for stronger cyber defenses.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HAWAII

• Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, in June, we will welcome Hawaii businesses and entrepreneurs to Washington, DC, for the ninth annual “Hawaii on the Hill,” an event for local businesses to showcase their products and hear from government leaders about the issues affecting their lives. Now in our ninth year, I am grateful for the continued partnership with the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii, specifically President Sherry Menor-McNamara and her team, to ensure another successful event this year. Since 2014, our work together has brought dozens of local businesses to Washington, DC, and attracted thousands of participants. We expect to have another successful event this year.

Every year, the event is special. But this year’s event is particularly special because it also marks the 175th anniversary of the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii, which was originally formed in 1850. With the 175th anniversary in mind, I would like to reflect on the history of the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii and the important impact it has had on our State.

In 1849, following an increase in trade between the Kingdom of Hawaii and the United States, Honolulu businesses experienced a period of significant growth. The following year, after King Kamehameha III declared Honolulu to be the capital of the kingdom, the Hawaii Chamber of Commerce was formed.

In its early years, the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii worked to facilitate improvements to business and govern-

ment operations, including through reports on business imports and exports, the creation of an immigration society, and the installation of lights in Honolulu Harbor. At the turn of the century, the chamber expanded its work to address public health issues through a public health committee, an anti-mosquito league, a tuberculosis association, a cancer society, and a mental health association. Its efforts through these organizations played a significant role in reducing infectious and other diseases to the point that the State experienced a 43 percent improvement in disease control and a 20 percent increase in health education by 1935. Perhaps most notably, the chamber was responsible for creating the Blood Bank of Hawaii, which subsequently saved many lives after the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941.

Following the war, as Hawaii grappled with the question of full representation within the United States, the chamber played a substantial role in advocating for statehood which, as we know, was approved on August 21, 1959. After Hawaii became the 50th State in 1959, the chamber worked to reinvent itself. Many services previously provided by the chamber were now under the jurisdiction of the State. The chamber therefore refocused its efforts on promoting the interests of businesses, especially in legislative and governmental affairs. Today, the chamber continues to play this role through forums like Hawaii on the Hill’s policy summit, which has become a key component of the event.

Without a doubt, the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii has played a significant role in the history of our State. It is responsible for many of the important developments that have led us to where we are and has had a positive impact on the State. So today, we recognize the chamber for its long history and thank it for its continued partnership on efforts like Hawaii on the Hill.

Mahalo to Sherry and her team for continuing to uphold the legacy of the chamber.●

TRIBUTE TO MOST REVEREND JOSEPH F. NAUMANN

• Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the Most Reverend Joseph F. Naumann for his extraordinary service and leadership. For over 20 years, Archbishop Naumann has guided the archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas with unwavering faith, wisdom, and compassion. Shepherding Catholics across 21 counties, he has fortified faith in our communities, strengthened family life, and provided generous care for the poor and underprivileged in northeast Kansas.

Ordained as a priest on May 24, 1975, Archbishop Naumann has dedicated his life to the Catholic Church, serving as a parish pastor, vicar general, and auxiliary bishop of St. Louis. He succeeded Archbishop James Keleher on January 15, 2005, becoming the spiritual leader of Kansas City’s Catholic community.

Archbishop Naumann’s episcopal motto, *Vitae Victoria erit*—“Life will be victorious”—serves as a testament to his ministry. Championing the dignity of life as a primary mission of his ministry, Archbishop Naumann has worked hard to protect the most vulnerable Kansans. Under his leadership, the archdiocese sponsored and expanded numerous programs providing spiritual, emotional, and financial support for expecting mothers and young families across northeast Kansas. His commitment to life is further demonstrated through his service as chairman of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

As Archbishop Naumann embarks on his retirement after two decades of remarkable service to the archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas, we commend him for his dedication and extend our prayers and gratitude towards him. His legacy serves as an example of what it means to be a faithful servant and follower of Christ and will have a lasting impact on Kansas for generations to come.

I now ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Most Reverend Joseph F. Naumann and in expressing our gratitude for all he has done for northeast Kansas.●

RECOGNIZING MISSOURI’S DISASTER RESPONSE TEAMS

• Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the remarkable spirit of service and tireless work demonstrated by first responders, utility lineworkers, emergency response personnel, and remarkable volunteers across Missouri in their heroic work responding to the devastating storms that have hit Missouri over the past month.

Time and again, our first responders have put their lives on the line to guarantee that all Missourians receive the best possible service and have gone above and beyond to protect our fellow citizens in times of crisis. To our State’s peace officers, firefighters, and medical response personnel, thank you.

Similarly, Missouri’s utility workers have more than risen to the occasion over the last few weeks. Regardless of outdoor conditions, the Show Me State’s lineworkers have consistently demonstrated courage and a remarkable drive to serve our fellow Missourians. They have worked tirelessly to restore vital infrastructure and guarantee that all Missourians have access to the key services they need. To our State’s utility workers, thank you.

And to Missouri’s selfless volunteers, community organizations, and support crews who have traveled from other States to aid in Missouri’s disaster recovery, know that your work has not gone unnoticed. I am deeply grateful for your noble commitment to provide for impacted families and communities across the State. All of you exemplify the principle of citizen leadership that has made our republic great, and you are truly Heartland Heroes.●