

Funding Source: National Funds and Foreign Military Financing.

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

Major Defense Equipment:

One (1) AN/MPQ-65 Configuration 3+ Increment 3 radar set.

One (1) AN/MSQ-132 Engagement Control Station.

Two (2) M903 launching stations.

One (1) Electrical Power Plant (EPP) III.

Non-Major Defense Equipment: The following non-MDE items will also be included: launching station modification kits; PATRIOT Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3) Missile Segment Enhancement launcher conversion kit; generators; generator spare parts; prime movers; spare parts for prime movers; KG-250X encryptor; AN/TPX-57v1 identification friend or foe (IFF); KIV-77 encryptor; personnel communication equipment training; Defense Advanced Global Positioning Systems Receivers (DAGRs); U.S. Government and contractor representative technical assistance; engineering and logistics support services; publications and technical documentation; classified software; classified books and publications; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (RO-B-UHD).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: RO-B-UEM.

(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: April 28, 2025.

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Romania—PATRIOT Air Defense System

The Government of Romania has requested to buy one (1) AN/MPQ-65 Configuration 3+ Increment 3 radar set; one (1) AN/MSQ-132 Engagement Control Station; two (2) M903 launching stations; and one (1) Electrical Power Plant (EPP) III. The following non-MDE items will also be included: launching station modification kits; PATRIOT Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3) Missile Segment Enhancement launcher conversion kit; generators; generator spare parts; prime movers; spare parts for prime movers; KG-250X encryptor; AN/TPX-57v1 identification friend or foe (IFF); KIV-77 encryptor; personnel communication equipment training; Defense Advanced Global Positioning Systems Receivers (DAGRs); U.S. Government and contractor representative technical assistance; engineering and logistics support services; publications and technical documentation; classified software; classified books and publications; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$280 million.

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 an important force for political and economic stability in Europe.

The proposed sale will improve Romania's capability to meet current and future threats by enabling it to field a credible force to deter adversaries and support its participation in NATO operations. Romania 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 contractors will be RTX Corporation, located in Andover, MA, and Lock-

heed Martin, located in Bethesda, MD. 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 approximately five U.S. Government and five U.S. contractor representatives to travel to Romania for a duration of up to three years to support equipment fielding and training.

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

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-19

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/MPQ-65 Configuration 3+ Increment 3 PATRIOT radar set (RS) consists of a multifunction phased-array radar mounted on a semitrailer. The RS is powered by the Electric Power Plant (EPP) and monitored and controlled by the Engagement Control Station (ECS). The AN/MPQ-65 RS provides airspace surveillance, detection, target tracking, identification, missile tracking, missile guidance, and electronic counter-countermeasures. It has the capability to track a wide variety of targets under saturation raid conditions and support the simultaneous operation of multiple PATRIOT missiles to defend against a threat.

2. The AN/MSQ-132 Configuration 3+ Increment 3 ECS provides operational control of the PATRIOT Fire Unit (FU). The ECS exchanges FU initialization data, defense readiness conditions, states of alert, target evaluation data, engagement-related data, and ECS status with the Information and Coordination Central.

3. The M903 LS is a mobile tactical unit that transports, aims, and launches the PATRIOT Guidance Enhanced Missile (GEM-T) and PATRIOT Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3) missiles. The LS is controlled from the Engagement Control Station (ECS) via the Data Link Terminal network.

4. The Power Generation Equipment Electric Power Plant (EPP) III provides tactical power for the ECS and RS. The EPP consists of two 15-kilowatt generator sets which are interconnected through the power distribution unit.

5. The KG-250X encryptor is a rugged, flexible, low-size, weight, and power (SWAP), highspeed inline network encryptor. It is used to secure sensitive data on military and government networks by encrypting network traffic, allowing for secure communication in high-risk environments.

6. The identification friend or foe (IFF) is an identification system designed for command and control. It enables military and civilian air traffic control interrogation systems to identify aircraft, vehicles, or forces as friendly, and to determine its bearing and range from the interrogator. The AN/TPX-57(V1) with KIV-77 encryptor is an Air Defense Interrogator (ADI) that is used to classify and re-classify targets in IFF systems.

7. The Defense Advanced Global Positioning System (GPS) Receiver (DAGR) is a small, commercial, NAVSTAR GPS receiver designed for military operations. The Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM) is a security device controlling the encryption that enables Precise Positioning Service (PPS) Y-code signals from GPS satellites and resists adversary attempts to spoof GPS signals. The DAGR with SAASM will provide position and location information necessary for ground-based operation. The DAGR has a graphical screen, 12-channel

continuous satellite tracking, simultaneous L1/L2 dual frequency GPS signal reception, and extended performance in a diverse jamming environment.

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

9. 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 system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

10. A determination has been made that Romania 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.

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

TRIBUTE TO NOEL SIMPSON

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Noel Simpson, senior director of the Rhode Island Student Loan Authority (RISLA), on his upcoming retirement and thank him for his more than three decades of service dedicated to Rhode Island students, families, and educators.

Noel joined RISLA as a consultant in 1993. At the time, Noel was one of just the handful of employees managing the duties of the organization. Over the next several years, Noel led the rapid expansion of RISLA, developing a full team of professional staff and allowing the organization to become a leading voice on student loans and financial services in Rhode Island. As RISLA grew, Noel's career did as well, with Noel rising through the ranks and being named chief financial officer, deputy director, and eventually senior director.

For the last 25 years, I have been proud to team up with Noel and RISLA to host our annual "Financial Aid Nights." These workshops are dedicated to giving college-bound students and families a chance to learn firsthand from student aid experts about how to access financial aid opportunities for college. Students learn about financial aid eligibility criteria and the application process, such as completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The goal of this workshop is to educate students who need help paying for college, helping students navigate complicated and unfamiliar financial decisions. Noel has regularly served as moderator for these sessions, sharing his deep expertise and enthusiasm for student aid and financial literacy and making higher education more accessible.

Indeed, Noel has been instrumental in bringing a variety of resources to college hopeful students throughout the Ocean State. For many years, Noel brought College Planning Sunday to Rhode Island, where high school seniors gathered to learn about how to

apply for financial aid. Noel also spearheaded the creation of RISLA's College Planning Center, a free service that works directly with thousands of students to guide them through the college application process, including everything from writing a strong essay to selecting a college that best fits their goals. As the father of a high school senior, I can personally attest to the invaluable service the College Planning Center provides.

Today, RISLA helps thousands of Rhode Islanders plan for and finance college, a number that has grown exponentially under Noel's leadership. His dedication has opened the door of higher education for a generation of Rhode Islanders. That is a legacy that has made a difference for our State and for students and families.

I join so many of Noel's colleagues and peers in thanking him for his friendship and kindness and in wishing him a happy and healthy retirement, filled with new adventures, in the company of his wife Patti and their children. He has earned it.

RECOGNIZING THE ROBERT J. DOLE VA MEDICAL CENTER AND THE CITY OF WICHITA

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President. I rise today to recognize the Robert J. Dole VA Medical Center and the city of Wichita for their exceptional commitment to providing world-class healthcare to our Nation's veterans.

Recently, Wichita was recognized as the top city in the Nation for veterans' healthcare. This recognition highlights the unwavering dedication of the staff of the Robert J. Dole VA Medical Center and city leadership in delivering accessible, high-quality, and compassionate healthcare to those who served our country.

For the second year in a row, the Dole VA received the maximum 5-star rating from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services—a remarkable achievement that places the Dole VA in the top 8 percent of hospitals nationwide. This 5-star rating highlights the Dole VA's commitment to not only meet but exceed the standards of the healthcare industry.

In addition to the 5-star rating, the Dole VA ranked first among 132 VA hospitals nationwide for access to specialty care. It offers the shortest average wait time in the country for existing patients to see a cardiologist—just 3.8 days. The Dole VA also ranks second in the Nation for both routine specialty care access, at 95 percent, and urgent specialty care access, at 90 percent. Additionally, it holds the third-shortest wait time for new patients seeking pulmonology services. These accomplishments are a testament to the outstanding leadership and the tireless dedication of the staff at the Dole VA.

The city of Wichita is also playing a vital role in providing care for our Nation's veterans, particularly in the

area of mental health. Wichita ranks fifth in the Nation for access to mental health services, offering the seventh shortest average wait time for existing patients to access care—just 0.3 days—and the ninth shortest for new patients, at only 1.4 days. Additionally, Wichita ranks sixth nationally in overall hospital care quality and holds the eighth shortest wait time for existing patients seeking primary care. These distinctions reflect a city deeply committed to ensuring those in need receive the high-quality healthcare necessary.

As a country, we owe a great debt to those who served, and the Dole VA and the city of Wichita are setting the standard for how that debt should be paid. I now ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the Robert J. Dole VA Medical Center and the city of Wichita for these exceptional achievements. Furthermore, I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking the dedicated healthcare workforce in Wichita for their unwavering commitment to serving those who have worn the uniform.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING MIKE MOLSTEAD MOTORS

• Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Mike Molstead Motors of Charles City, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 1982, while attending the University of Northern Iowa and playing football, Mike Molstead began selling cars at a local dealership in Cedar Falls, IA. He worked his way up to general sales manager before deciding to open his own dealership. In 1995, encouraged by his wife Paula and with the financial backing of two friends, Mike opened Mike Molstead Motors in Charles City, IA, and purchased the entire business within a year. In the early days of operation, Molstead Motors primarily sold General Motors cars, but in 1997, the dealership outgrew its downtown location and moved to the outskirts of Charles City to make room for Chevrolet, Buick, and Cadillac vehicles. In 2012, shortly after an expansion to sell Ford vehicles, Mike acquired a neighboring Chrysler dealership and opened a second location across the street. In 2021, the growing business further expanded its lineup by adding GMC trucks to the new Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, and Ram center.

Today, Mike Molstead Motors continues to operate from two locations in Charles City and employs over 75 loyal team members across three core divisions: sales, service and parts, and detailing. The business's emphasis on

real-time market pricing and personalized financing, in addition to top-tier auto repair and detail servicing, cemented the dealership's positive reputation across Iowa. Today, Mike's sons have stepped up to take part in the family business. Jordan and Josh serve as vice presidents of the company, Jackson works as a sales manager, and Jared—alongside his wife Kelly—leads the business development center.

Beyond the business, Mike Molstead Motors maintains a strong presence in the greater Charles City area. As a former football and basketball coach at the local high school, Mike is proud to have contributed over \$400,000 to Charles City schools over the years, including a \$150,000 donation to complete a new gym at Charles City Middle School. Mike Molstead Motors also recently collaborated with other local businesses to donate over \$36,000 to the Charles City Police Department to purchase specialized ballistic equipment, in addition to frequently loaning cars to local law enforcement for canine training sessions. In recent years, the business has partnered with the Waterloo Black Hawks for Hockey Fights Cancer Night, donating over \$10,000 to the American Cancer Society this past February. The dealership regularly hosts fundraisers like Ford Drive 4 UR School and participates in community associations, including the Charles City Chamber of Commerce, the Charles City Area Development Corporation, and the Charles City Lions Club. In 2023, CarGurus named Mike Molstead Motors a Top-Rated Dealer and awarded the dealership with their third Customer First Award for Excellence. In 2021, TIME Magazine named Mike as a top five national finalist for the TIME Dealer of the Year award.

The entrepreneurial drive and commitment to community demonstrated by Mike Molstead Motors is clear. As they celebrate their 30th anniversary this year, I want to congratulate the Molstead family and the entire team at Mike Molstead Motors for their hard work and leadership in both business and service. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success.●

RECOGNIZING WILTON CANDY KITCHEN

• Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Wilton Candy Kitchen of Wilton, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

After attending Iowa's Wilton Fair, Gus Nopoulos and his friend inquired about renting the recently closed confectionery that still housed a soda fountain and its original fixtures. Shortly thereafter, Gus opened the Candy Kitchen on June 10, 1910, delighting customers with Cherry Cokes,