

progress in Europe. The proposed sale will improve Belgium's capability to meet current and future threats by maintaining its F-16 and F-35 fleets in combat-ready status and providing a credible deterrent to regional threats.

(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: October 3, 2025.

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)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 25-0M. 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 24-60 of September 24, 2024.

Sincerely,

MARY BETH MORGAN
(for Michael F. Miller, Director).

Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-0M

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

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Iraq.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No: 24-60; Date: September 24, 2024; Military Department: Navy.

Funding Source: Foreign Military Financing.

(iii) Description: On September 24, 2024, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 24-60 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of the follow-on technical support (FOTS) for Iraq's vessel maintenance and repair (VMR) program, which may include ship repair; maintenance; sustainment; support services; repair; upgrades; overhaul services; associated labor

and support; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services of off-shore vessels, patrol boats and defenders of U.S. origin; fuel for quarterly trilateral exercises; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost was \$65 million. There was no Major Defense Equipment (MDE) associated with this sale.

This transmittal notifies the addition of the following non-MDE items: continued follow-on technical support (FOTS) for Iraq's vessel maintenance and repair program, including off-shore vessels, patrol boats, and defenders; all shore ship repair, maintenance, sustainment, support services, repairs, upgrades, overhaul services, associated labor, and support for vessels of U.S. origin in the Iraq Navy fleet; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost of the new non-MDE items is \$135 million. The estimated non-MDE and total case values will increase by \$135 million to a revised \$200 million. There is no MDE associated with this potential sale.

(iv) Significance: The proposed sale will improve Iraq's ability to meet current and future threats by enhancing the strength of its homeland defense.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a strategic partner.

(vi) Date Report Delivered to Congress: October 3, 2025.

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

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW ENGLAND COUNCIL

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, in 1925, business and government leaders from throughout New England came together in Poland Springs, ME, to develop a strategy to reverse the decline in our traditional industries and our communities. Today, we celebrate a century of accomplishments by the New England Council to foster prosperity and opportunity.

When Captain John Smith explored our rugged coast more than 400 years ago, he wrote in his journal that settling this untamed region would take, "the best parts of art, judgment, courage, honesty, constancy, diligence, and industry." I know of no better description of the spirit that guides the New England Council. Congratulations and happy birthday.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW ENGLAND COUNCIL

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the New England Council, which was founded in September 1925 when the six Governors of New England gathered with business leaders in Poland Spring, ME, to better collaborate across our region's shared and intimately intertwined economic interests. Shortly after, the New England Council was founded as a nonpartisan and non-profit entity to facilitate this work. For 100 years now, the council has been an indispensable partner advocating for the New England region.

The New England States—our economies, culture, and interests—have been

interconnected since before the founding of our Nation. While we may have much in common, our States are often considered the most "independent-minded" states. At one time, this tendency may have predisposed our States to chart our own paths forward and work fervently to protect our individual interests. Indeed, this history of self-governance and independence led directly to the events that founded the United States and laid the foundation for the principles of the Nation that we cherish. Now, and for the past 100 years, the New England Council has helped carry our region's independent spirit forward by bringing our States' interests together and helping ensure that New England is heard on the ever-changing national stage.

To be sure, the New England Council's ability to be a convener of political leaders—on both sides of the aisle—business leaders, nonprofits, and academic and health institutions sets the council apart from many of its peers. Its ability to do so comes from the council's reputation as a non-partisan, fact-driven organization that represents many diverse viewpoints embedded across our staunchly independent States. That is to say: when the Council speaks as one, we know the issue reflects consensus and is in service to its mission to promote New England's economic growth and safeguard a high quality of life for all New Englanders.

The council's mission becomes even greater in times of turbulence. Whether during shared national struggles, like World War II or the COVID-19 pandemic, or in times of sharp political debate, our region's shared economic interests become more pronounced. In these times, the council does more than bring people together and advocate for solutions; it amplifies the voice of a region. This ability again relies on its ironclad nonpartisan reputation. Because it is so well regarded, the council can ensure that all New Englanders, even those who may not be politically well connected, can be heard by their representatives and the Federal Government. That means that when the national environment is loud, when there are many different stakeholders making their perspectives clear, the New England Council can definitively speak in one voice to ensure that our region's priorities break through the noise.

On behalf of Rhode Island, I want to congratulate the New England Council, president and CEO Jim Brett, the entire board of directors, and all its members on a well-earned centennial. From working to address our region's housing shortage and infrastructure challenges to advocating for reliable and affordable energy, thank you for a century of working to advance Rhode Island's and New England's economic interests.

TRIBUTE TO ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. President, as the junior Senator from the great State of South Carolina, it is my honor to recognize His All Holiness Bartholomew, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople. Throughout his life, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has embodied the values of faith, justice, and unity, offering an inspiring example of what it means to lead with conviction and humility. His ministry has encouraged many around the world to pursue peace and to live lives grounded in purpose and hope.

Each year, I host the South Carolina Prayer Breakfast, a nonpartisan, multi-faith gathering where South Carolinians come together to reflect on our shared values and the vital role faith plays in public life. This tradition reminds us that, even in challenging times, faith has the power to unite communities, to heal division, and to call us toward reconciliation and renewal. That same spirit is at the heart of Patriarch Bartholomew's life and ministry. His steadfast call for dialogue, compassion, and reconciliation speaks directly to the challenges we face today as we work to remain one Nation under God.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew for his tireless efforts and leadership to build bridges of understanding across nations and faiths. May his example continue to inspire us to live with courage, to serve with compassion, and to remain committed to the good of our country and the world.

TRIBUTE TO RONNA ERIN BECKMANN

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, it is with great pride and gratitude that I rise to celebrate the public service career of Ms. Ronna Erin Beckmann, who is departing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, after 21 years of service in congressional and inter-governmental relations, first at EPA Headquarters in Washington, DC, and then at the EPA Region 5 headquarters in Chicago, IL.

Ronna's dedication to EPA's mission, her extensive experience, and deep expertise was always evident in her ability to carry out meaningful, and often complex, engagement with diverse communities and congressional offices across the six States, including my State of Illinois, as well as Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Ohio, Michigan, and 37 Tribes.

Ronna shepherded our offices through endless challenges, such as devastating floods in East St. Louis and Cahokia Heights, IL, and the train derailment in East Palestine, OH, to comprehensive lead abatement and major regulatory milestones that helped protect the health of our residents.

Ronna handled each situation with incredible care, tailored to the specific needs of the unique issue and area. Ronna has always gone far above what was required of her, including attending endless community events and meeting with our offices weekly to ensure the people of Illinois felt seen, informed, and protected.

Simply put, Ronna's work changed people's lives, and because of her dedication and service, the people of Illinois and the entire Region 5 are closer to achieving our ultimate goal of ensuring environmental justice for all.

My staff and I cannot thank her enough for helping us fulfill our constitutional responsibility to oversee, and work with, EPA to better protect our constituents' public health against dangerous pollutants, toxic exposure, and other environmental harms.

Ronna's dedication, tact, and emotional investment in the Region 5 communities she served will be greatly missed. As an Illinois resident herself, I hope Ronna knows that her character and leadership had untold positive impacts on the people of Illinois and the Nation. I thank her for her over 21 years of dedicated service to EPA and wish her well on her next endeavor.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING STAATS AWARDS

• 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 honor Staats Awards of Henry County, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Founded in 1898 by Mr. E.G. Staats in La Crosse, WI, Staats Awards moved to Mount Pleasant, IA, in 1910 and has since grown from its modest roots into one of the oldest and most respected leaders in creating awards and recognitions. In 1965, it was purchased by James Patten and Bernie Webster. Today, it is proudly owned and operated by Mr. Patten's three daughters; Janine, Tina, and Jamie, who hold a majority stake in the company. The Webster family continues to retain a minority ownership share. What began as a business making braid and trim for band and fraternal uniforms evolved into a full-service recognition company. Staats now offers patterned rosettes, banners, plaques, acrylics, promotional products, imprinted apparel, advertising specialties, and more. Staats Awards' trophies and ribbons are a mainstay at the Iowa State Fair and nationwide at festivals, livestock and horse shows, agribusinesses, schools, corporations, and community events. Guided by the motto "Small Town Values, World Class Quality," Staats and its staff of more than 20 employees combine hard-working Midwestern values with products that rec-

ognize achievement, inspire employees, and promote organizational missions.

In 1939, Staats relocated from its storefront on the Mount Pleasant Square to the former Willowbank School. By 2000, the company had outgrown that space and moved to its current facility in the Crossroads Industrial Park. This modern location allows Staats to meet customer needs with the automated machinery and computer technology necessary to remain competitive in the national market. Even so, Staats continues to handcraft many of their products, which ensures the highest quality at the most affordable price possible. Staats credits its central location and the Midwestern values of its staff for fostering a strong, hard-working, family atmosphere that shines through in their products and services provided to thousands of customers nationwide.

Staats is also deeply involved in their community. They are active members of the Mount Pleasant Chamber of Commerce, an associate member of the Association of Iowa Fairs, and an associate member of the International Association of Fairs and Expos. Staats and its employees regularly give back through initiatives like Random Act of Kindness Day and food donations to the Fellowship Cup, a local nonprofit in Henry County. Beyond these contributions, Staats takes pride in supporting community traditions, local events, and charitable causes that strengthen their community. Their leadership believes that small businesses succeed not only through their products, but also by investing in the people that support them.

Today, it is my honor to recognize the Patten sisters, the entire Staats team, and the generations who came before them for their outstanding work and dedication to their community. I look forward to their continued success and wish them the very best in the years ahead. •

RECOGNIZING 100 YEARS OF NEWBERRY HEALTH

• Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. President, as the junior Senator from the great State of South Carolina, it is my honor to recognize and congratulate Newberry Health on reaching a remarkable milestone: 100 years of dedicated service to the people of Newberry County and the broader South Carolina community.

Since its founding in 1925, Newberry Health has stood as a pillar of excellence. It has evolved from a modest local healthcare provider into a comprehensive medical institution that has touched countless lives throughout the State. Now, for an entire century, this organization has embodied the values of compassion, medical excellence, and unwavering commitment to community health. For decades, the leadership, physicians, nurses, staff, and volunteers have shown a deep dedication