

MEASURE PLACED ON THE EXECUTIVE CALENDAR OVER/UNDER RULE—S. Res. 817

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Mr. President, I send an executive resolution to the desk for the consideration of certain nominations en bloc and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title for the information of the Senate.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

An executive resolution (S. Res. 817) authorizing the en bloc consideration in Executive Session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. In order to place the executive resolution on the calendar, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection having been heard, the executive resolution will lie over 1 day.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume 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.

NOMINATION OF BENJAMIN M. FLOWERS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, yesterday, the Senate voted to confirm Benjamin Flowers to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

Mr. Flowers' record in both government service and private practice reflects his MAGA extremist agenda. He has given us no reason to think he will stop pursuing this agenda once he is on the Federal bench.

During his time as Ohio solicitor general, Mr. Flowers defended Ohio's severe restrictions on a woman's right to choose. Kowtowing to corporate interests, he defended a cap on damages for a victim of child sex abuse.

Mr. Flowers is an election denier. In November 2020, he authored a Supreme Court amicus brief asking the Court to reverse the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's decision that allowed for the counting of absentee ballots received after election day.

Mr. Flowers is currently a partner at a rightwing law firm that he claims can "grow up with the conservative legal movement" following President Trump's election. He has argued against birthright citizenship, demeaned LGBTQ Americans, and claimed that efforts to lower the costs of prescription drugs are unconstitutional.

Mr. Flowers's public commentary reveals his lack of judicial temperament. He has been a frequent speaker for the Federalist Society, and his com-

mentary has been extreme even for conservative legal circles. Mr. Flowers has questioned the need for the Trump administration to follow court orders in public remarks and in his testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee. He has even criticized the landmark bipartisan First Step Act, calling it "terrible policy," implausibly claiming it is unconstitutional, and arguing that Congress should repeal it.

I opposed Mr. Flowers' nomination. And I urged my colleagues to join me in doing so.

TRIBUTE TO TOBY HAUCK RETIREMENT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, being an air traffic controller is a hard, often thankless job. The hours are long, the stakes are astronomically high, and the work is essential to millions of families across America who are anxious to see their loved ones. Today, I would like to salute one of the best who ever served in that critical job: my friend Toby Hauck.

Toby is a veteran. He served 6 years in the U.S. Air Force, following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, both of whom also served in the U.S. military. After Toby left the Air Force, he wanted to find a job that would allow him to continue to serve his country, which led him to the air traffic control. Toby rose through the ranks at air traffic control, eventually becoming president of the Chicago Air Route Traffic Control Center. For 38 years, Toby was responsible for keeping millions of airline passengers—including myself—safe as they flew in and out of Chicago.

With what little free time he had, Toby spent it advocating for his fellow air traffic controllers both in Washington and Illinois as a 28-year member of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association. At NATCA, Toby served as its Illinois State coordinator, where he pushed for better pay, staffing, and benefits for his coworkers. Those at NATCA knew Toby as simply "the Tob"; his colleagues described him as someone who "always makes time for a fist bump and a smile, greeting everyone he sees by name." In May, NATCA awarded Toby the Dale Wright Award for exceptional career service, which speaks not only to his character, but to his reputation nationwide.

I have known Toby for many years. In 2019, he was my guest to the State of the Union, and he has worked diligently with me to try and improve the conditions for air traffic controllers in my State and across the country. As Toby knows, air traffic controllers have too often, and unfairly, been caught in the middle of government shutdowns, forced to continue their work—still understaffed and overworked with the same high stakes—but also with no paycheck. Since I have met Toby, during every shutdown, he has gathered a group of local controllers to share the real-life impacts of

partisan stalemates, which include controllers setting up food pantries for their peers, failing to afford medical treatment for themselves or their families, and struggling to pay their bills. These stories have informed my votes and again highlighted how thankless, yet crucial, the work of a controller is.

Toby is truly the best of the best, and last month, after 38 years of service, he retired from his job as an air traffic controller. While Chicago will certainly miss Toby protecting its skies, I am sure his wife Darla will appreciate having him home. Fortunately, Toby will not be leaving his advocacy for air traffic controllers behind; he will remain working with NATCA in an advocacy role. I hope the whole Senate will join me in thanking Toby for his service and congratulating him and Darla on this milestone.

And there is a large list of air traffic controller priorities that must be tackled—especially at our Nation's and the world's busiest airport, found right at home in Chicago. Last year, more than 850,000 aircraft landed or took off from O'Hare, more than any other airport in the world. O'Hare is central to the national aviation system and is a leading hub for connections. Yet the flight towers that manage its airspace are staffed well below the targets established by both NATCA and the FAA by 25 percent. That means the air traffic controllers who are at these towers are forced to work longer hours and additional shifts, taking a significant toll on their mental health.

In a job that requires split-second and lifesaving decisions, it is dangerous to add more stress and fatigue into the equation. This is why Congress allocated \$22.2 billion for the FAA for fiscal year 2026 to hire an additional 2,500 new air traffic controllers. I urge the FAA to put that investment to good use and prioritize O'Hare as new controllers become trained and as new technology and infrastructure upgrades become available.

Ensuring that there is proper staffing at towers around Chicago will become even more essential as O'Hare nears the completion of its Terminal Area Plan project, which will increase gate capacity at O'Hare by roughly 25 percent. This project was designed to accommodate growth for airlines and ensure that O'Hare remains competitive as a world-class airport for decades to come. I hope the FAA will give full and fair consideration of any requests from O'Hare to assist in this expansion, whether that be via requests for Federal grant funding or FAA resources.

As more Americans take to the skies every day, it is our job in Congress to support the men and women, like Toby, who keep them safe on their journey. Let's show our gratitude to these public servants by ending the understaffing, irregular paychecks, and insufficient workforce investment that have plagued their work for far too long. It is the least we can do for the people who have dedicated their lives to protecting us every time we fly.

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:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, DC.

CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION TRANSMITTAL
LETTER

Please find enclosed the following notification from the Department of State.

Department Notification Number: RSAT 0F-26

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. 0F-26. 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 24-33 of March 12, 2024.

Recipients:

Speaker of the House of Representatives
House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
Sincerely,

KAITLYN WOLFE,
Senior Bureau Official,
Bureau of Legislative Affairs.

TRANSMITTAL NO. RSAT 0F-26

REPORT OF ENHANCEMENT OR UP-
GRADE OF SENSITIVITY OF TECH-
NOLOGY OR CAPABILITY (SEC.
36(B)(5)(A), AECA)

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Poland.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 24-33, Date: March 12, 2024, Implementing Agency: Air Force

Funding Source: National Funds

(iii) Description: On March 12, 2024, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 24-33 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of up to eight hundred twenty-one (821) AGM-158B-2 Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missiles (JASSM) with Extended Range All-Up-Rounds. The following non-major defense equipment (MDE) items were also included: AGM-158 JASSM classified test equipment; weapon system support; integration and test support equipment; classified software delivery and support; unclassified publications and technical documentation; transportation; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The total estimated value was \$1.77 billion. MDE constituted \$1.67 billion of this total.

This transmittal notifies the inclusion of the following MDE items: up to five (5)

AGM-158 inert JASSMs with test instrumentation kits (1 installed, 4 spares). The following non-MDE items will also be included: other related elements of program and logistics support. The estimated total value of the new items is \$21 million but will not require an increase in the estimated total case value. The estimated total value of the new MDE items is \$18 million and does not result in a net increase in total cost of MDE. The estimated total cost of the new non-MDE items is \$3 million and does not result in a net increase in total cost of non-MDE. The estimated total case value of \$1.77 billion will remain unchanged. MDE remains \$1.67 billion of this total.

(iv) Significance: This notification accounts for requested additional MDE and non-MDE items not included in the original notification. The inclusion of this MDE represents an increase in capability over what was previously notified. The proposed articles and services will support Poland's AGM-158 flight test program required for the Poland F-16 Viper configuration upgrade.

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

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology: The flight certification vehicle will be used during flight testing to verify compatibility of the AGM-158 munitions with the F-16 aircraft software under Poland's F-16 Viper upgrade program. The Global Positioning System/Precise Positioning Service is to be provided by either Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module or M-Code.

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

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: July 22, 2026.

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:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, DC.

CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION TRANSMITTAL
LETTER

Please find enclosed the following notification from the Department of State.

Department Notification Number: RSAT 0E-26.

Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are for-

warding Transmittal No. 0E-26. 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 23-33 of July 7, 2023.

Recipients:

Speaker of the House of Representatives
House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
Sincerely,

KAITLYN WOLFE,
Senior Bureau Official,
Bureau of Legislative Affairs.

TRANSMITTAL NO. RSAT 0E-26

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensi-
tivity of Technology or Capability (Sec.
36(B)(5)(A), AECA)

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Sweden.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 23-33; Date: July 7, 2023; Implementing Agency: Air Force.

(iii) Description: On July 7, 2023, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 23-33 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of up to two hundred fifty (250) AIM-120C-8 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM); and up to six (6) AMRAAM C-8 guidance sections. Also included were spare AIM-120 control sections and containers; AMRAAM test set telemetry kits; encryption devices; munitions support and support equipment; classified software delivery and support; spare parts, consumables, and accessories; repair and return support; transportation support; classified publications and technical documentation; studies and surveys; U.S. Government and contractor technical engineering, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated total cost was \$605 million. Major defense equipment (MDE) constituted \$530 million of this total.

This transmittal notifies the following additional MDE items: ten (10) AIM 120C-8 AMRAAM air-instrumented vehicles. The following non-MDE items will also be included: AMRAAM training missiles; KGV-135A encryption devices; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total value of the new items is \$25 million. The estimated total cost of the new MDE items is \$24 million and does not result in a net increase in total cost of MDE. The estimated total MDE cost remains \$530 million. The estimated total cost of the new non-MDE items is \$1 million and does not result in a net increase in total cost of non-MDE. The total non-MDE cost remains \$75 million. The total case value does not increase and remains \$605 million.

(iv) Significance: This notification accounts for requested additional MDE and non-MDE items not included in the original notification. The inclusion of this MDE represents an increase in capability over what was previously notified. The proposed articles and services will support Sweden's capability to meet and deter current and future threats in the region by ensuring Sweden has modern, capable air-to-air munitions. The proposed sale will further advance the Swedish Air Force interoperability with U.S. joint forces and other regional and 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 AIM 120C-8 AMRAAM air-instrumented vehicle is a live launch test vehicle used primarily for flight test integration