

Walker is a graduate of Aberdeen Christian School in Aberdeen, SD. Currently, he is attending Northern State University in Aberdeen, SD, where he is pursuing a degree in history. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Walker for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO TOM McNAMARA

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, each of us serving in the Senate hopes to leave behind some sort of legacy. My own begins with the interns that have passed through my office. Over my four decades in Congress, I have had more than 3,000 interns work for me at one point or another, although my staff are convinced that the true number is even higher. These young people have covered me with glory, and it has been a great privilege to help them get their foot in the door of politics. Today, I would like to recognize one of my former interns, who has made a name for himself in his own right: mayor of Rockford, Tom McNamara.

Tom worked in my office in Washington, DC, in 2005, around the time he completed his undergraduate degree at John Carroll University. He arrived with a strong commitment to public service—a commitment instilled by his parents and honed during his time at school. At John Carroll, Tom volunteered at a correctional facility, where he assisted parolees and probationers who struggled with alcohol and substance use disorder. In between answering phone calls and giving tours of the Capitol, Tom's interest in the criminal justice system only deepened. He contemplated how he could improve the way we treat the incarcerated and how he could make his vision a reality.

After completing his internship, Tom took on a full-time role in my office as a staff assistant. But, in a great loss for my operations, he soon decided that he wanted to continue his education at John Carroll and returned to his alma mater to obtain a master's degree in nonprofit administration. While studying, he simultaneously worked at a nonprofit to help incarcerated individuals reunite with their families and reintegrate into society. But Tom couldn't stay away from Rockford for long. After completing his master's, he moved back to the Forest City to be closer to his family. Upon his return, he immediately plunged himself into a wide array of community service initiatives and began to assist candidates in various political races.

As Tom settled down in Rockford, he increasingly reflected on those who lacked the same opportunity. He could count on his fingers the number of his high school classmates who still lived in Rockford and was worried that this trend would continue unless someone fought to change it. Fortunately, Tom

is not the kind of person to sit on the sidelines. In 2013, he ran to be alderman for Rockford's 3rd Ward, where he ran against a three-term Republican incumbent. Tom won and quickly got to work investing in Rockford. As alderman, Tom led initiatives to revitalize Rockford's housing market and spark new commercial developments across the city. When the city faced a budget crisis in 2017, Tom helped to craft a compromise resolution that spared the city from tax hikes while investing in public safety initiatives. With his success as a first-term alderman, it is no wonder that he won Rockford's 2017 mayoral race with 68 percent of the vote.

If you want to know how Tom has performed as mayor, just look at the numbers. In 2021, there were 2,301 instances of violent crime in Rockford. Last year, there were 1,359—a 41-percent decrease over the course of 5 years. In 2017, Rockford's property tax rate was 3.31 percent. Today, it is less than 2 percent. Property values have increased 56 percent since 2017, the number of vacant buildings has decreased by 17 percent, and the city is adding thousands of jobs as major corporations move in. It is remarkable to witness the transformation Rockford has undergone under Tom's leadership. Dilapidated factories are being turned into new homes and businesses, and people are flocking to what the Wall Street Journal has described as America's "top housing market." The problem of vacant homes has been reversed, and now Rockford is racing to construct enough houses for all those who hope to move to the area.

While these changes are the fruits of the labor of thousands of people committed to Rockford's future, it is important to note the central role Tom has played in the city's redevelopment. Tom brought together police and community groups for more effective violence prevention programs. He worked with businesses and the city council to incentivize new developments across the city and balance Rockford's budget. As mayor, he brought an infectious sense of hope and optimism that now permeates throughout the city. I have worked with Tom throughout the years on a variety of Federal initiatives in Rockford, where I have had the opportunity to see his love for his city and community firsthand.

Of course, if you knew Tom's family, none of this would be surprising. Public service runs in the McNamara blood. Tom's grandfather served on the city council and school board in Whiting, IN. And John, Tom's father, was a U.S. Army veteran, having earned a Bronze Star in Vietnam, and was mayor of Rockford during many of the Forest City's darkest years. Like Tom, John guided Rockford through an incredibly difficult time and helped the city recover from a devastating manufacturing recession. Also, like his son, John did it all with unyielding optimism. John was a dear friend of mine,

and I know that he would be so proud to see all that Tom has accomplished.

While Tom is stepping down from his position as mayor, his time in public service is far from over. Later this year, he will become CEO of the Illinois Municipal League, an organization representing Illinois' 1,300 municipalities. I look forward to seeing how he will support the State of Illinois in this new role.

I am grateful that I had the opportunity to welcome Tom to the world of politics more than two decades ago. It has been a great honor to see him develop as both a leader and public servant. I hope the whole Senate will join me in congratulating Tom, his wife Sarah, and their children Olympia and Malachy as they begin the next chapter of their lives.

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 26-82.

Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 26-82 concerning Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Norway for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$270 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Recipients:

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

Sincerely,

CHRISTOPHER BERGAUST,
Senior Bureau Official,
Bureau of Legislative Affairs.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 26-82

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Norway

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$0.
Other \$270 million.
Total \$270 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: Foreign Military Sales (FMS) case NO-B-VSJ was below the congressional notification threshold at \$99.99 million (\$0 in major defense equipment (MDE)) and included 155mm High Explosive (HE) M795 Projectiles. The Government of Norway has requested that the case be amended to include additional 155mm HE M795 Projectiles; technical assistance; technical documentation; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. This amendment will cause the case to exceed the notification threshold, and thus notification of the entire program is required. The above notification requirements are combined as follows:

MDE: None.

Non-MDE: The following non-MDE items will be included: 155mm HE M795 Projectiles; technical assistance; technical documentation; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (NO-B-VSJ).

(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: None.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: August 5, 2026.

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Norway—155mm High Explosive (HE) M795 Projectile

The Government of Norway has requested to buy additional 155mm High Explosive (HE) M795 Projectiles; technical assistance; technical documentation; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support that will be added to a previously implemented case whose value was under the congressional notification threshold. The original Foreign Military Sales (FMS) case, valued at \$99.99 million (\$0 in major defense equipment (MDE)), included 155mm HE M795 Projectiles. This notification is for a combined total of the following non-MDE items: 155mm HE M795 Projectiles; technical assistance; 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 cost is \$270 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy 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.

The proposed sale will improve Norway's capability to meet current and future threats and increase its interoperability with the U.S. and other allied forces. This proposed sale will enhance Norway's artillery and mid-range fire capability. Norway 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 American Ordnance, located in Middletown, IA; and

General Dynamics, located in Camden, AR. While this purchaser typically requests offsets, there is currently no known offset agreement regarding the items being added to this case. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Norway.

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

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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 SHEET

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

Department Notification Number: RSAT case 26-11558.

Pursuant to section 3(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, please find enclosed a certification of a proposed transfer of major defense equipment with an original acquisition value of approximately \$255,900,000.

The transaction described in the attached certification involves the permanent transfer of (12) M270 Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) launchers, (2,524) M26 unguided Dual-Purpose Improved Conventional Munitions (DPICM) rockets, and (47,000) M509AI 203mm DPICM howitzer rounds to the Government of Ukraine via Turkish private entities MKE AS, ASFAT AS, and ARCA Savunma San. Tic. AS; Bulgarian private entity VTIC International Ltd.; and U.S. private entities Pansophico and Patriot Defense Group. This transfer is consistent with U.S. security assistance objectives.

The United States government is prepared to authorize this transfer, having taken into account political, military, economic, human rights, and arms control considerations. Detailed information is contained in the attached certification.

Receiving Committees:

Speaker of the House of Representatives

House Committee on Foreign Affairs

Senate Committee on Foreign Relations

We hope you find this information useful. Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions.

Sincerely,

CHRISTOPHER BERGAUST,
Senior Bureau Official,
Bureau of Legislative Affairs.

Enclosure.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TRANSMITTAL NO. RSAT
26-11496

Notice of Proposed Permanent Transfer of Major Defense Equipment*

(1) Name of the Countries or International Organization Proposing to Make Such Transfer: Government of Türkiye ("Türkiye").

(2) Description of Article of Service Proposed to be Permanently Transferred:

(12) M270 Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) launchers.

(2,524) M26 unguided Dual-Purpose Improved Conventional Munitions (DPICM) rockets.

(47,000) M509AI 203mm DPICM howitzer rounds.

(3) Name of the Proposed Recipient of Such Article:

The Government of Ukraine, via Turkish private entities MKE AS, ASFAT AS, and ARCA Savunma San. Tic. AS; Bulgarian private entity VTIC International Ltd.; and U.S. private entities Pansophico and Patriot Defense Group.

(4) The Reasons for the Proposed Transfer: Türkiye seeks to reduce its inventory of older defense articles to focus its financial resources on modernization and sustainment of existing systems.

Ukraine seeks to acquire these systems to bolster its offensive and defense fire support capabilities as it resists the Russian invasion. Ukraine already possesses munitions of the same or essentially similar type.

(5) Date Transfer is Proposed to be Made: Immediately after the congressional notification period is complete.

(6) Date Notification was Delivered to Congress: August 3, 2026.

*Major Defense Equipment is as defined in section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

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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 SHEET

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

Department Notification Number: RSAT case 26-11496.

Pursuant to section 3(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, please find enclosed a certification of a proposed transfer of major defense equipment with an original acquisition value of approximately \$28,000,000.